

the witch's manifesto

a freakish ethics for fearsome living in the monstrous world

preamble.

there is a creature who lives in the wood. there are many creatures who live in the wood. know thine enemy. the village is at the edge of the wood. the fires burn bright in the villages, the shadows are deep in the wood where the creatures hide. the houses are in the village. the windows are open wide. On the edge of the wood, where the creatures hide. the people in the village are watching, are waiting, they have time to bide. in the village where the fires are bright. which do you choose? the village or the wood? where do you turn? where will you fly? to the fires that burn or the shadows that hide?

i. integrity

i would die
for my truth

i have already done this
several times

what would you do
for yours?

ii honour

will you break bread?
will you break bone?
will you break promises?
will you break hearts?

i will break bread with all who are hungry
i will break the bones of those who would cage others
i will break promises at my peril
i will break hearts to free myself

iii. mercy

forgiveness is
the most powerful weapon
(and the most difficult to wield)
in the hands of a witch
it destroys the enemy
while healing yourself

iv. humility

i remember when humans were still trees. we wanted so much and hungered so hard. they promised us heaven. we strained for the stars. we would have swallowed them whole if we could. we forgot the language of the wind, the grace of stillness, forgot sun songs and rain songs and kinship with birds. we fall. we fall. we kneel, are kneeling. palms pressed to the ground, praying: let it not be too late to return to our roots.

v. wisdom
never refuse
a gift from a witch
even when
it is wrapped in thorns

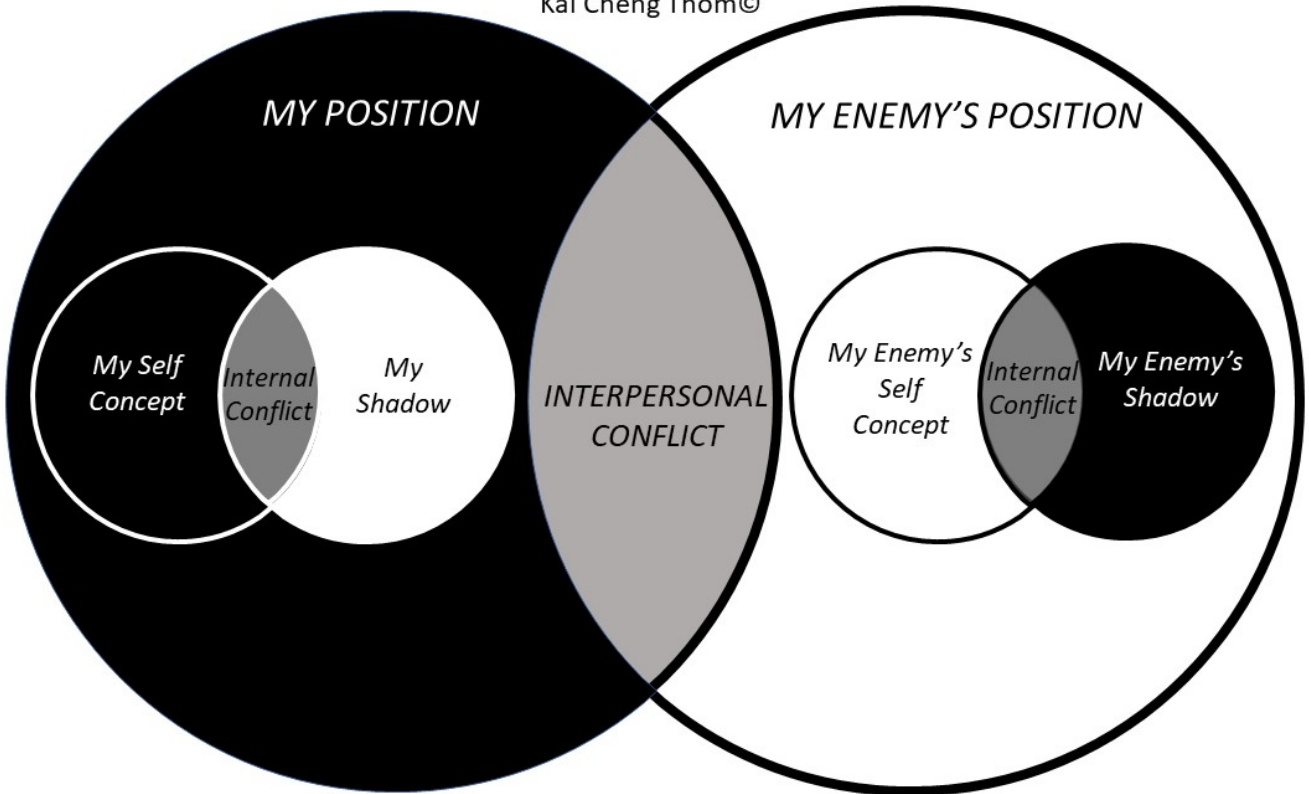
vi. strength
as
she
is
my
witness
i shall
not
want
though
i walk
in
the valley
of
the
shadow
of
death
i
fear
no
evil
for
all
i
touch
i

change
and
all
i touch
changes
me

vii.
from within you
it devours

THE LOVING JUSTICE CONFLICT LENS

Kai Cheng Thom©



DESTRUCTIVE CONFLICT

FIGHT/FLIGHT

*I MUST DESTROY THE OTHER OR BE DESTROYED
IT SEEMS POINTLESS TO ENGAGE IN GOOD FAITH, THE OTHER BECOMES MY ENEMY
I FEEL DEHUMANIZED & DEHUMANIZE OTHERS IN TURN
I FEAR BEING PUNISHED & RESIST BY GOING ON THE ATTACK
MY SENSE OF SELF AND SOCIAL SURVIVAL ARE UNDER THREAT
I START TO FEEL MY BOUNDARIES ARE NOT BEING RESPECTED*

