



REFLECTION SHEET

Ninety Trucks, Ninety Driveways

A companion for noticing the language you did not choose.

We kept ninety trucks identical on purpose, and the sameness meant something because there were ninety particular people behind it. Borrowed language works the same way in reverse: it is livery with nothing behind it yet. This sheet is an invitation to find out which of your words are actually yours.

A Practice to Begin

Pick one thing you say often — about your work, your marriage, your faith, your limitations. Say it out loud, then ask where you first heard it. Sit with the answer rather than fixing it. Some borrowed language is fine and even kind. The point is only to know which is which.

Reflection Questions

1. Where in my life am I running a paint scheme — a reliable way of being acceptable that stopped feeling like a strategy?
2. What phrase do I reach for that came from a podcast, an article, or a card someone sent me?
3. When did I last say something halting and specific and a little embarrassing — and what happened?
4. Where do I accept “nearly right” because fixing it would feel like fussiness?
5. Whose practice am I copying instead of finding my own?
6. If someone took the uniform away, what would be left that is unmistakably mine?
7. Is there anyone in the cab — in my work, in my words, in the version of me other people meet first?

An Invitation for the Week

Before you publish, before you say the thing in the meeting, before you offer the observation you can tell will land well, take ten seconds and ask one question: is this mine, or did I pick it up in the lot? You do not have to change it. Notice the answer, and notice how often you do not like it.

“True and borrowed are not opposites.” — Ninety Trucks, Ninety Driveways