

*Shawn Macdonald  
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*Excerpt from Demon Voice, produced in 2009 by Touchstone Theatre.*

PETE: Men need to love one another. Do you know how many men I've hurt? How much agony I've caused, how many faces I've punched in or cut up, over something stupid, or just because I was scared, or pissed off? I have to make up for that.

Okay. Think of all the men in the world who hate other men, who are born and raised to hate the men of the other side, the other language, the other way. Think of all the men fighting other men in war, maiming them, killing them. All the men in boxing rings, pounding into other men, the Ultimate Fighting Championship they have on TV. The way the world creates an arena for glorified male violence, with wrestling and hockey and football, all then men fighting other men for money and power, think of the weight of that hatred. Like men have been cursed into a life of primitive competition.

Now picture all the men who love other men, all the gay guys living with their lovers, kissing and holding, all the married and bi guys meeting each other in the dark at night to kiss another man, to love him for a change instead of fighting with his brother, with his buddy.

All the men in the bathhouses and under bridges and on the beaches, and at the truck stops, in the dark and secret, holding each other. Loving the body of another man and taking care of his pleasure for him.

One man submits willingly to the other and the other man responds with tenderness. So mutual, so understanding. So forgiving. It's like this underground, worldwide network of energy, and a current flows outward.

And as men fight and harm and kill each other across the world, this hidden impulse to love and pleasure reaches out from man to fellow man and helps to heal them. To heal the world.