THE WINDOW OF TRANSFORMATION

by Kai Cheng Thom©

*Based on Dan Siegel & Pat Ogden's
"Window of Tolerance"*

*MY BOUNDARIES ARE RESPECTED & MY QUESTIONS ARE WELCOME
I SEEK SELF-ACCOUNTABILITY, GROWTH, AND CHALLENGES JOYFULLY
I AM ENCOURAGED TO BE CURIOUS & SEEK NEW WAYS OF INTER-BEING
I HAVE ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS, PERSONAL HEALING & SUPPORT
I FEEL SAFE ENOUGH TO HEAR & INTEGRATE FEEDBACK*

PERFORMATIVE CHANGE

FAWN/SUBMIT

*I START TO FEEL OVERWHELMED BY INSECURITY & SHAME
I TRY TO APPEASE BY MAKING COMMITMENTS I CAN'T KEEP
I LOSE OR AM DENIED ACCESS TO MY SENSE OF DIGNITY & BELONGING
MY RELATIONSHIP WITH ACCOUNTABILITY LOOKS A LOT LIKE CODEPENDENCY
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO BE "GOOD" AGAIN*

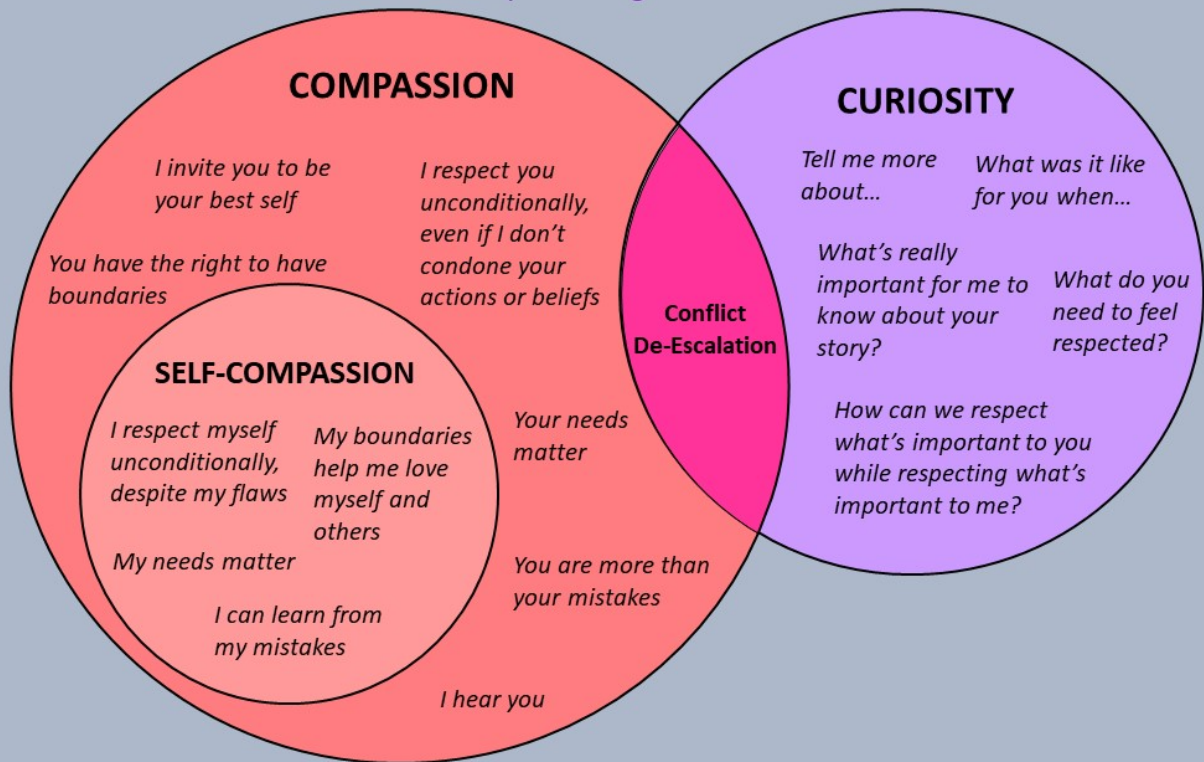
FRAGILITY

COLLAPSE/DISSOCIATE

*I COLLAPSE INTO MY SENSE OF VICTIMHOOD, I FEEL I AM BEING BULLIED (THIS MAY OR MAY NOT BE TRUE)
I BECOME IMMOBILIZED & DISCONNECTED FROM THE CHANGE PROCESS*

The Two Keys of Loving Justice

by Kai Cheng Thom©



ONLY LOVE BRINGS JUSTICE

Kai Cheng Thom©

