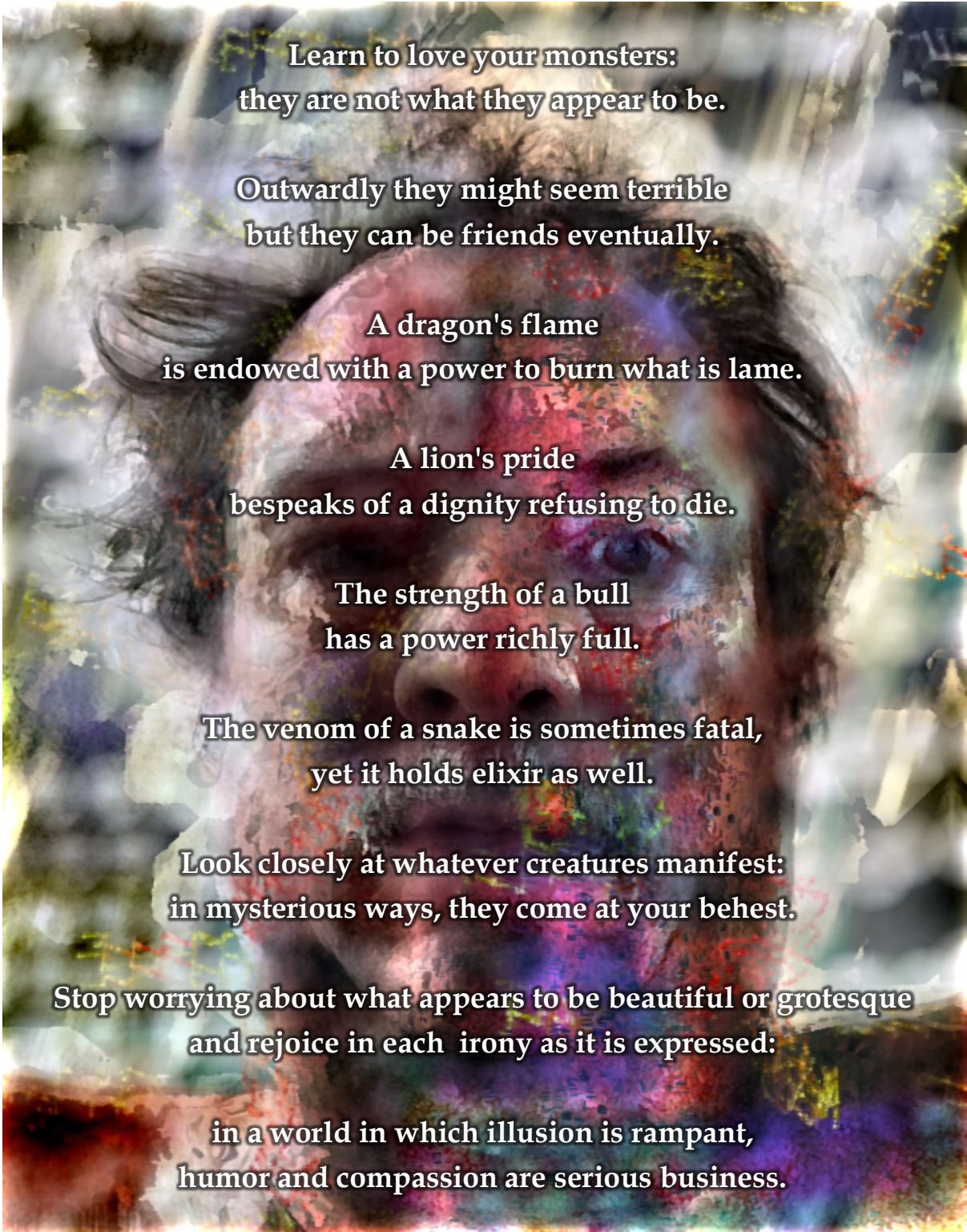


# DEMONSTERING

Some thoughts about self-acceptance



Learn to love your monsters:  
they are not what they appear to be.

Outwardly they might seem terrible  
but they can be friends eventually.

A dragon's flame  
is endowed with a power to burn what is lame.

A lion's pride  
bespeaks of a dignity refusing to die.

The strength of a bull  
has a power richly full.

The venom of a snake is sometimes fatal,  
yet it holds elixir as well.

Look closely at whatever creatures manifest:  
in mysterious ways, they come at your behest.

Stop worrying about what appears to be beautiful or grotesque  
and rejoice in each irony as it is expressed:

in a world in which illusion is rampant,  
humor and compassion are serious business.

**Kasim:** So we should love our monsters?

**Wan-Sze:** Yes, because love is the only thing with the power to transform in a positive way. Hatred merely mutates and makes our imagined monsters seem more extreme.

**Nadia:** (shaking his head) Nonsense! You overestimate the power of love. Monsters like Donald Trump belong in jail.

**Kasim:** (sarcastically) Come on! The world is run by monsters. You won't find them in jails, but on corporate boardrooms, golf courses, and seats of government.



- T Newfields  
Beg.: 2005 in Tokyo Fin.: 2021 Yokohama

