

July 12, 1986

"To be one-sided means not to look at problems all-sidedly.... Or it may be called seeing the part but not the whole, seeing the trees but not the forest. That way it is impossible to find the method for resolving a contradiction...In studying a problem, we must shun subjectivity, one-sidedness and superficiality."

Quotations from Chairman Mao  
Tse-Tung

Rev Zala,

Be careful that those stones you cast at me aren't the very same stones that crash you.

You know they say that out of bad comes good and vice versa. You really have not been victimized. Some dark secrets that you have shared with friend(s) have been shared between "so-called friends." Certain truths about us all have been revealed. We can grow from them, or we can run from them and go on pretending, and hiding behind phony kisses and hugs, and false "I love you's."

I respect your right to grieve. However, your behavior is validating the accusation made by some friends, that you are weak and selfish, that you are only friend to self. You talk about hurt, trust, and violation of friendship as if you are exempted from any responsibility in such matters.

Let's look at the people (friends?) you've hurt: Denise? Paul? Weren't all of you friends? At least, I'm told that by your good, good, friend, and long time buddy, Kaia. Don't you think that these people have feelings also, or is it okay for "Saint Zala" to hurt others and pay no penalties?

And Shelia, yes what about this struggling mother of three? Don't you think the hurt she feels is worthy of discussion? And ain't she a woman too? If you will open your mind for just a minute, you may recall a time early during the development of our friendship where I raised the topic with you. What did you do? You clamped right up, didn't want to talk about it. And yes, I have listened to her story. And yes, I have discussed her story with "friends."

Yes, Zala, and what about your husband? don't you think he hurt each time he look at you and the man who sat in y'all's house ate at y'all's table, and yes Zala, made love to you, the wife?

And yes Zala, what about our friendship? what about those times that I covered for you while you went rendezvousing with your lover? And what about eating apple pie and ice cream in my kitchen? Did you keep your commitment to our standard date? In the spirit of sisterhood, did you my sister, on the day of the sentencing, embrace me when clearly I, a sister, a black woman, a mother, was also being sentenced that day along with the brothers? Did you put your personal differences behind and stand tall with me in the face of the enemy? I did ask you to remain open and objective during these trying times. I even asked you to sit with me. A sisterly hug



would have made a world of difference. and yes, Zala, are you hurting so bad that you could publicly humiliate me with no acknowledgement on the day of your leave taking tribute? I hold not Alice at false for the no invite, but you my sister. You personally invited and acknowledged Kaia, who has not only gossiped about you, but has very cowardly caused more dissension among the rank in one month than any of us have done in the past three or four years.

Where is the justice, Zala? Do all of the "I love you's," get buried under a thick layer of he say, she say, who say, madness? Can a genuine friendship vanish overnight, over who shot John, or who fucked who? Can you please define for me what this friendship is/was based on? And yes, Zala, who or what universal force gives you the right to pass judgement and sentencing on any individual without due process? Remember my friend, the truest revolution is the one that take place within self.

I will not continue to hurt or ponder this line of confusion. A brother once told me that the best way to deal with confusion is to move yourself away from it. However, for sisters of our consciousness, understanding, and development to proceed with this "open shut case" notion that you propose, is irresponsible, and non-productive. Therefore, again, in the spirit of sisterhood and unity, I challenge you, Alice, Kaia, and myself to sit down with a more objective sister(s) to discuss and resolve these contradictions that exist among us. If we are the great women of dignity and courage that we proclaim to be, then we all should be principle enough to struggle these contradictions out. I suggest that we each read, study, and apply the principles set forth in two chapters selected from the Quotations From Chairman Mao Tse-Tung: Correcting Mistaken Ideas, and Criticism and Self-Criticism. I feel confident that these selections will help us grow.

I hope that you, Alice, and Kaia, will agree with my proposal. If not, then I'm left to assume that you all-are a bunch of hypocrites practicing a most detrimental form of liberalism. Should this be the case, at best, you have my pity.

Feedback from various sources indicates that a one-sided story filled with lies about the chain of event surrounding this madness is being propagated. And, guess what, I am the culprit. Such slander and vengeance on my character, my dignity, my integrity leaves me no recourse but to defend myself. This I will do, along if I have too I am a fighter, who has been to the bottom of some mighty dark pits, who has survived some mighty powerful storms. The Creator is/has always been with me. Of whom shall I fear or humble myself to.

The truth Zala, yes, it often hurts, but we can't ever run from it. It will always be there haunting and staring us in our eyes. All the camouflaging and hiding can never negate what is true. I am willing to humble myself to that truth. Are you my sister? As hurt as you may be, are you?



And so, my sister, in the words of an unknown poetress,  
...With every goodbye you learn...you learn that you really can  
endure, that you really are strong, and you really do have  
worth... And you begin to accept your defeats with your head up  
and your eyes open, with the grace of a woman, not the grief of  
a child...

In struggle for Peace and  
Unity,

*Malika*  
Your sister, Malika

P.S. Let us be forever cognizance of who the real enemy is.  
Certainly we're not each other enemy. And remember, THE SECRET OF  
LIFE IS TO HAVE NO FEAR.

cc: Kaia, Alice

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