

A Sermon on the Prosecution of Goldilocks

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for January 22nd, 2023 (and beyond)

If unfamiliar with the story of “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”, please read it now at https://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/goldilocks_story.htm . The following is in dialogue format.

DIALOGUE:

Prosecutor: Goldilocks is charged with breaking and entering also known as burglary, theft (porridge), trespassing, loitering, and vandalism since she broke the chair.

Judge: How does your client plead?

Defense Attorney: Not guilty on burglary, trespassing, loitering, nor theft because she was desperate for food and shelter so the defense of necessity applies. The family has offered to replace the chair and this seems a case more appropriate for tort.

Judge: Prosecution shall proceed.

Prosecutor: The defense doesn't apply. She was able to run away when discovered by the homeowners. It is our understanding Goldilocks is an orphaned vagrant and there is no family on record. The plea deal remains on the table for Goldilocks to accept responsibility and continue living in the group home where she's been placed since arrest.

Judge (to Defense Attorney): Does your client actually have family and did you review the case or just confer with her before appearing here today?

Defense Attorney: Give me a moment to confer with my client please.... At this time I'd like to amend the plea to not guilty by reason of temporary insanity.

Judge: So amended and recorded. Prosecution?

Prosecutor: In light of the new plea, I request Goldilocks be transferred from the group home to a residential treatment facility or psychiatric hospital until deemed fit for release and/or prosecution on the charges.

Goldilocks: Wait! I want to plead the defense of necessity. My attorney is an idiot! Go back to that defense.

Judge: You are out of order! Another outburst like that and you will face additional charges. Do you understand?

Goldilocks: Yes, your honor.

Judge: Let the record show the defendant has entered a plea of not guilty by reason of necessity and shall be remanded to the currently assigned group home until trial unless a plea agreement is entered prior to the first day which will be no more than 180 days from now if defendant remains in custody and no more than a year if released on bail or own recognizance.

Goldilocks: You can't lock me up for 180 days when I've not even been convicted! That's outrageous!

Judge: Defense counsel, please control your client. Bail is denied and an additional charge of contempt of court has been added to the charges. I'm ordering the defendant be transferred to the Department of Corrections today so that the 180 days will count towards any sentence following trial if a plea agreement isn't feasible.

Defense Attorney: Thank you your honor and we'll take the plea agreement offer into consideration.

Goldilocks: No! I'm innocent! Defense of necessity. Let the jury decide!

Judge: That's another contempt of court charge added to the charges.

Goldilocks: You are all out to get me!

Defense Attorney: I apologize for my client your honor. This has been a great stress as she has never been processed before. Please forgive the outburst.

Judge: Trial is set for 180 days from today and defendant is remanded to the custody of the Department of Corrections pending trial. Next.

END DIALOGUE

Meditation Questions:

Who is the real victim and whose side are you on in full context?

Does the fact she was in a forest of any sort lend to the defense of necessity in full context?

What is Goldilocks' biggest mistake?

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>