

The BarbeMCR Manifesto

***My identity, my opinions,
my mission, my goals***

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The original material can be found at

<https://github.com/barbelib/the-barbemcr-manifesto>

For your information, this work uses the Libre Caslon Text and Sofia Sans font families.

Be wary that some information regarding my persona and/or my opinions as presented in this work might be subject to change or future revision. Therefore, I invite you to always check the most recent version available of this work.

*Dedicated to myself and to those who
truly accepted me.
You know who you are, and I love you
(platonically).*

1. I am, and will always be, myself

This is obvious, isn't it?

Apparently it isn't for many people, who think that, if you're unique and different from most others, you must hide your true self, for the sake of something they call "public decency" (or a similar expression).

They are a subspecies of queerphobes (and, unfortunately, the most common ones, from what I can see), just as repugnant as their big brothers, who don't want to admit their internalized queerphobia, and go around stating things like *I don't mind gays nor the like, but I don't like when they show their "queerness" around**.

I'll let you all [my readers] know beforehand: I despise them all.

And, no matter what your opinion is, or what your arguments are to back it up, you won't convince me into changing the way I express myself.

In fact, I will happily ignore you, whether you like it or not.

In short: queerphobes, beware!

*More information on this topic in my future essay: *Ballad of Stars*.

2. I am, in all senses, queer

Technically, being queer would mean being non-heterosexual, non-heteroromantic, non-cisgender or any combination of the three. I can proudly state I fit neatly into two of those categories.

However, this isn't the only reason I define myself as queer.

My view of queerness is, in a sense, less schematic: for me, being queer isn't just being LGBT (though it is a big part of the thing).

It also includes a wide range of aspects unimaginable by most people, which allow queers to show so much pride for who they are (or, at least, that applies to many of them). The most recognizable of those aspects are generally behavior and expression. In fact, those are often stereotyped, and used against queers by queerphobes.

Another feature of being queer is the inability to exactly pinpoint one's experience, which also means any label, while probably descriptive enough for most, will never capture the full essence of an individual, and will always be a simple approximation. Generally, this isn't a problem in human interaction. There are, however, some instances where people expect you to behave or express in a certain way based on the labels you identify with. Again, this wouldn't be a big problem, if there weren't queerphobes around, ready to shame queers for being themselves.

Anyways, for me the center of everything queer is uniqueness, which, after completing a long path towards self-acceptance, gets shown in every aspect of life, even the most mundane bits, usually involuntarily.

Queerness pervades everything me, from the way I see others and the way I think of myself, to what I think is “normal” and what my personal values are.

I live queerness as an integral part of me, and no one will be able to change that.

3. I am unique

The main thing that characterizes me is my uniqueness.

Well, you could say that about anyone, but my definition of “uniqueness” is different from anyone else’s. In fact, it’s unique as well.

For me, uniqueness is a feeling, rather than an attribute. I actually feel unique, different from anybody else. And it’s a great feeling.

Uniqueness is what gives my life meaning. Unfortunately, however, it has occurred to me (through personal experience) that we live in a society where being unique is considered shameful. To combat this, I promised to myself that I will fight for people’s freedom of expression. At least, we aren’t criminalizing unique people, aren’t we?*

I think everyone should be empowered to be unique. But society tends to be pretty unpredictable in the way it decides what is “neat” (in the positive sense) and what is “abnormal” (the negative sense of *unique*). And, to make matters worse, that judgement also changes with the passage of time and generations.

Getting to another (kind of related) topic, in my opinion the powerhouse of uniqueness is identity.

Identity is even more judged upon than uniqueness, regardless of the fact that it is much more susceptible than it to other’s opinions (or at least I find it that way).

But what are we without identity? Condemning identity (with all its expressions) is nonsensical. In fact, identity is a core part of all societies. Think, for example, to people’s national identity. You wouldn’t judge that, would you? Then why do you judge me for having a different identity than yours?

