Respecting the Antagonist

The essence of true character conflict is not derived from the protagonist being right and the antagonist being wrong, but from both characters being right carried to an inevitable conclusion.

Villains and unsympathetic characters don't consider themselves evil. They like everyone else is doing the very best they can given their fears, needs, knowledge, skills, pain, and personal history.

It is the hero that offers us the journey and the objective of the story, but it is the antagonist that creates the drama.

A great antagonist makes us squirm not because of the opposition he represents but because there is a truth behind his position that makes us uncomfortable. It is the antagonist that forces both the hero as well as us to confront out shadow side.