

## A Sermon on Understanding and Acceptance

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for January 9th, 2022 (and beyond)

It is possible to change something for better or worse without understanding it. In such cases where acceptance is non-existent and change is forced, the results are often disastrous. The following are examples of scenarios and personality-type responses to the problem(s) posed with varying degrees of understanding and acceptance applied.

Problem 1: This remote control doesn't work.

Ignorant Party: I have a remote and think it goes with the television. I don't have the instruction manual. The buttons are all blank except four that are different colors and have the letters "A", "B", "C", and "D" on them. The "A" is red but pushing it does nothing. I was told to use it. I have no idea where to begin or what it is for at this time.

Troubleshooter Party: I just looked it up on Google. Does it say "Samsung" anywhere on the remote (even small print near where you put the batteries)? I've found the manual online for the Samsung remote for the Samsung television. It has the colored buttons with letters you referenced and a graphic of what all the buttons are for so I can send you the link. Does it have batteries in it?

Impatient Party: This remote is utterly useless. It doesn't work. It has no purpose. I'm going to throw it away. It is pissing me off. I honestly don't care if I have to replace it or just live without it. You want it? Here, take it.

Problem 2: I'm a victim of crimes and/or torts.

Ignorant Party: I don't know the law and never studied it. I was home-schooled for the most part. What is a crime? Is what my parents did a crime? If it is illegal or the government opposes it, why do they allow it to happen in the first place? They shouldn't allow it in the first place. You know, being home-schooled I was always sheltered and monitored 24/7 in one environment or another, maybe everyone should be monitored to that extent by the government in an official way so no one ever does it in the first place. Who do I talk to about changing the law?

Troubleshooter Party: It sounds as if you are a victim of a crime and you should report crime to law enforcement (i.e. police) in the jurisdiction where the crime occurred. What city and state did the crime occur in? I can get you the non-emergency number so you can report it properly. If also a tort that caused personal injury or involved breach of contract, you may wish to sue and should consult an attorney. If fraud is involved, report it to your home state's attorney general, which likely has an online form to file such complaints.

Impatient Party: I'm with ignorant party and think it shouldn't have happened in the first place so I'm going to ask congress to take measures to prevent it rather than accept responsibility for my part in the process which is to report crimes to the police in the

jurisdiction where the crime(s) occurred within the statutes of limitation. I honestly don't care that there are remedies available that congress has already made available at law. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If we need to dismantle the Bill of Rights in order to prevent crime, we'll do it. No more individual rights because preventing crime comes first and should be prioritized at all costs, including freedom.

Problem 3: Dad has dementia.

Ignorant Party: My father is not himself. He keeps leaving flames unattended including candles and the gas range. He called me "Daisy" yesterday which was some girl he knew in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I have a full-time job, which I need to pay my bills and am truly not equipped to handle my father in his current state. He lives with me. I'm afraid he's going to burn down my home or not recognize me at all so kill me believing I'm an intruder in my own home. Should I quit my job?

Troubleshooter Party: Can you afford in-home care from a nurse, aid, or other person in the caregiver professions? If you can't afford in-home care, then you likely can't afford institutional care. Is your father a Medicare recipient? You may want to ask the state for help. But, they take full legal guardianship in such cases, which often results in institutionalization if no adult family foster homes are available. Do you have any relatives that can help? Siblings? Extended family? Have you considered daycare options? See: [https://eldercare.acl.gov/public/resources/factsheets/adult\\_day\\_care.aspx](https://eldercare.acl.gov/public/resources/factsheets/adult_day_care.aspx)

Impatient Party: I just called "911" because my father is acting very erratic and does not know who I am, who he is, where he is, or anything of the sort. So, whatever the professionals recommend, sounds good to me. If he can't get his act together, then he's no longer responsible for himself and I'm not interested in picking up the slack.

END

With all the problems, I feel Troubleshooter Party is most on point or correct while being reasonable and empathetic.

With Problem #2, if you try to change the constitution to strip everyone of our individual liberties and the bill of rights, I'll fight against you and win because the law is already on my side on that one. Available remedies at law are good enough and you really need to accept responsibility for your role in the process, which is reporting it properly in a timely fashion to the correct body. If a criminal is convicted, they are exposed beyond a reasonable doubt very publicly and taken off the street or deprived of resources (through fines, etc) in a manner that reduces the likelihood they will re-offend at least while the impact from penalties lasts. So, you protect everyone and get justice for yourself when you do things the right way now. If ignorant of the right way, find it out before contacting congress. Okay?

With Problem #3, what would you do in that situation? Be honest. Don't answer what you would ideally do if you had the time and/or resources to do what you'd do in an ideal

situation. Answer what you would honestly do if in that situation right now with your actual father as a roommate with dementia.

If you do not understand the law and how government works, for best results make sure you do before contacting the government. And, if you throw a huge public mob tantrum delegating your own responsibility for justice in your own case to congress, then as long as it gets media attention congress will pay lip service to it if it helps with their fundraising or public image. But, those of us who know and understand the US Constitution (including Bill of Rights) already know why your suggestions die in committee. Also, I know and love the US Constitution (including Bill of Rights) for which many members of my family have served in wartime with my Uncle Samuel Thomas Smith, Jr dying in Vietnam featured on the Memorial Wall: <https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/48578/SAMUEL-T-SMITH-JR/>

It is my hope that everyone understands this sermon and accepts me as I am. But, for those who reject me for not giving them authority over my life in some way, talk to God and see if I get the message.

#### REFLECTIVE MEDITATION SCENARIOS FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION:

Scenario #1: The sole human survivors of some monumental disaster are you and one other adult person (could be anyone, let's say a close relative/loved one). The other adult person has dementia, but is the only semblance of human company you have and someone you may love. Can you tolerate their presence and care for them without resentment until one or both of you die?

Scenario #2: Same as Scenario #1 except the person with dementia is aggressive and violent rather than passively confused, do you kill them or wait for them to kill you? If you think that's too extreme, do you tether them or cage them in some way while continuing to care for their basic needs to the best of your ability? Remember, as a result of the monumental disaster, you both suffer PTSD and with the person with dementia that's a dual diagnosis at least.

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<https://www.cope.church> and <https://www.heal-online.org>