*Please take this paragraph as a friendly reminder that state-promoted cancellation of personal identity, which obviously includes all unique traits, is nothing short of a totalitarianistic action.

4. I am ace and proud

Ace is a shorthand for asexual. If the –sexual suffix doesn't say anything to you, it is a sexual orientation. It means feeling no, or little, sexual attraction towards anyone, regardless of their gender.

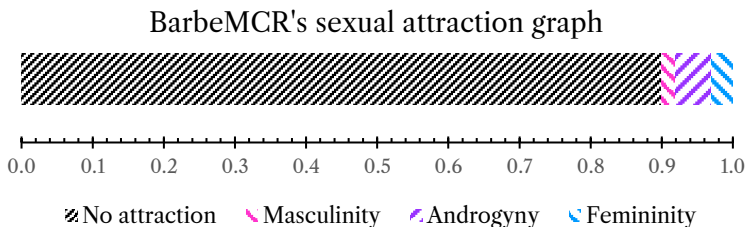
I know what you're probably thinking, so I'll precede you.

Nope, asexuality is not celibacy, nor is it chastity. It isn't a choice. And, if it wasn't obvious, it's real. Yes, there actually are ace people, and I am proud of being one.

Also, yes, I am queer, and, yes, I am LGBT. Do you have any problem with that? If so, get lost and don't mess around with me (in fact, I am coming for you, aphobes).

For some reason, however, I feel that the label asexual by itself isn't very descriptive of my situation, so I made a little graph, which you can see below (admit it, you really didn't expect a graph here, did you?).

Apart from what can be read from it, I would just like to add that I am really sex-repulsed (which means disgusted and turned off by real-life sexual acts, though I won't judge anyone for having sex).



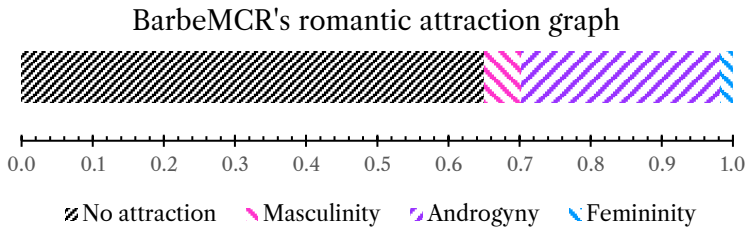
5. I am aro and proud

Aro is a shorthand for aromantic. Aromanticism is a romantic orientation which consists in feeling no, or little, romantic attraction towards anyone, regardless of their gender.

Taking this label apart, like the ace label which was the protagonist of the last point, reveals a neat situation.

I only feel little romantic attraction, but definitely more than sexual attraction. Technically, I could be considered a grayromantic, but I find the aromantic label more fitting, and I'd invite you to use the latter one.

Once again, I made an explanatory graph.



To convey my situation more easily (though admittedly also less accurately), I call myself, and you can call me, aroace, which simply means being both asexual and aromantic at the same time.

You can find more information on asexuality and aromanticism in my completed (and soon to be published) essay: *Waltz of Matter*.

6. I am a cis male

I should have probably said this before, since that would have made my sexual/romantic orientation situation easier for you to understand. Whoops.

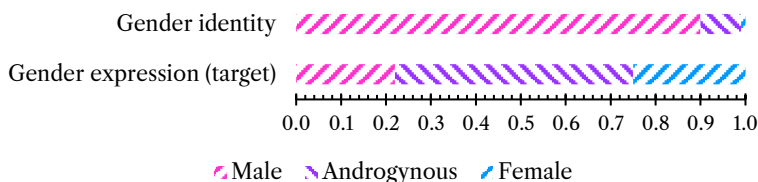
Anyways, I don't really find being cis of much pride, for a variety of reasons, of which I won't talk here.

Before going to the next point, I should, however, clarify what cis means, if anyone doesn't know. It'll be easy enough.

In fact, cis can be defined in just seven words: it means *identifying as the gender assigned at birth*.

