

A Sermon on Appreciating the Work of Martin Buber  
Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for February 5th, 2023 (and beyond)

I recently read "I and Thou" Second Edition by Martin Buber published in 1958 by Charles Scribner's Sons (New York). Buber references few historical figures by name. In-depth understanding and true comprehension of all references whether inferred, express, or implied require the readers/audience to be familiar with such to so achieve said reception. In this instance, it is possible my own references to Buber and his work in this manner will be as subject to dismissal or misunderstanding by those who've not studied history nor philosophy therefore do not understand the references nor context as those who study his work without understanding his references.

With religious services or any course of study, walking into a Calculus course before you've studied Pre-Algebra even, may result in your walking right out realizing you entered the wrong room, your being frustrated at an unreasonable expectation on anyone's part if it is the course you've been assigned with no evaluation to determine the rightness or wrongness of it for you individually at the moment, or a sense of awe that everyone seems to know a language and/or concepts quite foreign to you even if you grasp basic math. Potentially, you might experience a mix of those under same or similar circumstances. The hope is it was the wrong room because otherwise arguable cruelty bordering on torture or some set-up to impress the presently unimpressive in regards to the subject matter which would be absurd.

I would summarize Part 1 of Buber's "I and Thou" this way: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and some people mature gracefully while others never do. Buber sees it as a choice, but some seem devoid of the ability to recognize universal relational causality on both the microcosm and macrocosm levels of being and consciousness. The prime mover exists, but has no name and cannot be located nor identified.

Part 2 of Buber's "I and Thou" I summarized without full disclosure of inspiration or influence on Twitter (here: <https://twitter.com/heal247/status/1611105775455469568>) with the "#TaoFu says: "Hypocrisy is the Tonya Harding of enlightenment.". Basically, Buber's philosophy is that we experience the world subjectively through detachment and meaningfully or universally through connection (which is spelled connexion in the book) in a duality of sorts where no one is wholly detached nor constantly connecting. And, those who lean more towards subjectivity and detachment are often met by those finding solidarity in connection. So, deemed high-end subversive by the Order of Malta unduly influenced Nazi Party in Germany, which is likely why his work was banned. He states in part, and this is paraphrased but not out of context, that subjective detached motherfuckers find it expedient to just kill those with whom they don't cooperate and/or connect nor wish to compete while silencing protestantism/dissent. So, I shortened/summarized it with the "Hypocrisy is the Tonya Harding of enlightenment." Harding detached and did not wish to compete with Nancy Kerrigan so sought to disable or destroy her and at the same time exposed her own hypocrisy and subjectivity or attempt to subjugate Kerrigan.

To summarize Buber's "I and Thou" Part 3 from my perspective, I'd say it juxtaposes social organization by way of exclusion and mystery (deception) against social organization by way of inclusion and revelation (knowledge of universally evident reality). The former is destructive even unto itself as a result of avoiding the reality that greater context is evident and complete or whole context is unfathomable to any individual though evident enough in all that exists.

To deny the "namaste" or Luke 17:21 through prejudicial social exclusion is antithetical to any true religious practice regardless of storefront or cultural influences. Cultural centers that engage in exclusion and mystery rather than inclusion and revelation are destructive at their core, including self-destructive, even if in denial of that, assuming authority and sanction that they do not have nor can they sustain in full context. By revelation is meant merely recognizing reality as is and finding meaning in that where said meaning once found is the meeting of "I and Thou" or God and Man or even representative of human connection and solidarity. He states atheists are closer to God than mystics because mystics are delusional and isolate from creation rather than embracing creation and acting upon it with respect for equality and regard for both the individual and the whole of which each individual is part when perceived from the perspective of any other individual. Some of his writing also reminds me of Einstein's work, specifically the Theory of Relativity, and I'm curious how aware Freud, Einstein, and Buber were of each other and to what degree they may have associated or influenced each other's work. It would appear I have more research to do to find out.

I understand everything I said here in the context of my own studies. At the same time, I never took Calculus and in high school barely passed Geometry. The course I took to get my math credit in college was Logic and basically math with words to determine the veracity or falsity of various statements. My guess is if you've read "I and Thou" by Martin Buber, you may summarize similarly or differently based on your own studies and perspective. I accept that and believe you accept this sermon too as my own work and evidence of the same. But, if not, you are a hypocrite and I live with traumatic stress so if you decide to Harding this Kerrigan, I'm open to debate and discussion, but physical violence in this situation is absurd as was it in terms of that example. And, that last sentence included a Straw Man argument.

#### MEDITATIVE QUESTIONS:

Did you understand and thereby feel any connection between us or walk away bewildered, frustrated, annoyed, or for any other reason?

Do you feel you connect to the extent you understand?

FINAL THOUGHT: Calculus isn't one of my strengths, but I still appreciate it and those who get it without living in awe of them nor being frustrated by it. I call that maturity and hope you do too.

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>