

A Sermon on Appreciating Intellectual Honesty

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for June 20th, 2021 (and beyond)

This sermon like many others is provided in dialogue format. It is a mystery/morality play and an example of #TaoFu.

Predator: It's not possible for me to rape my own child. My child is under my sole authority and is not recognized as competent at law by the law itself. If I consent then sexual intercourse with my own child is okay. My consent acts as their consent at law.

Intellectually Honest Party: I'm going to give you the benefit of the doubt. I'm going to assume you are incompetent at law. As the legal guardian, your duty is to protect your child from unlawful harm. So, the duty at law is to protect with recognition of your responsibility to do so. Even if you were just an accessory and facilitated or gave consent to a third-party to criminally harm your child, you would be accountable at law similar to Ashley Thomas of Trumbull County, Ohio. Your legal guardianship recognizes your duty to protect your child, not the right to criminally harm them. Do you understand?

Predator: If I want to incorporate sexual education and condition my child for all facets of adulthood, why is that your business? I understand it isn't rape unless the child is engaged or married to someone other than me. And, my reading of scripture suggests to me that as the parent, my consent would be required for my child to get married before reaching age of majority.

Intellectually Honest Party: So, are you planning to marry your child? Deuteronomy 22:28-29 (KJV) states "28 If a man happens to meet a virgin who is not pledged to be married and rapes her and they are discovered, 29 he shall pay her father fifty shekels[a] of silver. He must marry the young woman, for he has violated her. He can never divorce her as long as he lives." And, in the Wycliffe Bible, the same Deuteronomy passage reads "28 If a man fyndith a samysel virgyn that hath no spowse, and takith, and doith letcherie with hir, and the thing cometh to the doom, 29 he that slepte with hir schal yyue to the fadir of the damysel fifti siclis of siluer, and he schal not mow forsake hir, in alle the daies of his lijf." Beyond that, if you prefer said rules or laws, you should move to a jurisdiction where that's the law. You are in a jurisdiction where that's not the law.

Predator: The first amendment says I can.

Intellectually Honest Party: Catholic Priest John Thomas Sweeny was convicted of raping children and pleaded guilty to it too. So, it would seem the church recognizes it to be wrongful, even if you use the passages I quoted to make your argument. It clearly states that the penalty is a fine and you have to marry the one you violated because you've ruined her. So, the laws in this jurisdiction still see it as a violation with a penalty attached though said penalty has been modernized. And, Deuteronomy 22:25-27 prescribes the death penalty where the victim was not engaged or married. In addition, I point to Leviticus 18:18 (KJV), and I quote: "6 None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the Lord.

7 The nakedness of thy father, or the nakedness of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: she is thy mother; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.

8 The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness.

9 The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, whether she be born at home, or born abroad, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover.

10 The nakedness of thy son's daughter, or of thy daughter's daughter, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover: for theirs is thine own nakedness.

11 The nakedness of thy father's wife's daughter, begotten of thy father, she is thy sister, thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.

12 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's sister: she is thy father's near kinswoman.

13 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy mother's sister: for she is thy mother's near kinswoman.

14 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's brother, thou shalt not approach to his wife: she is thine aunt.

15 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy daughter in law: she is thy son's wife; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.

16 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy brother's wife: it is thy brother's nakedness.

17 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, neither shalt thou take her son's daughter, or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; for they are her near kinswomen: it is wickedness.

18 Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life time.”

So, reasonable understanding of Leviticus 18:17, expressly states you are not to have sex with a mother and her child. Therefore if you had sex with the mother and the child is your kin and/or hers, you are not to have sex with that child. Wycliffe Leviticus 18:17 reads “Thou schalt not schewe the filthe of thi wijf, and of hir douyter; thou schalt not take the douyter of hir sone, and the douytir of hir douyter, that thou schewe hir schenschip; thei ben the fleisch of hir, and siche letcherie is incest.”

Predator: That's one interpretation. But, I see it as meaning as long as I'm not having sex with both at the same time, then it is still okay. And, my wife is dead. We are all brothers and sisters in the eyes of God and I can have sex with anyone as long as I keep them until they die which I guarantee costs me more than 50 anything in terms of money. Leviticus 18:18.

Intellectually Honest Person: The first amendment regarding freedom of religion does not shield you from responsibility or prosecution at law. Some I respect more, and for good reason, are very pro-life. Eric Rudolph pleaded guilty. He did not bear false witness. Exodus 20:16. And, in conjunction with Matthew 7:12 which is the Golden Rule, you are to be honest always and treat everyone equally.

Predator: In what way have I been dishonest?

Intellectually Honest Person: Biblically, your actions or stated actions are unrighteous, wicked, and an abomination that could carry a death sentence. Lawfully in the US, your actions or stated actions are unlawful, criminal, and may result in being lynched, killed in prison by a cellmate who recognizes your wickedness so does the world a favor, or a sentence of hard labor without possibility of parole. It seems you don't care about yourself at all if willing to risk such a fate.

Predator: I don't recognize anyone's authority except God's authority.

Intellectually Honest Person: How has God authorized your stated actions?

Predator: God would strike me down if not in agreement with my actions. I would be smited. I've not been smited.

Intellectually Honest Person: Do you believe Jesus was God's only begotten son and the nearest humanity has ever gotten to witnessing manifested evidence of God? Did Jesus do any smiting or suggest people who harm children get the death penalty? Matthew 18:6 (KJV) "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Predator: That's before he was convicted. After, he forgave all the criminals and the ignorant while blaming human systems of government forever. As long as I believe that to be true and to apply to me, it does. I accept Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior who bears all my burdens, accepts responsibility for all my wrongs, keeps no records of said wrongs, and erases my wickedness as long I say "I repent" each time.

