

HAPPY INTERSEX AWARENESS DAY!

I chose to join Dawnism because of its open and accepting attitude toward LGBTQ+ people. Our religion teaches that people should use the best science and information available to make their lives better, which also means for better mental and emotional health. Other religions tell people they have to follow a rigid set of rules and behaviors even when those rules are damaging to themselves – and that is very unscientific, unhealthy, and unwise. It's also uncharitable and uncaring towards the very people they demand should be charitable and caring to others.

Dawnism strives more than any other thing to be caring and helpful, and to make our own lives better. This means that in every case a person should study how best to improve their own health and well being. And that can be decided only by the person themselves, in consultation with people who have the best knowledge on the topic. The best science currently available shows that gender identity is a distinct feature of a person which is separate from their anatomical features. Dawns believe that the structure of any animal's nervous system enables them to "tune in", as it were, to the consciousness of other animals. We believe this helps us to understand other people, even other animals to some extent, to share feelings and on some level even to share memories. What this means for gender identity then, is that our nervous systems will be tuned to resonate with a particular gender more closely than with other genders. Sometimes this corresponds to their anatomy and sometimes it doesn't.

In cases where it doesn't correspond to their anatomy, the dichotomy between anatomy and consciousness can cause overwhelming anxiety, unhappiness, and harm. The two options for resolving the dichotomy are to: A) reprogram their consciousness; B) modify their anatomy. There have been plenty of attempts over the last decades to reprogram LGBTQ+ people using all manner of tortures, and in all cases it has proven to be unsuccessful and destructive. On the other hand, recent improvements in medicine are making the modification of one's anatomy very successful, and more often than not it does successfully resolve gender dysphoria.

So our religion encourages people to get the medical treatment which is shown to be most successful. We do not attempt to dictate what that treatment is, obviously it will be different for every person and will change as medical knowledge improves. A person should consult with the most knowledgeable medical experts available and decide their treatment for themselves.

A number of years ago I came to the understanding that I am trans, and that my consciousness is female. Having grown up in the slavery of Christianity, my life had been spent trying to conform my consciousness to the anatomy of my body. After years of unsuccessfully denying my true identity, I decided to accept the truth. I believe that Christianity does have some useful teachings, and has the potential to be useful if people actually followed the spirit of those teachings instead of trying to enslave everyone with rules. "The truth will set you free" is one of those teachings. And Christians would be well advised to follow the teachings of Jesus, starting with "take the log out of your own eye before you try to take the splinter out of someone else's."

I took that advice, and joined Dawnism where the focus is to improve ourselves and not

worry what everyone else is doing. I subsequently changed my name to Dawn, even though I'm not a Medicine Mother, and accepted that I am a woman. Since then my happiness has improved dramatically, and I believe that I am a better person. Now I reflect on how I can improve the health and wellbeing of myself, the people around me, and all life on this planet. I think this is probably similar to some eastern religions, and maybe there is some historic connection between those eastern religions and Dawnism, I don't know. Dawnism adopts any useful thing from any religion or belief system, we don't have a strict orthodoxy.

I don't study other religions, but it's my understanding that Dawnism is not alone in recognizing that gender identity is not strictly binary and defined by anatomy. And we don't necessarily believe in reincarnation (but we don't reject the idea either) as believed by Hindus, but we do believe that our nervous system has the ability to connect our consciousness with that of other animals. Many species of animals have no fixed division between sexes, rather individuals have the ability to change their anatomy based on environmental conditions. So it isn't sensible that our consciousness is fixed into narrow definitions either, we would not then be able to connect as readily with others.

Our religion doesn't try to make everyone believe the same details or adopt the same behaviors. So other Dawns have other interpretations. What we all have in common though, is the belief that every person has the right and responsibility to understand zierself. And every person has the right and responsibility to conduct zier behavior in conformance with zier identity. And nobody has the right to dictate any moral standards to somebody else.