I had prepared a nice few paragraphs about why it doesn't make any sense to say the "cis" label is offensive, but I figured it'd be best to just explain that in my upcoming essay on the subject, *Nocturne of Aether*. Next point, please.

BarbeMCR's gender graph



7. My gender expression is androgynous

Even though I'm cis, I've always looked at certain typically feminine things with a sort of jealousy.

Why can't guys do those things too? I used to ask myself.

The answer I finally gave myself on a rainy April afternoon this year, after years of holding myself back, was actually another, much easier question: *Who said they can't?*

And, since the logical answer to my second question is *Nobody!*, I decided my gender expression would be, from then on, androgynous. I mean, this matches my true self after all.

So, here I am, several months later, happy to be slightly more feminine than what you'd consider "standard".

What I aim to do is to incarnate feminine features, though remaining masculine enough that people can deduce my gender identity (to explain it better, I made yet another graph, which you can find in the previous page).

Unfortunately, this is generally not seen well by people. For some absurd reason, feminine boys are seen as "weak" and "weird". Apparently even more so than masculine girls. I guess we can all thank our old friend misogyny for that stunt.

All this "effeminacy is weakness" thing is quite the shame tho, since I'd like for others to approve my liberatory feelings without judging me so hard. But, in the end, who cares?

I mean, I feel good being myself. Why would I ruin that by worrying about what others think?

8. Queerphobes are the bane of my existence

If you couldn't deduce from the previous points, I despise queerphobes.

I can't (nor ever will) understand why they hate queers with all their hearts.

In fact, theirs is simply pure hatred, even if they want you to think it isn't.

When someone argues with me that they have the freedom to think what they want about queers, I say two things:

- first of all, while it's true that you don't have to support queer people, it is also true that you can't ethically (and, depending on where you live, also legally) discriminate them, especially given that being queer is not a choice.

- second of all, it isn't fair to mock people based on things they can't control. Probably, if you are a queerphobe, you'll say *But queers mock me by calling me straight/cis*. Even though it could be true to some (limited) degree, you likely haven't realized that the absolute majority doesn't do this sort of stuff, and the people who do will stop when you will quit mocking them first.

Some queerphobes also like to say they don't like queers showing their pride around. There is a good solution if you are annoyed by people being themselves: look away. Nobody is forcing you to go to pride parades or listening to queer activists, if you don't want to. We surely won't miss you if don't come to our events. Simply don't hate on us.

Personally, I will continue fighting queerphobia for the rest of my life. And if you have any problem with that, you can go f**k yourself.

[Too bad I consider swearing a bit excessive for a manifesto.]

9. I am against discrimination

Just as I am against queerphobia, I am also against all other forms of discrimination.

I think of discrimination as the current plague of society. Apparently, people try their best to find reasons to hurt others who they don't like.

And who does this hurt? Minorities, usually. But in general, it ends up hurting specific groups of people.

For example, in the western part of the world, racism ends up hurting people who are not white.

In the same way, sexism ends up generally hurting women (due a widespread phenomenon known as misogyny), with some exceptions, which generally happen only in specific circumstances, where the targets are men (due to a similar, though much less widespread, phenomenon called misandry).

Another common form of discrimination is ageism, which ends up hurting the elderly, for the sole reason of being too old, and the young, especially teens, apparently for being too "immature".

Even though I generally don't directly advocate for those categories, since there are plenty of other (much more) knowledgeable activists, I absolutely do support their fight for civil rights, and for the abolition of all forms of discrimination.

10. I am against conservatism

Probably it was pretty obvious. I mean, how can a queer who is against queerphobia be conservative?

Well, I am, in fact very not.

And, there's more. I also despise conservatives and traditionalists of all kinds.

I hate the fact that they think "traditional values" must be preserved from what they call the "abomination of society", and usually boils down to "alphabet people" (i.e. the term LGBT people get dehumanizingly called by them).

I hate that they think of the family as being composed necessarily of a mother, a father and at least one child.

I hate that most are against sex ed, reproductive health and abortion.

