

New Gay Book Discusses "Sex As Prayer"

Alyson Publications, one of the largest gay publishers in the U.S. has recently published *Gay Perspective: Things Our Homosexuality Tells Us About The Nature Of God And the Universe*, by Toby Johnson.

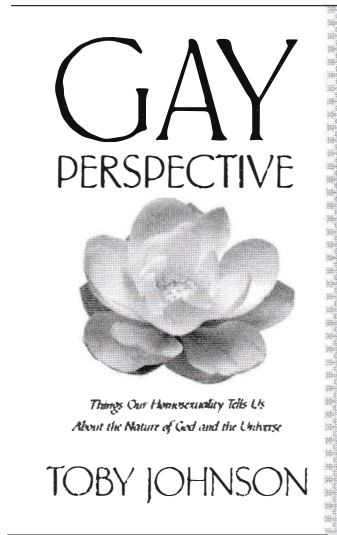
Dr. Peter J. Plessas reviewed Johnson's book in the May, 2004, issue of the Lambda Book Report. Plessas is a clinician who lives in San Francisco and has an "archetypal psychology practice" working with gay males.

Plessas says *Gay Perspective* shows the reader that:

"... our purpose in our orgasms is an expression of 'expending excess'—we do it for the evolution of the species. *Gay Perspective* also reminds us that our sexuality has spiritual roots; sex as prayer—a communion with self and with God."

Plessas also notes that Johnson's book praises pedophilia. He says it —

"reclaims pedophilia from its heterosexual fear-based projections. The public eye has been focused on the shame of



being molested in male-male relationships as evidence of latent homophobia. Johnson recalls the ancient practice of pederastia; the practice of an older man taking a younger man as lover/pupil. Johnson even speculates that the current pedophile priests could be—as they were in the past—initiators of young people into the realm of sexuality."

Plessas says the book's author has been deeply influenced by the writings of mythologist Joseph Campbell and urges "us to find God inside our own lives." Plessas notes that many of the monotheistic religions failed to create room for gays "in their own mythology."

Johnson, however, combines the teachings of the "historical Jesus and, from the Hindu tradition, the myth of Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara, a deity who transcends both male/female and time/eternity," according to Plessas.

The reviewer concludes by noting that Johnson's book, "... offers a transcendent doorway to spirit for anyone who is searching for higher understanding of their sexuality and the spiritual power it holds." ■