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QUEER-STR8-TALK

RELATIONSHIPS

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Have you ever been honest enough with yourself to sit down and consider the reasons for your constant failure-rate within intimate love-relationships? Sure, there are some exceptions to the overwhelming abundance of failed love-affairs, so a few guys out there must be getting it right! But successfully long-term gay relationships are certainly few and far between.

When an intense love-affair ends, humans all too often lay the blame upon their now-ex-lover's shoulders. This is an action of pure emotional immaturity. We all need to accept the fact that whenever so-called 'failure' occurs, every individual involved must take part-responsibility for that failure. And for any potentially successful future relationships to exist, it is imperative that we each take full responsibility for our individual dysfunctionality within all previous partnerships.

And why are we so damned dysfunctional, anyway?

It appears that relationships between people are a natural part of the human experience. From the initial bonding between mother and child, humans continue thereafter to seek out and develop interactive affiliations with many other people, throughout the course of their lives. With a few exceptions, it would seem that humans are not naturally solitary beings! There is much historical evidence to support the fact that the vast majority of humans possess an instinctive need to inter-relate with others. Such

relationships are extremely diverse and they are dependent upon specific individual needs and circumstances.

There also exists more than enough indicting evidence to confirm that people are habitually inspired to pursue specifically intimate inter-personal relationships because of complex emotional and psychological needs within themselves. Of course it is within this highly emotional realm that the majority of human relationship dysfunctionality exists. For to engage in an emotionally intimate partnership whilst possessing a 'needy' agenda, be it a conscious need or not, will certainly result in relationship disaster.

Unfortunately some humans lack the ability to regularly detach themselves, emotionally, from their personal life-scenarios. They are unable to objectively take stock of their lives and the situations that befall them. It is highly advisable for such people to seek outside assistance in the form of psychological facilitation through the available professionals, who are equipped to deal with suppressed psychosis. However, in my humble opinion, the majority of humans are more than capable of exploring their own introspective self-analysis, privately. Regularly taking an objective perspective upon one's life-progress is invaluable and highly recommended, for it gradually leads to the overall understanding of one's inner-Self, providing one with the possible causes of dysfunctionality within one's previous actions and choices. It can likewise inspire productively positive changes of attitude, intention and behaviour-codes within one's personal life.

Most human relationships, be they intimate or not, are largely based upon each individual's experiential knowledge of such things. As children, we were all subjected to parental and familial influences with regards relationship structures and methodology, much of which was highly dysfunctional anyway! Then we were later required to adapt our attitudes and behavioural patterns in order to function within the formal strictures of the so-called 'educational-process', all of which taught us nothing at all about human relationships whatsoever. Talk about dysfunctional? Next, we were grudgingly granted our so-called 'freedom-of-adulthood'. Needless to say that we were all completely ill-equipped and ill-prepared to take on such weighty responsibility for ourselves, so we automatically reached out to other humans for practical guidance and emotional support. And without consideration for their own specific potential for relationship-ignorance, we haphazardly launched forth into our first adult relationships with other ignorant 'adults'. And upon which structures did we base those early inter-

active partnerships? Well our only experiential references were the dysfunctional relationships we had witnessed and partaken of whilst we were growing up, of course, so we thereby either emulated or violently rejected such examples. Yet all we managed to do was perpetuate relationship-dysfunctionality, did we not?

Now there is one vital relationship upon which our potential for any other form of successful inter-active-partnership depends implicitly. It is, of course, the relationship with one's Self. This is the most intimate emotional engagement available to all humans and yet most of us ignore its existence completely. Without its healthy, balanced, fulfilling and positively self-nurturing presence, external relationship dysfunctionality is virtually guaranteed!

It has unfortunately become a social cliché to refer to the concept of 'love thyself first', and yet the full acceptance and employment of this principle remains unknown to the majority of misguided human beings. One is totally incapable of unconditionally loving another person until one has discovered unconditional love, care and respect for oneself.

Homosexuals are usually aware of the oppressive psychological and societal pressures against their successful achievement of self-acceptance. The legacy of the heterosexually perpetuated fallacy that gay people are unnatural, incomplete and unworthy still holds imposingly negative power upon our habitually dysfunctional human society. However, discounting our diverse sexual-identities for the moment, we must remind ourselves that as mere human beings we are all individuals and as responsible individual-selves we owe it to ourselves to understand, accept, nurture and love every unique aspect of our individuality. For it is only from such a position of Self-acceptance and individual completeness that we truly become capable of lovingly sharing our lives with other human beings.

I wish you the completeness of Self-love and the complimentary fulfillment of loving relationships with others.

(I take full responsibility for every personal opinion voiced in the above article and accept that you may disagree entirely! That's your right. So why not send me an email and share YOUR opinions with me....and everyone else? Drummond@exit.co.za)

