

THE SACRED POWER OF BEING GAY ... Revisited

by G.W. Hardin

Branded in my memory is the first time I saw this jarring, large banner suspended between enthusiastic Christian supporters: "God Hates Fags." To witness this flagrant condemnation at the 1993 March on Washington — when more than a million LGBT showed up in the name of justice, solidarity, and equality — was shocking and at the same time humorous. Fred Phelps and family, of Westboro Baptist Church, stood against the Oregon delegation I was marching with. Ironic that today I read that Fred Phelps is dying in a hospice center, flooding me with memories of that day. I can't help but muse what he is about to find out from his "God."

At the time, the Oregon delegation, who had assembled right behind the Colorado delegation — two states where legal battles raged as constitutional initiatives tried to outlaw protections for gay men and women. The Colorado delegation raised more than a hundred fists in the air as they passed by the sign-carriers, shouting, "Shame! Shame! Shame!" When next the Oregon delegation passed by the brightly painted banner, a chant of hundreds of voices proclaimed, "We're here! We're queer! Get used to us. We're fabulous!"



I can still hear it to this day. Those voices sounded like a marching army. Reminded me of my days in boot camp. The skyscrapers reverberated with

the thunder of many bass voices amplifying as more and more delegations joined in the chant. Normally, I would just watch in a situation like this. It was not my way to raise my voice. But several in our delegation began to dance as the chant continued. They were not angry; they were celebrating. After all, Proposition 9 had just been defeated by the voters of Oregon. Of course we should celebrate. And as the celebrating grew louder, I could no longer still my voice. For the first time in my life, I joined in the benediction: "We're here! We're queer! Get used to us. We're fabulous!" It was a minor miracle that I had even heard the sound of my own voice. And since that day, my voice has not been stilled.

What is beginning to be stilled are fundamentalists' proclamations that part of the Divine Flock is going to hell, as if they had the right to decide. I no longer hesitate to tell people this, but Heaven has sent a messenger to counter those who would use the name of a loving God in such a condemning way. Let me try and explain.



It was never my intent to write true stories about angels or heavenly intervention. For like the first time when I raised my voice at the March on Washington, I have risen my voice in a way I would never have attempted before. I have never been a willing advocate, I have to confess. The story of how angels began making their presence known in my life is not a story I like to tell. Much the same way a mountain climber does not like to confess to the blisters on his feet. For I had been asked the question, what would I rather do, proclaim injustice, act out my anger, or live in the sacredness of my own power? All of these choices can be seen as worthy causes. But one of them had yet to be fully tried. Or so it would seem to those of us who recognize that we can change precious little by telling others to shut up. So allow me the luxury of trying to explain what it means to possess sacred power.

An African shaman-priest, named Malidoma Somé, once told me, "In my culture, we have no word for gay. In my village, we see no separation between the natural world and the supernatural world." The point he continued to make was that in his tribal nation those who are gay his tribe considers sacred ones — the Gatekeepers, those who can move between this world and the Otherworld. They are accorded great respect and recognized as an integral part of village life. No one would even think of showing disrespect to these walkers of two worlds.

At first I was surprised to hear such a notion. But the more I explored it, the more I realized that most indigenous societies treated these "sacred ones" (the Gatekeepers) with the same respect. In Native American societies, the medicine men, the diviners, the dreamers and the dreamspeakers, the astrologers, the sacred singers and the callers of the spirits were most often gay. Like the Africans, they were recognized for being able to access the natural and the supernatural. They were called "two-spirits" because of this inherent power.

Imagine my shock when, when writing my one of my bestsellers, *ON THE WINGS OF HEAVEN*, this notion of the sacred ones once again came forth — only this time from the angelic realm. Any of you who have read my works know that I write true stories about the extraordinary.

In this book, the angel charges the main character to find seven master souls who not only will represent the human condition in us all but will also speak on behalf of humanity as heaven presents us with an offer of returning to an Eden-like earth. And by the way, says the angel, three of those seven masters will be gay. The main character almost chokes at hearing this, but over the space of two years finds the seven.

