



The Fragility of Desi Gay Relationships

(part 4 of 4) by Ninad Jog

I am often told that desi gays may simply wish to be single than be in a relationship. I would believe it, but anecdotal data does not support that view. Most desis that I come across at desi gay potlucks in the US are single and eagerly looking to be in a relationship—"even with a desi, need not be white."

I believe that the conservative, women-oppressing and sex-is-taboo cultural mores of the heterosexual Indian community contribute significantly toward inhibiting the emergence of stable desi-desi gay couples. The attraction for exotic others—particularly whites—is a secondary factor.

I am a software engineer by training, not a social scientist. My views stem from my observations and from my love for forming hypotheses and generalizations. But blame me—not my lack of training—for any political incorrectness. My observations are limited to desi gay guys—I have no knowledge or views about desi lesbians. I have avoided using the term South Asian as my direct experience comes from growing up in India and living in the United States.

Thanks to my beloved boyfriend Prashant for comments and suggestions.

Update: Unjust Imprisonment of HIV Prevention Health Care Workers

from an e-mail received from Gregory Pappas

Arif Jafar, director of the Naz Foundation International (NFI) Regional Liaison Office in Lucknow, and the rest of his colleagues who were jailed by the Lucknow police, were released on bail. Currently the Lucknow police have gone ahead and filed a charge sheet against the four in the magistrate's court. They have been charged under the same sections that were mentioned in the FIR, namely conspiracy to commit carnal intercourse against the order of nature, abetment of carnal intercourse against the order of nature, obscenity and others.

The organization's lawyers have perused the charge sheet and believe that there are a lot of factual and legal errors and misrepresentations and are looking into filing for a discharge. "Hopefully, the Indian Judiciary will not punish us for trying to save lives by following policy formed by the government of the country."

The office in Lucknow that was opened after a court order on the 14th of September 2001, is now fully functional, up and running. A

resource center in the office has a wide collection of materials on male sexualities and reproductive health issues. Anyone who needs any form of help with regards to such materials is free to approach or visit the office.

The organization thanks the numerous individuals who gave their overt support both in India and abroad. The NFI was represented in strength at the 6th ICAAP in Melbourne, where a huge support for the organization was exhibited from all over the globe. "Their support is a source of strength to us and a constant reminder to our persecutors that ultimately good work done in good faith for the cause of saving lives is recognized and valued and that mere persecution coming from misplaced and myopic viewpoints shall not be enough to deter us from our chosen field of work."

A full version of this story is available on our website at:
www.khushdc.org.

Next month in Khush Khush Hota Hai...

- Our Special Valentine's Day issue...
- More spicy recipies...
- And, of course, more spicy poems by JK...

If you'd like to contribute to KKHH, send your article, comments or questions to: KhushDCKKHH@hotmail.com

Khush in the Kitchen

Khush in the Kitchen's taking a little break to restock her pantry—her cupboard is looking a little bare right now! So, don't let your fellow Khushies go hungry!!! Share your favorite recipes with all of us. Send your tasty recipes to *Khush in the Kitchen* at KhushDCKKHH@hotmail.com.

Friends Just Like You

With friends like you
The days aren't quite that blue.
There is always a silver lining
To a cloud that is true,
Knowing that there are friends
Just like you.

You have the shoulder for me
to lean on
And the ear for me to talk
on and on.

But what's important is the
understanding
We each possess.
The when one of us is down
we can
Count on the other to cheer
us up
And get the job done.

We may bicker, we may fight,
And have our own difference
'of opinion.
But its always about some
Small unimportant reason.

The times we share are
treasured and true.
Life wouldn't be the same
Without friends just like you.

—JK

DBQ ISO GM for friendship, possibly LTR...

Searching for that special someone for Valentine's Day? Place a personal ad in the next issue of *Khush Khush Hota Hai*. We'll feature a special section with personal ads from desis and nondesis alike. Send your personal ads to KhushDCKKHH@hotmail.com by January 25, 2002.

Upcoming Events

Chutney Fridays

Friday, February 1, 2002 • 6:00 p.m.

Brush off the snow and join the gang for a stiff drink at Titan's—upstairs from Hamburger Mary's (on the corner of 14th and Rhode Island). 1337 14th St, NW (202) 232-7010. For a map, visit: www.khushdc.org

Do you have an event you'd like to have listed in "Upcoming Events?" E-mail it to: KhushDCKKHH@hotmail.com

AUNTY HELEN'S CLOSET

Aunty...

When you make your peas and alloo...do you boil the alloo first, then add it to the peas or do you cook it all together?

So verry heartening to hear that you are trying to cook desi food in the middle of MacDonald Land. Alloo-mutter is easy, darling. First, you take off your clothes and switch off the lights. Then you take your alloo into your hands and feel it gently, making sure that the skin is intact. I can assure you that nothing compares to holding a big long alloo in your hand in the middle of a dark room. (Aunty once told a certain establishment on 14th Street to start doling out alloos on slow nights!) There are many other things you can do with that alloo but I am going to let you find those on your own so as not to taint your desi imaginations. Anyways, when you are done with it, boiling the alloo seems to be the only logical choice before adding peas and serving it to your guests.


—Aunty

Dearest Aunty Helen,

What's the best way for me to tie my sari? Should I wear a jock strap, boxer-brief, boxers, brief or a thong with it.

Thank you,
Hanging free

Dear Hanging Free:

 Having never advised a hijra to tie a sari before, I am not quite sure how to nip this one in the bud, so to speak. If you are, however, endowed like any of the desi men that Aunty Helen has seen, then a jock strap, boxer brief, boxers, or a thong will not do. Kindly to procure a large petticoat (or a burlap bag, a borri as we call it) to hide your alloos from public viewing. If you can't find a petticoat or a borri, then kindly use the scissors aunty has drawn at the beginning of this reply and use them to get rid of the darn nuisance.

—AH

Do you have a question for Aunty Helen about life and love in DC? E-mail it to Aunty Helen's Closet at: KhushDCKKHH@hotmail.com

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Or read the messages at your leisure by visiting the websites:

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