

## CHAPTER VII

### HETERO- AND HOMOSEXUAL DEVIATIONS & INTERSEXUALITY

152. In the preceding Chapter we confined ourselves to what one may call ordinary heterosexual relationships. Besides such relationships, the Vinaya refers to many other forms of sex activity which would afford us some insight into the sex-habits of the ancient Indian people. The data available throw into high relief certain obscure aspects of human sexual behaviour which one may not come across in the bright avenues of virtue, but nevertheless according to sexology, are considered to be found among certain people.<sup>1</sup> In fact, according to the researches of Kinsey and his associates<sup>2</sup> such practices are a part of the mammalian heritage and that it would be a rare, and in some sense an emotionally disturbed or perverted individual who had no such tendencies.<sup>3</sup>

153. For the purpose of this study we would consider these abnormal sex-habits or "deviations" under: (a) physical possibilities, (b) physical impossibilities, and (c) phantasies; and this division shall be borne in mind when dealing with each group of abnormal sex-habits.

154. We propose to refer first to a group of sexual practices, which, in addition to being both hetero- and homo-sexual behaviour, includes the employment of hermaphrodites and eunuchs, as well. They have been mentioned in a commentarial stratum of the *Suttavibhāṅga*,<sup>4</sup> and also in the *Mahāvagga* of the *Khandhaka*.<sup>5</sup> Some of these instances may be the product of precautionary imagination (*v. supra*, 124-126). Nevertheless, they all serve to show the darker alleys of life that existed

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1. Cf. A. Ellis & A. Abarbanell, *ESB.*, Vol.2, p.804.

2. *Kinsey Reports (Male)*, p.59. Also cf. A. Ellis & A. Abarbanell, *loc. cit.*

3. Cf. *Kinsey Reports (Male)*, p.201 f. In this regard it may be noted that psycho-analysis too recognizes an "overlap between normal and abnormal mental function in adults." v. Edward Glover, *op.cit.*, p.14.

4. *Vin.III*, 28-33.

5. *Vin.I*, 85 f., 89 et 150.