

FREUD, SIGMUND

FREUD

April 9th 1955

WIEN, IX, BERGASSE 19.

PROF. DR. FREUD

I gather from your letter that your son is a homosexual. I am most impressed by the fact that you do not mention this term / yourself in your information about him. May I question you why you avoid it? Homosexuality is, assuredly, no advantage but it is no thing to be ashamed of, no vice, no degradation. It cannot be classified as an illness; we consider it to be a variation of the sexual function produced by a certain arrest of sexual development. Many highly respectable individuals of ancient and modern times have been homosexuals, several of the greatest men among them. (Plato, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci etc.) It is a great injustice to persecute homosexuality as a crime and a cruelty too. If you do not believe me, read the books of Havelock

Ellis. By asking me if I can help, you mean I suppose if I can abolish homosexuality and make normal heterosexuality take its place. The answer is, in a general way we cannot promise to achieve it. In a certain number of cases we succeed in developing the blighted germs of heterosexual tendencies which are present in every homosexual in the majority of cases it is no longer possible. It

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