

A THIRD OPINION  
by Richard Bain

There was that time in childhood when everything seemed in its place. This was especially true of the varieties of human beings. There were names to describe all of those people who were not part of your group. You remember the epithets: there were wops, hunkeys, spics, kikes, niggers and of course queers and fairies. How easily they slid off the tongue! How conveniently and neatly we could put everyone in their little boxes and know just what they were like. Just read the label on the box and the description: lazy, stupid, pig-headed, greedy, etc. No thought required. None desired.

Of all of the minority groups, perhaps the homosexual has been most vilified. They were considered either moral degenerates or pitiable psychotics. In the earlier part of this century, many homosexual persons underwent extensive psychotherapy while trying to become "normal". These attempts were nearly all failures. Fortunately, the American Psychological Society has changed its stand on this issue; homosexuality is no longer considered a psychological aberration. But the battle is still being waged on the social front. The homosexual person who comes out of the closet can't serve in the Armed Forces. Dedicated, intelligent people are being dismissed as teachers if their homosexuality is revealed.

There are some who feel that homosexuality is simply a choice that people make. This may be true for some, but certainly not all. Otherwise, how do we explain the tortured life of someone like Tchaikovsky? He abhorred his sexual feelings; he even married to try to make his life fit into the mold of respectability demanded by the society of his day. The idea that the homosexual person had to be forced into roles acceptable to society has persisted in our culture until the last few decades.

Recent research has shown that male and female brains show significant differences in structure. This difference appears to be caused by hormone levels during a critical phase of development in the womb and later after birth. Some researchers feel that abnormal hormone levels during early development are factors in the appearance of the homosexual traits.

It is worth noting that homosexuality is not condemned by all cultures. Western culture, by way of Christianity, has inherited the strong bias of Judaism against homosexuality. It was natural for the Jews to rail against these people; they were surrounded by hostile people and they would naturally condemn anything that retarded the expansion of their population. Concurrently, the Greeks were totally tolerant of homosexuality.

It is interesting that prejudice against the homosexual came primarily from Christianity, yet Jesus did not condemn these people. The authors of The URANTIA Book seem to have carefully avoided the subject. This is one of several subjects—such as abortion—about which the book is mute. Why? I feel that the authors did not mention this group of people in our world population because they did not want to influence our opinions one way or another. They apparently wanted us to work through our

feelings and biases on our own. A statement either for or against the homosexual could be used by some other group as a point on which to condemn the book and the movement. Perhaps Jesus refrained from comment on this subject for reasons similar to those of the authors.

Another question occurred to me as I prepared this article: What is the purpose of homosexuality, or does it have one? This variant seems to occur in about 10% of the population. Is this just an accident? Could it be a repercussion of our being a decimal planet, i.e., was it an inevitable consequence of the experimental life plasm that the Life Carriers implanted here? Was it perhaps a planned consequence? It would be most interesting to be able to interview a Life Carrier on this issue. In any case, it seems likely that the Life Carriers would have been aware that this variant would appear. Apparently they were not concerned with this consequence, and may even have viewed it as beneficial. They certainly have insights and understanding in these areas that greatly transcend ours. But there are some even more interesting possibilities.

It is possible, although we are not so informed in the book, that the homosexual variant appears among mortals on all planets. If so, then such appearance may be in accordance with the plans of God the Supreme. I feel, and The URANTIA Book seems to indicate, that many things that appear to be accidents only appear that way because of our limited understanding. Nevertheless, perhaps we can find purpose if we try. I am not part of the gay community, and so cannot speak for their point of view. However, someone who is a part of that community pointed out to me that homosexuals constitute a disproportionately large part of the arts community. I certainly cannot deny the genius and outstanding contributions of such people as Leonardo DaVinci, Michaelangelo, and Tchaikovsky, but it seems to me that there must be even more profound reasons for the homosexual variant.

I speculate that one of the reasons for the appearance of the homosexual trait in mortals is to provide a unique perspective that is not present in either mortal male or female. The book mentions that men and women often think quite differently about life due to their inherent differences. Their views, when put together, form a new insight transcending the understanding of one acting alone. But perhaps there are valuable views from other perspectives that are different from either the male or female or the combination of the two. Perhaps these views are necessary to the healthy development of a culture. This might be the role of the homosexual mortals in our world. Yes, this is just speculation, but wouldn't it be great to find out that this really is so?

Each of us has our unique contribution to make to the evolution of the Supreme. We can make our contribution not in spite of our differences but rather because of them. Maybe it is time for our culture to throw away our little boxes with their labels and together celebrate our uniqueness.