

A Far Out Sermon

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for July 18th, 2021 (and beyond)

Thor is the basis of the word Thursday, which is known as Jupiter day in many Latin-based languages. Odin is often compared to Kronos in Greek legends and myths, the God of Time and not the titan of the same name. Are you familiar with oral tradition? “While only 12% of the people in the world could read and write in 1820, today the share has reversed: only 14% of the world population, in 2016, remained illiterate.” Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/literacy>

Egyptians are reportedly most fond of the Sun that appears to receive all communications through Mercury since it is the closest. In Norse tradition, Loki represents Mercury. Some say Moses and the Hebrews in general represent Saturn, but, Jupiter is the only one with a chance to defeat the Sun if that’s the goal. That’s only possible when Jupiter aligns with Mars though when you take into account you need the help of the God of War to succeed in any war. It looks like Venus and Mars have both tried with Venus getting the worst of it based on atmospheric conditions. It could all be a result of undue influence from Jupiter, no one really knows for sure.

The sun could Supernova if too angry or volatile or even just have a massive solar flare that does to earth what some believe may have happened to Mars and Venus. Scientists are still testing to see if it is safe to return to or visit either planet or if either could support life. All we know is pissing off the sun isn’t a good idea which is likely why Egypt claimed it as their God so everyone else would live in fear but also be glad for the light of day because predators are really hard to see when it is pitch black.

At some point, it was rumored that the sun and earth’s moon were one. They had a huge fight and that’s why the moon blocks the sun sometimes still as a reminder of its power. The Moon says "You may have taken out Venus and Mars, but, I'll be damned if your rage takes out Earth too. Not on my watch."

And, all of that gives people entertainment even today. But some have decided the stories were a pastime and have developed empirical studies to separate the wheat from the chaff (Matthew 3:12). The planets exist. Magnetism and gravity are knowable and understandable. Encouraging truth and virtue or establishing those as the basis on which to sustain civilization is the best way to so sustain. And, when people dress up and claim to represent deities it better be billed as art (including theater) where suspension of disbelief is done temporarily, voluntarily, and for the purpose of art appreciation. Otherwise, the suspension of disbelief may be unwitting and result in a life of suffering and confusion. Who on earth would want to cause that much suffering?

Well, some may blame Loki, but I wouldn’t. No, I'd just reference John 8:44 while recognizing when everyone is providing informed consent and understands what to reasonably expect to gain or experience, then most art (including theater and literature) is culturally enriching and good for the soul where truth and virtue are intentionally perpetual themes. My faith in God (Truth and ALL the Virtues combined in a perpetual

abstract archetype) is steadfast and I understand we all manifest evidence from time to time, which reinforces good faith and inspires good works.

Studying comparative religion, philosophy, and history is totally worth it. The key to understanding is to study all information available to see what is reinforced and what is disputed so you have a greater idea of what is true after comparing all available accounts. If you fail to do that and cling to anything you've read or heard as absolutes while fearing the "demon of doubt" that may take over if you expose yourself to additional information or sources, you are superstitious and not religious. In such situations, I see you as being possessed because you are exhibiting willful blindness thereby denying the Truth. And, I understand the willful blindness may be a result of not recognizing your own civil liberties while handing over authority over your life to someone not recognized at law as having any such authority that wishes to exploit your dependency resulting from your ignorance. If you are a victim of the demon of dependency, please see <https://www.heal-online.org/emancipationprep.pdf> for help.

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>