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Rubin Museum Lecture

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A Buddhist Perspective on Homosexuality

OUTLINE: A BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE ON HOMOSEXUALITY

First Context: moral consequences

Second Context: the mind of clear light is behind all consciousness

Third Context: the ten nonvirtues as a principal ethical rubric

Fourth Context: ethical living while accommodating to and ameliorating the three poisons

Fifth Context: the details of sexual misconduct

- 1. Buying sex from a sex-trader is permitted*
- 2. Recreational sex is permitted*
- 3. For Tsong-kha-pa, sex with other men is not permitted and self-sex is not permitted*
- 4. For Gam-po-pa, the prohibition against sex with men is limited to mouth and anus*
- 5. Tsong-kha-pa limits sex with a woman to the vagina*
- 6. Gam-po-pa prohibits sex with a woman to sex in the anus and the mouth*
- 7. Oral sexual misconduct is weightier*

Sixth Context: questioning the received tradition

Seventh Context: the comfort of an ethical life

Buddhist Ten Nonvirtues

three physical nonvirtues	1. killing 2. stealing 3. sexual misconduct
four verbal nonvirtues	4. lying 5. divisive talk 6. harsh speech 7. senseless chatter
three mental nonvirtues	8. covetousness 9. harmful intent 10. wrong views

(from Wiki)

Division of the Ten Commandments by religion/denomination				
Commandment	Jewish (Talmudic)	Anglican, Reformed, and other Christian	Orthodox	Catholic, Lutheran
I am the Lord your God	1	preface	1	1
You shall have no other gods before me	2	1	2	2
You shall not make for yourself an idol		2		
You shall not make wrongful use of the name of your God	3	3	3	2
Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy	4	4	4	3
Honor your father and mother	5	5	5	4
You shall not murder	6	6	6	5
You shall not commit adultery	7	7	7	6
You shall not steal	8	8	8	7
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor	9	9	9	8
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife	10	10	10	9
You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor				10