

A Sermon on the #TaoFu of Creepy

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for October 17th, 2021 (and beyond)

It has been a year for arguably inappropriate sermons on traditionally observed church holidays this year at times. I do wish everyone a happy “sweetest day” also known as likely real anniversary of Jesus Christ’s birth. So, Merry Christmas! Don’t worry, the popularized one with Pagan origins is still officially recognized as Christmas as well which falls on December 25th every year, which is why it isn’t Pagan. See, you can’t say the same about Easter because it always falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon following the Spring Equinox. But, I digress.... And, Halloween is also a recognized official COPE holiday with all holidays being perpetually available for celebrating any time of year. #SpoilerAlert as the rest will be mentioning films, stories, and plots.

That being said, the #TaoFu of creepy or creepiness is the topic of today’s sermon. In what I consider good horror films or stories, there is a clearly defined battle between the virtuous and vicious where the virtuous win in the end even if suffering some serious losses on the road to defeating the vicious. My favorite part of “The Omen” original trilogy is when Damien is a youth in the second installation of the series. In fact, the second installation of “The Omen” original trilogy is the one I believe is most important. Damien basically rages against the Satan-worshiper whose vanity was fed by being chosen for such a task when he learns she knew something about his true ancestry that he did not. So, the arguable son of Satan kills a Satan-worshiper and I think that’s funny. Beyond that, he has a moment on a pier where he literally has his own moment of doubt regarding his purpose. I believe that’s before he kills the Satan-worshiper, but it has been a while since I watched the trilogy. To me, it exhibited that even with his ancestry, he was still able to exercise free will because God’s that awesome. Now, some people won’t even watch “The Omen” because they believe it is Satanic. Here’s the big spoiler... Damien grows up and goes dark side when played by Sam Neill. But, in the third where played by Neill, in the end he is humbled when confronted by the Holy Spirit in a church. That’s how it ends. So, I think some superstitious morons should actually give horror films a chance and watch them with the eyes of good faith and love to find out that there are actually a few good messages to be found even in the horror genre.

But, not all horror movies have predominantly truth and virtue overcoming deception and vice. This brings me to “The Exorcist”, original film. That is the creepiest movie I’ve ever seen in my life. It bothered me so bad because one time I just turned the television on and it happened to be playing. Nothing scary was happening. It was people just talking normally with none of the weird shit yet. It creeped me the fuck out. I waited to see what the hell it was and learned it was “The Exorcist”. I wanted to know what made it so creepy because it wasn’t the scene. There was no music in that scene either. I spent a long time trying to figure out what made it creepy. I haven’t verified this, but I believe that they got rid of all background noise. I believe all background noise was removed from the entire film. So, arguably the lack of background noise is what made it creepy.

See, one of the most natural survival instincts is to be as quiet and still as possible if a predator is near or sensed. So, where you are in a situation, in the woods camping for instance, where it is eerily quiet, you feel the peer pressure of all other animals in the woods you previously found comfort in hearing telling you to be as quiet as possible if you want to live or even want a chance at it because there's a predator on the loose nearby. Then, you listen ever so closely for what might be a predator joining all the other animals in being on high alert. As owls start to hoot and rustling of smaller nocturnal animals is heard again, you breathe easy knowing the danger has passed and you can maybe get some sleep before dawn.

So, the lack of background noise in "The Exorcist" triggered that natural survival instinct and kept it in play throughout the whole film. That's what I think anyway.

And, I honestly think "The Exorcist" was someone's way of telling the story of how when religious leaders rape children, sometimes the children give them a preview of hell in hopes of expelling the demons from the pigs who rape them. Of course, that's where M. Night Shyamalan's "Devil" comes in and the theory that the devil simply torments the damned on earth before they die and go to hell for failing to truly repent and continuing in hypocrisy knowing such is a total affront to Jesus Christ as is harming children. With such an interpretation or understanding of the devil, seems the Devil in such a case is just doing his/her job.

I hope this helps make the world less creepy and more interesting for you. Merry Christmas!

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>