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THE VOICES OF MORE,
A MANIFESTO FOR
THE MORE HEARTED



OUR STORIES. OUR VOICES.
OUR SACRED LONGING.



Part 6: Voices of More

A Manifesto for the More-Hearted

To the ones who've been told they're too much, too sensitive, too intense, too emotional, too needy, I see you. You are not too much. You are a miracle in motion, you are "more", and it is not a flaw, it is your fingerprint, this is your manifesto; this is your reminder; this is your return.

You are a More Person, you feel deeply because you were meant to carry love, not just understand it. You ask questions because the shallow end never satisfied you; you long for real connection because your soul was not designed for artificial relationships. You give more because something inside you knows what it's like to live without it. You stay soft not because you haven't been hurt, but because you refused to let pain define you. You are not weak for wanting more, you are wise, you are awake, and while the world may not know what to do with people like you, I do: We bless you; we need you; we are you.

*To the mothers who keep giving even when they're empty;
To the fathers who stay even when they're unseen, who long for a nap;
To the friends who call just to say, "I thought of you";
To the lovers who risk vulnerability even after betrayal;
To the children who wait by the door, hoping someone sees them;
To the elderly who still weep during quiet prayers;
To the ones who stayed tender when it was easier to get bitter;*

This world will try to shut you down, don't let it, stay soft, stay deep, stay true, stay more. And so, I say: *Blessed are the more people, for they will not be satisfied with cheap imitations of life, they will seek what is good and real and true, they will hunger and thirst for what is eternal, and they will find it, in one another.* We are not a small tribe, we are everywhere, and when we find one another, the world begins to heal.

So don't stop now.

*Don't shrink to fit into the world's boxes.
Don't dull your light to avoid rejection.
Don't let the noise convince you to settle.
You were born for more,
You exist for a world,
aching, tired, and desperately in need of tenderness,
waiting for you to believe that.*

Your name is Carlo; you are not who you once were;
you are who you were always becoming.

*This sacred journey,
this relentless longing,
this holy love, has never been a flaw.
It's been your anointing all along.*

The story of more is not mine alone, it's ancient, it's global and it's woven into the very fabric of history. More has whispered through jail cells and pulpits, through protest marches and midnight prayers. More is the force that moved the hearts of those who refused to settle for injustice, bigotry, silence or shallow peace. It was the passion for "more" that stirred Abraham Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation, a moral fire that would not be extinguished by politics or opposition. President Lincoln entertained more when he created the Secret Service just hours before his assassination.

It was "more" that walked beside Martin Luther King Jr. reminding him of his divine identity and worth as he declared, "I have a dream," a dream which has materialized exponentially to liberate our nation from the evil bigoted ignorance of racism and has exponentially transformed millions of lives; that dream wasn't just about policy, it was about *Presence*, about dignity, humanity and love demonstrated in the public square.

"More" carried the feet of those brave children who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, carrying the weight of a nation's conscience in their small bodies. "More" whispered to Rosa Parks: "Don't move, not today, there is more." "More" thundered through the poetry of Muhammad Ali voice, a voice that refused to be afraid, a voice that *loved*

himself loudly in a world that tried to quiet him. Muhammad Ali said, "Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact, it's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration, it's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary." More broke through the childhood silence of Albert Einstein and whispered a theory into his soul that reshaped the universe. Einstein reportedly never spoke for the first 3 years of his life, consequently, teachers throughout his elementary education believed Albert was lazy and had little hope that he would ever experience MORE.

More kept Thomas Edison trying after thousands of failures to invent the light bulb, each spark, each flicker, a stubborn flame that said: *keep going*. Edison was quoted as saying, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." "More" took Jesus, the man of sorrows, the Prince of Peace, down the Via Dolorosa, carrying a cross he didn't deserve, a demonstration of the power and influence of "more."

More is a motivator and an instigator. More nudges men and women to pursue education, relationships, careers, goals, and countless opportunities when the odds are less than favorable. In contrast, more brings nations, peoples, companies to their knees, as greed, covetousness and jealousy abounds. More is much like fire, what warms us can also burn us. What comforts us can also inflame and destroy us.

You and I know MORE requires a delicate balance, too much of an emphasis on MORE risk's addiction and abuse, too little emphasis risks withdrawal, neglect, abandonment or rejection.

"More" scares a whole lot of folks. "More" is responsible for many life-altering addictions and tragic detours in life. Ever heard the comment, "too much of anything good can be too much"? Donna Tartt, in her book "The Goldfinch" wrote, "Sometimes we want what we want even if we know it's going to kill us", that's the trauma of "more", the dilemma of unchecked cravings. The human desire for love frequently is substituted or counterfeited for meaningless sex or unbridled lust, yet in contrast, the heart of the more-child craves to be embraced, cared for, listened to, given eye contact, and simply told, "I love you, you matter". Can you see why

religious frauds draw away so many gifted “more-people”? Religion single-handedly appeals to people’s need for being truly “fulfilled”, instead, these wholesale “wheeler and dealers” exchange true intimacy for a cheap, counterfeit dependence on buildings, budgets, and institutions rather than developing the treasured “more-person” to recognize their intrinsic value and worth?

More has been responsible for the rise and fall of nations, more has peered through time sarcastically smirking through the successes and failures of kings, celebrities, dignitaries, and royalties, while contributing simultaneously to the destructive influences of addiction, tragedies and loss.

More can be an opportunistic impulse that innocently disguises itself as human need, camouflaging its intentions for evil, and in the most unsuspecting moment, this impulse for more explodes or implodes the healthiest of foundations and structures. More can be a formidable force for immense good, driving innovation, creativity, and selfless acts of service, but it can also be twisted and manipulated to serve destructive ends, subtly yet powerfully influencing our choices and actions in ways we may not always recognize.

We are all too familiar with the phrase, “I just can’t get enough of that”. Histories tragedies and inhumanities have been directly and indirectly linked to this culprit called more. Ancient writ says it like this, *“Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don’t have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn’t yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it. And why not? Because you know you’d be asking for what you have no right to. You’re spoiled children, each wanting your own way.”* (James 4:1-3) **The Message**

How do we ameliorate such a formidable friend and foe such as more? Is it possible to coexist with such an unpredictable, even imaginary force such as more? I believe there is only one antidote to such a malleable character: that antidote is love. Love is what motivated men and women over centuries to commit themselves to a dream, a mission, a plight, that few, in their right mind, would dare pursue.

“More” is not new; “more” is Eternal. More is the Voice of the Creator saying, “I am not finished with you yet.” Every generation has its more-bearers, they are the ones who dream when others sleep, who speak when others are silent, who rise when others shrink. You may be one of them, you may feel out of place in a world that says, “Be quiet,” but that’s only because you were made to **cry out: “I AM more”**.

Let these voices remind you: *you are not alone in your hunger; you are not broken because you want more; you are in good company, the company of firebrands, healers, prophets, and peacemakers.*

You are a voice of more. And the world is waiting to hear your song.

*You who burn with longing,
you who ache with unrelenting hope,
you who have been labeled too much,
you are not a problem; you are a prophecy.
So, sing your song; shout your truth; stay soft; stay strong.
Be the voice of more, the world is listening.*

Reader Reflection:

What voices of “more” have inspired me—whether public figures or private saints?

What truth or dream is rising in me that the world might need to hear?