

A Sermon on Defining Idolatry

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for December 13th, 2020 (and beyond)

Leviticus 26:1-2 (KJV): "Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God. Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary."

Leviticus 26:1-2 (Wycliffe): "Y am youre Lord God; ye schulen not make to you an ydol, and a grauun ymage, nether ye schulen reise titlis, nether ye schulen sette a noble stoon in youre lond, that ye worschipe it; for Y am youre Lord God. Kepe ye my sabatis, and drede ye at my sentuarie; Y am the Lord." [Translated to Modern English from Middle English: "I am your Lord God; you shall not make to you an idol nor grand image, neither shall you raise titles, neither shall you set a noble stone in your land that you worship, for I am your Lord God. Keep my Sabbath and fear my sanctuary, I am the Lord."]

Exodus 32:3-8 discusses the issue of the Golden Calf and the worship of idols (such as humans masquerading or pretending to be deities) rather than Truth and Virtue (many names of GOD).

So, while the Bible says the Golden Calf situation was an issue coming out of Egypt, I propose here that it represented Radha and was actually Hindi caste system being discussed rather than Egypt or that Egypt liked the idea and did it their way. But, I can't recall a single cow or calf that is an Egyptian deity, can you? Hesat? So, Hesat (first I've heard of this one) is Radha? But, Hesat is supposedly another name for Hathor, and I've heard of Hathor. Okay, so, these oral traditions of passing down stories with different perspectives depending on which tribe or nation does the telling has resulted in some disagreement and debate. Then, John Wycliffe wrote the Holy Bible which was later updated for publication as the King James Version. This is a Wycliffite church for more reasons than one.

I prefer the idea of democracy where everyone recognizes each other's humanity to any moronic whores pretending to be deities and through claims of birthright alone or any other supposed qualifier deciding to permanently oppress everyone else who is a citizen of the same land. Even a proverbial snowball's chance in hell of becoming economically successful in a free market economy is better than no chance at all.

And, I prefer actual social equality like in the USA where we are all equal in the eyes of the law and eyes of God (if you're a Wycliffite or agree with that understanding and if you don't I'm free to disagree with you because I'm an American Citizen) where the economy is like a game. The economy is like a game or Soap Opera where you start or jump in wherever you land in the game/story perhaps as a result of being tagged in by someone else (i.e. a parent). So, if your parents didn't play well, you may need to pick up some skills on your own if you want to establish yourself as a real player.

That being said, idolatry can happen to anyone and some don't even realize it. Some people superstitiously worship statues likely representative of real people who falsely claimed to be deities at some point in history. Other people claim to be deities or try to sell that now like with Sacred Breath Academy who looks forward to thousands of shrines being built to honor the vagina of the woman who co-founded it. If you have an extra pussyhat, please give one to anyone involved with Sacred Breath Academy, that's the crown they deserve and best represents their beliefs in my opinion.

So, if you see anyone else as flawless or even smile and nod so they think you do because you are afraid to disillusion them in regards to their delusions of grandeur because they are malignant narcissists, you are engaging in idolatry with the malignant narcissist as the idol. If you see yourself as flawless and expect everyone else to agree with you then you are a malignant narcissist, possibly a cult leader, and engaging in idolatry.

But, if you have photos of loved ones who are in the hereafter to comfort you or remind you of them, that's okay and not idolatry as long as you remember sometimes they farted, cursed, and could take too long in the bathroom at times. And, if they weren't malignant narcissists and thinking that makes you smile when you remember rather than cry, they'll love it even if you remember the stuff that was annoying at the time, but, proof of humanity in the hereafter. If you are worried about whether or not to acknowledge the imperfection of someone you knew in life that is now dead, don't let them haunt you with their delusions of grandeur. Find someone who told them off at least once and ask them to do it again while you join with your own story where appropriate. When malignant narcissists die, they stay dead and that's why Christianity is better because everyone gets a fresh start and isn't excluded as a result of cultural heritage nor oppressed without a fair trial if in a jurisdiction that was inspired or established during the Age of Reason/Enlightenment. For me, the Age of Reason is perpetual and romanticism is a hobby, not a way of life.

Also, if you blame your pets for your passing gas and demand that's the case rather than admit it was a joke when you blamed your pets, you are a malignant narcissist. Own your own flatulence. My dog Gypsy has the worst smelling farts whenever you give her eggs (leftover scramble or whatever). If there is a silent but deadly, it's that. When she dies, I'm going to miss her and assume she's with Rose and the others on dog Karmic Crew in my blue heaven or hereafter. But, I may never feed eggs to another dog again. My Mom still gives Gypsy eggs and so I do too sometimes, not often, maybe two to three times a year. I always regret it at least briefly. But, she's the sweetest dog and she likes the eggs. This story will make me tear up if and when I adopt a new dog after Gypsy's departure to the hereafter. That may help me avoid being tempted to share eggs with any other dogs. But, I'm a sucker for the look and I share. I don't know. But, it's awful. I might do it once and then see if there are any silent but deadly releases. If not, it may be safe to continue to share the eggs.

This entire sermon is intended to help you avoid becoming an idolater or how to recognize if you or a loved one is an idolater in need of an intervention. You don't have to fart to clear a room, sometimes just being completely honest works.

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>