

A Sermon on Identifying Oppression

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for July 9th, 2023 (and beyond)

The purpose of this sermon is arguably to help everyone identify the “devil” inside and/or in the environment that may be oppressive revealing their/our own “devilishness” (tendency/tendencies to oppress). Most of the sermon is in the form of meditative questions that are examples that can be applied to any situation or circumstance. We’ll begin with a dialogue portion after which meditative questions follow.

DIALOGUE

Employer: Sign this meal break waiver so you can get out of here as soon as possible. You may be required to work late.

Employee: Breaks are mandated by law for the overall health of individuals and companies. Your meal break waiver suggests a hostile work environment from which all should wish to escape while saying even if waived I may be required to work beyond my shift even where I waived in order to leave earlier daily. It also suggests you don’t care about employee health nor actual productivity where breaks are proven to result in higher levels of productivity: <https://www.businessnewsdaily.com/6387-employee-breaks.html> I see your waiver as evidence of oppression, hostility, and overall incompetence. The incompetence makes me feel the job is insecure because it is highly doubtful anyone with such a policy or practice keeps good employees long. This may explain the high turnover rate, which is a sign of a failing or destined to fail company. Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikekappel/2020/09/16/7-signs-small-business-is-failing/>

Employer: You are insubordinate, unprofessional, and accusatory. You’re fired.

Employee: I wonder how long before you close too. I’ve seen this type of behavior before and know it is only a matter of time.

END DIALOGUE

MEDITATIVE QUESTIONS

The meditative questions involve sets of three questions each that can be applied to other subjects, situations, and circumstances to help you determine whether or not you or anyone else is being oppressive.

Question Set One

What’s your favorite food?

What food would you never eat that others enjoy?

Would you mandate others solely eat your favorite food and outlaw food you'd never eat?

[NOTE: Answering "yes" to the last question is an oppressive position and somewhat stupid because there is limited supply of all foods and limiting everyone to a diet of your favorite would mean food scarcity and a likely famine from which you too would ultimately suffer even if it was the sole focus of food production for any given time.]

Question Set Two

Whose company do you most enjoy?

Whose company do you least enjoy?

Would you mandate others solely associate with those you most enjoy and outlaw association with those you least enjoy?

[NOTE: Depending on why you least enjoy the company of some, they may be segregated or sentenced to the death penalty anyway as a matter of law. For the purposes of those questions, assume those that are segregated as a result of criminal conviction are excluded from being covered by the words "company", "associate", and "association".]

Question Set Three

Where would you most like to live?

Where would you least like to live?

Would you mandate others live where you prefer and outlaw living where you would least prefer to live yourself so it isn't even possible as a matter of law?

[NOTE: Would you determine who lives where and under what conditions? Would you base it on a system of private property and trade, war over territory, or something else if you had the authority to do so? What would be your minimum standard and how would you enforce it or avail it to all?]

Question Set Four

Do you consider every human being your social and lawful equal?

Do you believe in hierarchies or monarchies where an oligarchy or monarch unilaterally decides everything for you concerning you?

Would you accept \$13,383.46 gross as your equal share of annual Global Gross Domestic Product in 2023 where such is what everyone gets regardless of skills, knowledge, talent, and work ethic?

[NOTE: According to <https://www.statista.com/statistics/268750/global-gross-domestic-product-gdp/> , Global Gross Domestic Product in 2023 is \$105,568,780,000,000 (US) with a total Global Human Population in 2023 of 7,888,000,000 people and if Global Gross Domestic Product was redistributed equally to all people annually, in 2023 the total would be \$13,383.46 (US) per person. I'm personally willing to try to live on that or less for the greater good and redistribute excess over that to those in most need of basic necessities. But, that's my choice and I am concerned that such a redistribution would defeat the purpose of the free market which ultimately results in more of what everyone needs and wants being available. Have you considered the trade-offs?]

END

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.