

A Sermon on False Prophets

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for July 5th, 2020 (and beyond)

"Who does Not Know the Truth, is simply a Fool...Yet who Knows the Truth and Calls it a Lie, is a Criminal." -- Berthold Brecht (1898-1956)

Matthew 7:15 KJV "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

The definitions from Oxford Languages as provided by Google of "false" are "not according with truth or fact; incorrect." and "appearing to be the thing denoted; deliberately made or meant to deceive." So, learning and knowing the truth is the best defense against false prophets and the most important of the #TaoFu self-defense strategies which requires individuals exercise due diligence with a willingness to consider multiple sources of information and cross-reference logically to get nearest the whole and/or objective truth. I call what Jesus references as "the way", #TaoFu self-defense. I'm almost certain Jesus thinks that's awesome, but I can't speak for Jesus only myself. Other churches at times refer to it as discernment. #TaoFu is also discernment.

I'm not one to suffer fools gladly and recognize the patience shown by others when I've acted a fool having been misled and unduly influenced by the Animal Rights Community/Movement. Having believed their disinformation and propaganda while truly wishing to help stop needless suffering of animals, I participated in actions I now feel were in the least ill-advised and at most actually detrimental or harmful to the objective of stopping harm to animals. It is because they use coercive thought reform techniques including emotional manipulation and trauma triggers. I got involved before I'd studied and researched coercive thought reform (aka Behavior Modification, crudely "brainwashing") so didn't recognize it for what it was entirely before having the benefit of hindsight which is 20/20. And, the previous times I was exposed to coercive thought reform I was too young (toddler) when my parents were in a cult in Montana and took a wrong turn at Albuquerque in regards to Provo Canyon School and their behavior modification program using aversive model. I've since deprogrammed and that's why my church hopes to help you deprogram too.

Here's how they do it with animal rights movement as an example:

CONVERSION STEPS	RESULTS/RESPONSES
1. Emotional appeals with disinformation that shocks and horrifies the senses. Graphic images out of context.	1. Co-dependents or trauma victims find the courage to speak up for the animals where they couldn't speak for themselves. It's transference. In defending the animals, they are in essence defending themselves in some part of their psyche. (I recognized that's what I was doing when I had a traumatic stress trigger blow out at a circus protest and seeing the tiger in the cage

	actually triggered a full flashback and I knew for me that's what was up. That was in 2001.)
2. Tell you to convert to veganism with all sorts of disinformation about health and how many lives you will save annually by doing so. Repeatedly show the same horrifying videos and get volunteers to spread the propaganda and convert everyone.	2. I lost more friends in trying to convert everyone to veganism than I made lasting vegan friendships. So, as far as how cults isolate voluntary recruits, it happens as a natural consequence because no one wants to be converted and that's not why they are friends with you in the first place. If you had a friend that was into another political party than you that kept trying to convert you and that's all they would talk about, would you stay friends with them? It's the same thing. But, it is how one becomes socially isolated where the animal rights community/movement becomes their entire social life while involved.
3. Some people in leadership in the animal rights movement have said to me privately: "I want to kill everyone who isn't vegan.", "If a vegan rapes a child, I don't think they should go to jail and I'd forgive it.", "I think carnivorous animals should be wiped out of existence, including all cats.", and when I asked about quotes from famous people on a poster sold by the movement where I recognized some were inaccurate I was told "It's for the greater good. It's okay to lie if it gets people to go vegan."	3. Most of the nasty things people in leadership in the animal rights movement said to me occurred before 2002 when the HEAL mission was founded as a response on campus. The thing about cats was later, the rest was before HEAL was founded.
4. They discourage critical thinking.	4. I asked a lot of questions about efficacy and whether to focus on direct care or legislation. I was told and I quote "You should stick to baking" at a board meeting. I was on the board at that time. I am a good baker. But, my record in legislative progress is at http://www.heal-online.org/getsmart.htm and I do more than bake.
5. You are free to leave at any time at your own risk.	5. One woman who I was friends with in the local movement was recruited briefly to another cult by someone involved with the local animal rights community. She was so irritated by being taken advantage of by the second cult (they took her for thousands) that she complained about the vegan

