

# Twice Blessed

WE ARE WHO WE ARE, AND THAT'S GREAT

For people like me who are Jewish and queer  
It's especially hard at this time of the year  
When gentiles assume that we all are alike  
Like straight folks ignore that you're really a dyke

When people around you are into a thing  
That makes them rejoice, get nostalgic and sing  
And all the whole time, it's a thing that's not yours  
And YOUR thing's a thing everybody ignores

Or else they just act like both things are the same  
And YOUR thing just has a dissimilar name  
Like their thing is normal and yours is OK  
As long as you do it in their kind of way

Not everyone's like this, thank god, to be fair  
There are allies who get it and treat you with care  
They never expect you to cave or conform  
And we love them for being a port in the storm

But the ads on TV and the music in stores  
And the symbols that reign both inside and outdoors  
And the things people say without stopping to think  
All their merriment might send you over the brink

It grates on your nerves, though  
you try to be nice  
As you calmly explain in a way that's  
concise  
That your thing is quite unrelated to theirs  
With meaning and roots that not everyone shares

That your way of being and your way of doing  
Can stand on their own as a path worth pursuing  
I know that you get it, it doesn't feel good  
To have who you are be so misunderstood

The dominant culture remains unaware  
That other folks' ways have their own special flair  
On this point I'm actually proud of the Pope  
Whose words of inclusion have given me hope

Saying LGBT folks, who've long been neglected  
Should be loved and embraced or at least be  
respected  
Nobody's better and nobody's worse  
We all are just people, we all are diverse

We can't assume others are just like ourselves  
Not everyone's thinking of holly and elves



The Jews aren't Christian and queers are not straight  
We are who we are and that's good, no that's  
great

So just be yourself if you're Jewish or Queer  
And if you're both, bubbeleh, Oy vey iz mir  
With double the pressure you're doubly  
stressed  
To be what is known to our kind as Twice  
Blessed

I hear ya, I get ya, I know how it is  
To have to put up with this dominance biz  
But one thing we know is that we can survive  
Homophobic assumptions and holiday jive

It helps that our allies are tender and gentle  
They don't try to change us, they aren't judgmental  
They don't get insulted that we're not involved  
We aren't a problem that has to be solved

We hang with our peeps and we make our own fun  
And we'll all be relieved when the season is done  
Don't make me explain it, don't try to convert me  
Don't worry that missing the party will hurt me

I hope what I've said isn't awful or scary  
We'll discuss it more later, like in January  
For now let it rest, let me do it my way  
And I hope that we all have a very nice day

*Award-winning writer Sally Sheklow has shared her non-mainstream perspective with Eugene Weekly readers since 1999.*

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ruin your holiday

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