

A Sermon on Appreciation

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for November 19th, 2023 (and beyond)

More than 1 billion people work to make rice available to the world on approximately 200 million rice farms around the globe.¹ Kellogg's, the producer of Rice Krispies, buys the rice from the farmers and employs 34,000 people to make cereal such as Rice Krispies available. If you use butter (rather than margarine), that's another 14,500 dairy farm-workers who helped make the butter available. Marshmallows themselves were first a treat in Ancient Egypt around 2000 BC and Americans buy 90 million pounds of marshmallows annually creating a market demand that results in abundant marshmallow availability.² You can make Rice Krispies Treats in the microwave³ if you don't have a stove top/range. But, you will need a large Microwave-able bowl and a means to mix the Rice Krispies with the melted marshmallow and butter and preferably a cake pan to put the blended cereal and marshmallow in to set before serving which you will want to have a knife to cut most likely. So, if you have a Microwave made by Whirlpool, they have 77,000 employees worldwide. And, that's just one manufacturer and not getting into where they get their raw materials for the parts, but, you might want to explore that to fully appreciate everything and Whirlpool makes stove tops/ranges too. How many people make bowls? 1,000 employees at Steelite which provides cookware, dishware, cutlery, and more to the hospitality industry and more.⁴ Now, your part in this? Well, not yet. First, you have to find a retail grocer that sells the ingredients assuming you have the utensils, cookware, and other items you'll need if making them yourself. Do you live in a food desert? You may need to request delivery or order the ingredients online in such a case. Either way, a trucker drove the ingredients to the grocery store or to your home to make the delivery and another trucker drove it to the warehouse from which the items to be delivered arrive to you. So, at this point, your decision to make Rice Krispies Treats helps support the labor of over 1 billion people worldwide.

Now, you might feel overjoyed with the pleasure the fact you've chosen to make Rice Krispies Treats for yourself and loved ones helps bring joy to you and yours. And, you might feel quite appreciated for the thoughtful and delightful gesture. But, none of it would've happened nor been possible without the support of over 1/8th of the world's human population in making sure you have what you need to get the job done and the sweet-tooth of Ancient Egyptians.

So, when appreciating the temporary treat of crisped rice and marshmallows, remember it wouldn't be possible without over 1 billion people helping you help yourself. So, when you see someone who is a farmer, trucker, grocery clerk, or factory worker remember the only reason you have anything is because we all make it happen and those who just imagine it and never bother to learn to make Rice Krispies Treats settle for the pre-packaged out of laziness and lose out, those who make it ourselves know that and also appreciate the hard work from over 1 billion people that makes it possible to enjoy a

¹ <http://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/report/91012/asia-key-facts-about-rice>

² <https://mobile-cuisine.com/did-you-know/marshmallow-fun-facts/>

³ <https://www.favfamilyrecipes.com/microwave-rice-krispie-treats/>

⁴ <https://www.owler.com/company/steelite>

simple treat on a Saturday night or whenever. Do you now appreciate Rice Krispies Treats more? I know I do.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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.