What is so striking is how these seven work similarly in the village concept hinted at by Malidoma Somé. And at one point, the angel goes so far as to call them Gatekeepers, just like the African tribe (the Dagara). However, the angel speaks of a different kind of Gatekeeper where all are welcome, not just gays and lesbians.

Now, isn't that a switch? What's so interesting is that the angel reveals that much of the Book of Revelation has been misused and misinterpreted over the centuries. It is not a book about the end of the world, but about the end of hatred, fear and punishment. It's too detailed to go into here, but I would like to point out one particular passage and quote from the book directly. The historical, Biblical translation goes like this:

...and no one could learn the song except those hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been purchased from the earth. These are they who were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were purchased from among men, first-fruits unto God and unto the Lamb, and in their mouth there was found no lie: they are without blemish [Rev. 14:4-5].

Now, I'd like to give you the exact translation as was given by the angels. Pay close attention to how words were changed across history. The angel tells us this same passage as it was given from the one called "I Am":

Then there were those that had the Father's and the Son's name written on them. No one could learn the new song but these. And they were those men that did not lay with women or women that did not lay with men. They have been chosen as the first fruits and are the spiritual teachers. They are blameless and speak the truth of God's love.

Here is more of the dialog in the book that explains further this "original" version from the mouth of the Divine I AM.

The song they sing has been learned, and is being learned, by the male and female in the male and female. These are the 'first fruits' spoken of in Revelation. They are in touch with the male and female natures in all things. These are the ones who chose, and were chosen, to live this way. The religions of the world have cast them out as sinners and allowed them not the love of God. Blessed were they, for the love of God was all they had. They were set free to find the connection with that love. They feel the spiritual connection of both the masculine and feminine.

When it was pointed out to the angel the old translation spoke of "virgins," the angel responds thusly:

Religion would tell you so, yet that does not make it so. When you abstain from sex, you abstain from nature, and are out of balance. Only when the four natures of humankind (the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual) are in balance will you be one with God.

The wisdom you have found will be found by others, and those that read this will see the truth in what is written. Much has been asked of you, and much have you given. ... Be at peace and teach only love.

Most gay men and women are deeply spiritual, and in an innate way. Just like the indigenous had recognized, they are actually spiritually-oriented, not sexually-oriented. Sexual-orientation is an invention of modern-day society. What a surprise from a cultural that sells sex on the TV screen, in the movies, and in the newspapers as if nothing else mattered. Gay men and women's sexuality is simply a by-product of their spiritual-orientation, not the other way around. The celestial realms recognize this. They understand that we carry the masculine and feminine in us in the most

profound way. And not for sexual reasons, but for spiritual reasons. This is a gift, not a curse. It was intended as a blessing so that all of life could and would be held in balance. With so many years of repression and condemnation, is it any wonder that we find our world out of balance? It does not surprise me that even the angels have chosen to intervene to try and bring this balance back to all peoples, as well as to the Earth herself.

We must take a look at ourselves collectively and understand that we all have a place in Oneness, otherwise known as Love. And those who are blessed with the "first fruits" must give up their victimhood in order to embrace their sacred power. The time has come for the Gatekeepers to bring balance back to themselves and to life itself. As in ancient times, we must open the gateways between the worlds, allowing energies from other dimensions to mix with those of our third dimension. The Dagara knew of this phenomenon centuries ago. Quantum physicists are only now discovering and writing about biophotons, sometimes called "higher-dimensional light." Biochemists are only now realizing that these biophotons, along with unexplained frequencies (scalars) pass through gateways found in our human DNA. Quantum entanglement is a mystery that shouts in evidence of Oneness in ways modern science can't even explain. Wormholes are no longer the subject of science fiction but factoids from NASA played on YouTube.

After years of requests to write more about Gatekeepers, I've decided to again present workshops on the phenomenon. We are in the age of the unexplainable where we must come up with a new definition of power that includes the certainty of Oneness. There is only one group that inherently possesses that ability, that power: GLBT.

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