	<p>woman who recruited her to a second cult through deceptive marketing. The vegan community said the vegan woman secondary cult recruiter was vegan and welcome. So, my friend left the vegan community and was my Spartacus in that sense. I left shortly after she did. I was stopped by those in the movement from time to time who would tell me my friend was a traitor. I didn't reveal to them that I too had left the movement but had not stopped fighting for animals. I'm fighting for their lives and continued existence understanding the circle of life. And, I'm not misanthropic. But, had my friend not pulled a Spartacus and walked out, I might not have found the courage to do the same when I did. My friends who helped me start the HEAL Mission at the UW also helped. So, having friends or making friends outside of a cult you've joined helps you leave the cult if you've become co-dependent on it for your entire social life having alienated your other friends by trying to convert them.</p>
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One example of disinformation or propaganda from the vegan community/animal rights movement:

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) claims one vegan saves 100-200 animals a year just by changing to a vegan diet.¹² Countinganimals.com claims one vegan saves 467.5 animals a year by changing to a vegan diet.³

Here's the truth:

USA Today reported that American meat eaters eat 7000 animals in a lifetime.⁴ Americans have a life expectancy of 78.6 years according to CDC.⁵ 7000 divided by

¹ <https://www.peta.org.au/news/how-many-animals-saved-vegan-2016/#:~:text=It's%20estimated%20that%20by%20going,save%20100%20lives%20per%20year.&text=Of%20course%2C%20by%20going%20vegan,more%20info%20on%20your%20impact.>

² <https://www.peta.org/living/food/top-10-reasons-go-vegan-new-year/#:~:text=Did%20you%20know%20that%20every,%2C%20and%20dairy%20%E2%80%9Cproducts.%E2%80%9D>

³ <http://www.countinganimals.com/how-many-animals-does-a-vegetarian-save/#:~:text=A%20vegetarian%20saves%20more%20than,24%20of%20who%20are%20chickens.>

⁴ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2015/03/11/meat-eaters-animals-lifetime/70136010/>

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/life-expectancy.htm>

78.6=89. So, one might argue based on that that one vegan saves 89 animals per year. However, that's flawed reasoning. Countinganimals.com reports "The way a vegetarian saves animals is by reducing the demand for meat and causing fewer animals to be born into a harsh life owned by the meat industry, where callousness abounds and mercy is scant."⁶ But, preventing the birth of 89 animals isn't saving their lives, it's preventing their existence if that were true at all. The truth is 30% of the total food wasted in the US annually, which is 133 billion pounds total, is meat, fish, and poultry. That's 39,900,000,000 pounds wasted annually.⁷ If all of that wasted meat was cow (cows weigh an average of 1400 pounds⁸) it would equate to 28,500,000 cows. So, not preventing them from existing, just wasting food and not contributing to the care of the animals at all by not purchasing the products of their progenitors. If veganbits.com is correct, there are 1.6 million vegans in the US and 12% of the population is vegetarian (including the 0.5% that is vegan).⁹ 12% of the US population (332,639,102 according to census data¹⁰)=39,916,692.24 people. And, we know not all the wasted meat was cows. But, even if it were all cows, vegetarians collectively would be saving 39,916,692.24-28,500,000=11,416,692.24 animals if reducing demand resulted in that. That works out to saving 0.286 animals or roughly 1/3 of an animal per year per vegetarian. So, not saving lives nor preventing the existence of 100-467.5 animals annually. But, Veganbits.com claims 8% of vegetarians identify as former vegans/vegetarians which would make vegetarians represent 4% rather than 12%. Other sources say 5% of the US is vegetarian (which includes the vegans).¹¹ And, 5% of the US population = 16,631,955.1 people who claim to be vegetarian (including the vegans). So, 28,500,000 dead cows that ended up in landfills - 16,631,955.1 vegetarians=11,868,044.9 dead cows that would be wasted even if the vegetarians ate their share. So, being vegetarian or vegan definitively does not save lives and reducing consumption reduces the profit for the farmer reducing resources to improve living conditions for the animals. This is one reason I support Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT: <https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/>) and they provide grants and direct care assistance to farmers to improve conditions for the animals. I'm going to assume the abundant supply is for trade with foreign countries as well and not just intended for American consumption. Even if it were 11,868,044.9 dead cows or the equivalent that were wasted annually, that is obscene. Waste not, want not.

