

Please Listen

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What do you think when you hear the word “Gay”? Some of you think “So what?” But others think “strange”. First of all, every person has their own preference when it comes to love. Some people love inanimate objects but this time I’m going to talk about homosexuality.

The LGBTQ people I will address are lesbian, gay and bisexual. Why is homosexuality distinguished from “normal” when they are all the same “love”? Homosexuality has long been banned in Confucianism. They say this is because it is incapable of procreation. However, “love” is a matter of the heart. Is it really morally correct to bind people’s hearts?

Also, if one’s orientation is heterosexuality, one can just live that way and there is no need to impose it on others. Even if it is not recognized by law, gay people remain gay. It is difficult even for a practicing monk to control his own desires.

My favorite Chinese drama is “The Untamed”, and it is a bromance drama. Bromance is a word that comes from “brother” and “romance”. But the origin of this word is from Chinese law. There is a law that bans same sex love. So, they had to distinguish it.

Also, if you search the Chinese animation called “Heaven Official’s Blessing” on Amazon Prime, it appears with the tag “LGBTQ”. But on the other hand, if you search the American gay movie called “Call Me By Your Name”, you can see that it is categorized with the “Romance” tag. They don’t claim that it’s a separate genre. In other words, to claim so, to distinguish it from heterosexuality, is itself to specify it as homosexuality.

In recent years, China also seems to have imposed restrictions on bromance productions. As the birthplace of Confucianism, the restrictions must be very strict. Bromance dramas that were being filmed or released have been censored or even banned. I would like to think that Japan may still be tolerant in a sense.

But it is only tolerant of “freedom of expression” and not yet tolerant of homosexuality. It is not only the law, but also people’s attitudes. The more people act like they understand, saying things like “the times have changed,” the less they really understand. What does it mean to understand? There is no such thing as understanding if you just admit, “I see.” Generally speaking, those who say that the times have changed are no different from those who say that they were against it before. People who are not adverse to homosexuality don’t say, “That’s the times we live in now.” Because whatever the era, they recognize homosexuality.

I still remember what my mother said to me when I was watching a TV program about gay people. “Some people might deny it, but it doesn’t matter who you like. It’s okay to like girls. No matter what they say, just love who you love,” she told me. It wasn’t that I had a girl I liked at the time, but for some reason it still felt reassuring to me. Maybe because of these words, I don’t have an aversion to homosexuality.

People around me are more oppositional, especially older people. This is probably due to the fact that they do not accept new opinions or environments, saying “how it was in my

time," or "how I was told this by my parents." Maybe they are afraid of what they don't know and can't control, so they just dismiss everything as "abnormal".

All we have to do is "normalize it". Instead of making a weird fuss about the need for advocacy, we just need to look at it warmly. We don't watch over them. Trying to advocate will have the opposite effect. Even if they are encouraged, in a strange way, they feel as if they are being treated like they're different. Sometimes people say, "I'm not prejudiced," but it feels like they are saying, "I know you're an unusual person who faces prejudice, but I'm different, so don't worry, I don't have any prejudices!" Therefore, the only thing we can do is to be quiet, welcoming and lend a hand when asked.