

Hermaphrodite's Love
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Concerning the question of "what is the most beautiful thing?" Sappho wrote, "What one loves" (DuBois, 1991). We simply become what we love. I wonder how our transgendered mode of being might develop if we could grow without obstacles and repression. I think we are transgendered because we have a special way of being, a love, and a destiny to match. Among women, a new sense of love is emerging which opens the mind and heart, a moral force which speaks of love of life, love of self and others, love of all forms of life and the Earth. Many women are revisioning love as a powerful force which seeks to create conditions that best promote the economic, social, political, and spiritual well-being of the female experience, in order to heal a troubled world (McKee, 1989). How different the vision when regard is given to a full honoring of womankind. I would pray that a world which could value male and female equally might not stifle boys who wish to be girls or girls who wish to be boys. Without shame and stigma, how would they grow up and openly express their experience? This is incredible to imagine! How wonderful to live our beauty from beginning to end! I believe our duty as a community is to help nurture the chance for those little seeds of the future. I pray that they might find easy balance and harmony with their lives, that they might smile with Hermaphrodite's love and delight. ☞

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CQ's Quotations From the Literature

Garfinkel (1967) makes a distinction between the possession of a penis or a vagina as a biological event and the possession of either genital as a cultural event. The cultural genital is the one which is assumed to exist and which, it is believed, should be there. As evidence of "natural sexuality," the cultural genital is a legitimate possession. Even if the genital is not present in a physical sense, it exists in a cultural sense if the person feels entitled to it and/or is assumed to have it.

— Kessler, Suzanne J., & McKenna, Wendy. (1978). *Gender: An ethnomethodological Approach*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 153-154.

5.1 Prior to the initiation of hormonal sex reassignment:

5.1.2 The patient must demonstrate that the sense of discomfort with the self **and the urge to rid the self of the genitalia** and the wish to live in the genetically other sex role have existed for at least two years.

(emphasis ours)

—Walker, Paul, et al. (1990). *Standards of Care: The Hormonal and Surgical Sex Reassignment of Gender Dysphoric Persons*. Houston, Texas: Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc.

We believe that the upcoming version of the Standards of Care should acknowledge "cultural genitals," thereby removing one of the many external forces which move some transgendered persons toward surgery they neither want nor need. One should not be required to want surgical sex reassignment in order to receive hormonal sex reassignment —Ed.