The USDA reported the average American consumes 222.2 pounds of meat annually.¹² The cow weighs 1400 pounds. $1400/222.2=6.3$. So, one 1400 pound cow feeds 6 people for a year. Those are the crude numbers. From a 1000 pound steer, the gross yield of meat is 610 pounds with 430 pounds fit for human consumption.¹³ So, perhaps the most

⁶ <http://www.countinganimals.com/how-many-animals-does-a-vegetarian-save/#:~:text=A%20vegetarian%20saves%20more%20than,24%20of%20who%20are%20chickens.>

⁷ <https://www.beefmagazine.com/management/food-waste-issue-we-must-solve>

⁸ <https://www.thecountrysidepress.com/how-much-does-your-cow-weigh/>

⁹ <https://veganbits.com/vegan-demographics/>

¹⁰ <https://www.census.gov/popclock/>

¹¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/food/wp/2018/08/03/you-might-think-there-are-more-vegetarians-than-ever-you-d-be-wrong/>

¹² <https://www.seattletimes.com/business/americans-meat-consumption-set-to-hit-a-record-in-2018/>

¹³ <https://www.oda.state.ok.us/food/fs-cowweight.pdf>

honest thing to say is that one cow feeds 2-6 people for a year and provides one of the best ways to get enough of the essential nutrient known as B12 (B12 deficiencies can cause all sorts of health problems including Alzheimers).¹⁴¹⁵

Adolf Hitler was a vegetarian.¹⁶ PETA euthanizes (kills) 81% of their "rescues".¹⁷ Based on this, I believe it is reasonable to argue that PETA supports death camps over vivisection labs and labor camps. I believe PETA finds death or non-existence favorable to vivisection labs and labor camps. But, why are those the only three options PETA considers? And, if we asked the survivors of the holocaust, that were rescued from labor camps and vivisection labs, would they prefer to be labeled damaged and euthanized or prefer improved living conditions with opportunity or chance at upward mobility, what would they say? What would you say if you were a survivor or descendant of a survivor of the WWII holocaust? Would you say that your entire bloodline would be better off dead or never existing or that your bloodline is strong and carries on having overcome or survived the holocaust? I say give the animals a fighting chance even if it is a snowball's chance in hell of their bloodlines surviving and thriving in progressively improving living conditions with our help and support. If you'd rather they all die, that's obscene too.

And, that's why I don't trust the animal rights movement/vegan community. I forgive those like I was who know not what they do and are misguided and misinformed. But, the ones who know or have reason to know, while exploiting well-meaning volunteers who give tons of time and money believing they are achieving something worthwhile where they are nothing more than pawns in some authoritarian cult, are unforgivable unless and until they fully repent and that is my humble opinion. This is why PETA (Animal Rights Movement) remains on the False Prophet watch-list until they convert to honesty in marketing or cease to exist. COPE and the HEAL Mission meet the honesty in marketing standards and ask all others do the same whether for profit or nonprofit, secular or faith-based.

"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 <http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.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 <http://www.heal-online.org>

¹⁴ <http://www.heal-online.org/thelist.htm#animal>

¹⁵ <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/vitamin-b12-deficiency-can-be-sneaky-harmful-201301105780>

¹⁶ <https://www.businessinsider.com/adolf-hitler-had-an-excellent-diet-2013-2#:~:text=Wikipedia%20A%20woman%20who%20served,food%20for%20traces%20of%20poison.>

¹⁷ https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/at-petas-shelter-most-animals-are-put-down-peta-calls-them-mercy-killings/2015/03/12/e84e9af2-c8fa-11e4-bea5-b893e7ac3fb3_story.html