

be encouraged

by Michael Otieno Molina

We are in a world of trouble
Where media monopolies push corporate oligopoly for the elite aristocracy
Where war reigns supreme in the middle-east
blood pours down drains of city streets
Human beings are called aliens on their own planet
Americans refugees in their own country
We are in a world of trouble
Where the masters of misogyny plant patriarchy in the minds of our progeny
where hate runs hot in the hands of children who hang nooses on trees
and cold in the hearts of people turned commodities of the incarceration
industry
We are in a world of trouble
our earth is swollen with the waste
of insatiable consumption
and as we wade through distraction
in the bitter bliss of detached connection
the world waits at our finger tips
with a mood change at a channel switch
and consequence has to come to this
we desensitized and comfortably numb
the buzz of instant information done stung our minds dumb
while death and destruction
runs amok
among our young
we are in a world of trouble

but today
I am encouraged
Just look at what we have done
we have filled this room
with a harvest of freedom
each one of us, a dream realized
every moment of our lives
an instance of oppression defied
every breath and utterance
a reflection of the resilience of life
despite being terrorized
brutalized and denied opportunity to thrive
our ancestors survived
reborn and alive in us
be encouraged

be encouraged
each of us
could have shut up
in the face of injustice
but instead we stepped up
and kept up the mission the elders left us
and the world is so messed up
sometimes we get fed up
about ready to head up out the door
but then we connect up
hear stories that refresh us
and remind us of just what it is we are fighting for

you could have been anywhere
but you are here with me
I know its hard
But we've come so far
if your heart gets heavy
lean on me
Be encouraged

Be encouraged
For We who believe in freedom shall not rest until it comes
And Freedom isnt a catch phrase from pop philosophy
Freedom is the difference between a public school and a for profit
penitentiary
Freedom aint the choice between coke zero or diet pepsi
Freedom is being healthy, eating food that sustains the body
Freedom isnt choosing between comedians Colbert and Stewart or clowns like
beck and hannity
Freedom is getting information instead of ideology
Freedom learns from it all
from the right to the left
to consider it all then take the best and leave the rest
we can learn a little bit from capitalists about how to catalyze
And we can learn a whole lot from socialists about how to prioritize
We can learn from democrats about how to compromise
We can learn from republicans how to strategize
In freedom even perceived enemies
Have something to teach
Be encouraged

Be encouraged
because there aint no power like the power of the people
and the power of the people **don't stop**
And we won't stop at a black president
Won't pause for a promotion
Won't bow down or mumble humbly
We gon cause some commotion
filing motions to cease and desist against racists
composing policy and voting
We are in motion and wont stop
Till we rid our cities of crime and killer cops
We won't stop with non-profits
We will be present in government
And prepared to take to the streets
From Main to Wall to Martin Luther King
You will hear us on your radio and see us on your tv
We resist the inertia of his-story
And its tendency to tame ambitions
Yeah we have come a long way
but not nearly completed our mission
Listen to your breath
That's the sound of Ms. Moses Tubman in the woods
The sound John Brown plotting
And jim crow rotting like he should
Feel your heart beat
That's children growing brilliant and strong
That's women loving their whole selves
And men being present fathers in the home
Say yes

That's the sound of a nation
the founding fathers could not foresee
want to glimpse tomorrow
just look at me
A Black mestizo Filipino Creole German Jew
With half Asian babies and Indigenous roots
Look at you
Fresh off streets and out of schools
Blessed with treasures of talent and tools
We are the truth
Empowered youth come to renew and rejuvenate
we refuse to resuscitate the
Old american ways
that confuse and reduce
A human being
To a gender class or race
We've come to reject and redefine
Politics as we know it
With is sick, twisted, and nihilistic
Fear-based, hate-laced rhetoric
Be encouraged

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We are democracy
Not that one white land owning man
One vote mockery
Or that one corporation one politician
Pay to play duplicity
We are power to the people
We are the mind-body-spirit reconnect
We are the hands that weave dignity
The minds that command respect
We dream in color
And we've come to wake the world up
We reach out and connect like webs
form networks to keep in touch
We destroy the constructs that divide us
We build bridges of unity
From the country to the city
We are the world community
Be encouraged

Be encouraged
You can feel change in its skin
Wrapped around your hands
Echoed In the world you envision
Moving through this room
In the boom of silent intention
made real
by commitment and necessity bred invention
I now invite into this creation
Your words of wisdom

What do you want - (audience response)
When do you want it
Now
What do you want- (Audience Response)
When do you want it
Now

Now be encouraged
Keep Loving in the midst of the struggle
Keep Hoping in the twists of trouble
keep singing and playing
Dancing and praying
doing whatever brings joy to your life
keep exercising your mind
read to feed your ideas
keep seeking the divine in its glory
And in the little things
Like us here
Together at this gathering
We worker bees
Who hustle for humanity
Be encouraged

Be encouraged
be you in the streets stomping for justice
or in power writing policy
be you in schools deconstructing ignorance
or an artist creating space for visionaries
whatever you be
be encouraged
lift your little bit of this 6 billion
and from the bottom up we will build
a new world for our children's, children's, children's
children's, children's, children's, children...

today
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encouraged

Keep up with Mike Molina at www.momolina.com
Blog - www.purgatorystories.blogspot.com