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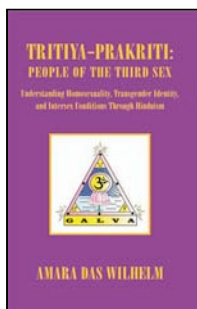
# Tritiya-Prakriti

A Review by Syamasundara dasa

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## **Tritiya-Prakriti: People of the Third Sex, Understanding Homosexuality, Transgender Identity and Intersex Conditions Through Hinduism**, Amara dasa Wilhelm

(Xlibris, 2004, 269pp, \$21.99 pb/31.99 hc)



Please accept my best wishes. All glories to Shrila Prabhupada. Of *Tritiya-Prakriti: People of the Third Sex* by Sriman Amara dasa Wilhelm, I feel compelled to write a very short letter of recommendation to all persons like myself who feel that it's well past time that material with a Spiritual perspective be read by all who consider themselves Spiritually minded (or non-Spiritually minded for that matter). I have been trying to serve Srila Prabhupada since the mid sixties, and have seen different “temperaments” towards the “gay/lesbian issue” depending on the Temple, or the times. I personally was present during some brief conversations with Prabhupada concerning the subject, and feel that He has been possibly misunderstood on His feelings on the Gay/Lesbian issue. I feel confident that He is very pleased with the scholarly way that Amara dasa treated the subject in his book. Prabhupada loved to see us think deeply on Spiritual matters, and would have welcomed such deep study on this subject matter as it pertains to Spiritual life—present, and past. He loved persons to be innovative; as we saw when Prabhupada expressed such appreciation with Bhavananda Visnupada's decorating of

His Temples. The Transcendental Road Show is another example. My personal humble opinion is that He would also want ISKCON to lead the way in its fair and Humanitarian treatment of it's Gay and Lesbian Spiritual aspirants. He often delighted in saying that Bhavananda had told Him that an Astrologer had said, "This Man [Srila Prabhupada] would build a house that the whole world could live in."

I would like to remind everyone that there has not been such a compassionate being on this Planet as Srila Prabhupada in a long time and will probably not be anyone so loving towards all suffering jivas (human beings) soon in the future. His main interest was, one way or another, to get us out of our consuming preoccupation for this material world and start focusing on the real important thing.... love of Radha-Krishna.

After reading Amara dasa's book, I feel that ISKCON needs to continue to look very carefully at its attitude toward its Gay and Lesbian population. ISKCON isn't a "museum" or stagnant institution. It's non-different then Prabhupada Himself. Fair, Loving, Compassionate, and forever leading the way in assisting any interested persons back to Krishna. For anyone to be interested in Krishna Consciousness in the Kali Yuga is a very rare thing. In fact such persons have been personally inspired by Radha Krishna from with-in their hearts.

Now the future will be witness on just how the aspiring servants within ISKCON treat their Gay and Lesbian aspirants. When someone reaches into the hive of Krishna honey; it's no good if they get stung by angry bees. It makes them look elsewhere for God's sweetness, as ISKCON has experienced way too often. I invite anyone to get themselves a copy of Amara dasa's book and, with a loving heart, read its contents over carefully. Ignorance is not bliss. Your humble servant.