I hate it when they say people who have sex are dirty, yet they enjoy it as well. I hate their hypocrisy.

I hate that their existence is based on heteronormativity, and that they hate lesbians, gays, bisexuals, pans, aces, aros and, in general everyone who isn't straight.

I hate that their existence is based on cisnormativity, and that they hate trans, non-binary and genderqueer people. I hate that they think intersex people are some sort of joke. I hate the fact they base everything off the gender binary.

And I hate every other bigoted opinion they have on social matters (and economy, but don't let me start talking about that).

So, summarizing, I am strongly anti-conservative.

11. I am atheist

People who have known me for a long time will surely remember I used to be a practicing catholic.

However, I have recently converted to atheism.

I have a few reasons I no longer believe in a deity, should it be God or any other one.

The main argument is that, if God is benevolent, how can it let people hate other people?

I know that many theologians have brought up several reason why that is, but none of their arguments has convinced me.

Whatever the truth is, for me it boils down to this practicality: a divinity that lets queerphobia exist without doing anything doesn't deserve my faith towards it.

Even worse, a divinity which is actually queerphobic goes against my life philosophy and, since I deem my life philosophy more important than any religion, I'd much rather preserve it, even in spite of religious faith.

Obviously, there are other important reasons as well:

- if there is an immortal and transcendental divinity, which has preceded time and space, why hasn't it manifested itself in a clear way yet? The only answer I can give to that question is: there must be no divinity.

- and, if there is an immanent divinity, why doesn't everything reflect it? Why doesn't it manifest when called? The answer is as above.

- and, finally, if a divinity exists, why haven't scientists found it yet? Again, see above.

12. I want to make a difference

Strictly linked to the last point is my debate on afterlife.

Why would there be an afterlife? If the afterlife was somewhat linked to Earth, why don't we have any proof that it exists? Why haven't scientists discovered it yet? As I only believe in science and human rationality, I assert there is no afterlife.

And, maybe even more importantly, what would the afterlife look like? If there is a benevolent divinity, why do some religions profess hell and paradise? If God loves everyone, why would it send people to hell? And, if there is reincarnation, and the soul is preserved between lives, why would conscience not be conserved as well? And why would we have no reminiscence from our past lives? Again, the answer to all these questions must be: *there is no afterlife whatsoever*.

So, given that my life is limited to the time I have here on Earth, what can I do to not be forgotten?

The answer I gave myself is simple: I have to make a difference. And, more importantly, I want to make a difference, let it be small or large.

This is the final goal of my existence, and is also the initial cause of it. I was born here to make a difference, not to passively spend my life ignoring every issue of this world.

In my opinion, spending my life uniforming to imposed social norms, while hiding my true self inside, is even worse than not being born at all.

I am, and will always and forever be, *unique in my uniqueness, queer in my queerness, myself in my existence*.

I want to have as little regrets as possible when I'm on the brink of death, and the only way I can do that is to live as close to what my true self dictates as possible.

My life is mine and I don't want to spend it worrying about what others think. After all, at the end of it, where will others be?

This was the last point of my manifesto. I defined my identity, stated my opinions, described my mission, and set my goals.

Now it's your turn to understand me.

I'll see you on the other side!

- BarbeMCR, August 25th, 2023

Summary of *The BarbeMCR Manifesto*

Since this is a booklet, I figured it'd be nice to add some sort of quick outline to its back. So here you go:

1. I am, and will always be, myself
2. I am, in all senses, queer
3. I am unique
4. I am ace and proud
5. I am aro and proud
6. I am a cis male
7. My gender expression is androgynous
8. Queerphobes are the bane of my existence
9. I am against discrimination
10. I am against conservatism
11. I am atheist
12. I want to make a difference

And, here is my life philosophy, in case you'd rather not look into the actual manifesto:

*I am, and will always and forever be,
unique in my uniqueness,
queer in my queerness,
myself in my existence.*

However, I'd be very grateful if you took the time to peek into this little work of mine. I don't know, maybe you might find one interesting bit or two in there.