Intellectually Honest Person: So, for you Jesus is the God of all criminals who acts as the fall guy for every criminal for all time, is that correct?

Predator: Close enough.

Intellectually Honest Person: Do you have any compassion for Jesus? He's such a compassionate, charitable, and righteous figure to so many. It seems like you are trying to make Jesus your bitch. Even if Jesus was human and simply a child of God in the sense we are all God's children, Deuteronomy 14:1-2, that seems really oppressive and unkind of you to do that to Jesus. Hasn't Jesus suffered enough?

Predator: No, I just worship Jesus as an idol and superstitiously believe in magic words erasing my past.

Intellectually Honest Person: How much of your past would you like Jesus to erase? It's my understanding you can't erase some without corrupting or destroying all. That seems the opposite of Jesus' message or purpose. Do you want him to erase all of it now or when you die?

Predator: Both, I believe every time I say "I repent" I'm born again with a fresh start or clean slate and when I die there will be no permanent record.

Intellectually Honest Person: I honestly hope that if eternal life exists there is no record of you. Do we agree on that?

Predator: I think so. 1 Corinthians 13:4, no record of wrongs. 1 John 4:8. Between those two, looks like a free pass.

Intellectually Honest Person: Do you fear your wickedness or wrongfulness will turn people away from God and/or Jesus if they believe you represent good faith?

Predator: No, I believe people who misinterpret scripture should really read John 8:44 (KJV) as applying to them. I've interpreted it correctly. If not, then, it's because I'm ignorant and thereby forgiven. Either way.

Intellectually Honest Person: Do you believe God is omniscient and omnipresent? In other words, do you believe God is all-knowing and in all places at once? If so, God knows John 8:44 applies to you. I'm sorry. Luke 17:21 does not apply to you and John 8:44 does apply to you. You celebrate that Jesus is your fall guy and engage in idolatry to avoid self-examination. Is Jesus the way? What's the way? The way is treating everyone as your equal. You do not treat Jesus as your equal. You treat Jesus as your fall guy or bitch to avoid accountability for your own wrongs while offering idol praise to deceive your neighbor. Liars self-negate.

Predator: I forgive you. I'm going to see your statements as evidence of ignorance rather than malice.

Intellectually Honest Person: Why bother? He still hasn't confessed. Everything related to the crime has been stated as a hypothetical in some way. Is there enough physical evidence and testimony to convict?

Predator: Who are you talking to now?

Intellectually Honest Person: God, to decide how I'm going to explain we still don't have a confession to the district attorney. Sweeny and Rudolph both pleaded guilty. Same or similarly held beliefs. I shouldn't have given you the benefit of the doubt. That's where I went wrong. You are plenty competent at law. I started from the position that you were ignorant and I was mistaken.

Predator: You are forgiven.

Intellectually Honest Person: So, you believe in the US Constitution and that the laws of the United States of America provide you freedom of religion so believe in the power of US laws, is that correct? Would you say you believe in US laws and that such were written by men of good faith inspired by God to recognize your freedom? Romans 13:1-7.

Predator: Absolutely.

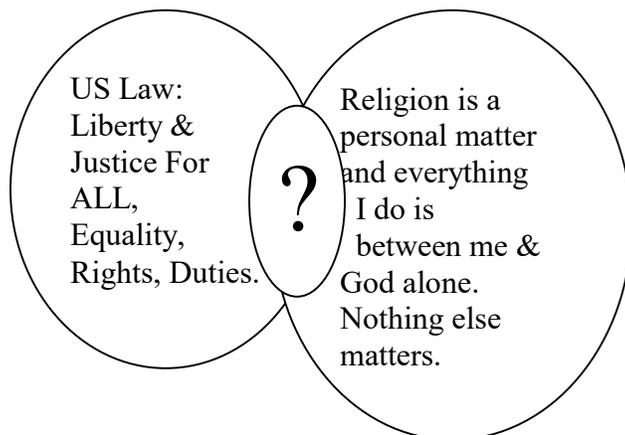
Intellectually Honest Person: Deuteronomy 14:1-2 (KJV) says we are all children of God recognizing our equality in the eyes of God. Do you believe US laws are aligned with recognition of that equality? Do you recognize me as having no more right to convert you to my understanding of scripture than you have to convert me to your own?

Predator: Yes.

Intellectually Honest Person: Do you agree the laws of the US apply to you including rights and responsibilities? Do you recognize the authority of the US Government?

Predator: God is the sole authority and the government is imperfect.

Intellectually Honest Person: So, perhaps if you don't recognize that rape of a child is a crime, you don't recognize religious freedom either. Would a Venn Diagram Help? Which bubble below best describes your position?



Predator: What does the question mark mean?

Intellectually Honest Person: If you choose a bubble, the answer will be revealed.

Predator: I choose Religion.

Intellectually Honest Person: Out of respect for religious liberty, I ask you if you are ready to meet your maker? Far be it from any lowly human to prevent you from being alone with God. Would you prefer solitary confinement so your relationship with God is uninterrupted by things that don't matter? Or, would you prefer death and immediate audience with God?

Predator: You are reading too much into it. You've taken me out of context. I have rights.

Intellectually Honest Person: No, if you respected US law then you'd have rights and responsibilities at law. You chose door or bubble #2. So, do you choose death or solitary confinement so you can be with God 24/7 since you are so religious and that's all that matters? Hypocrites get the greater damnation.

Predator: This entire interrogation is a result of undue influence. I've been mentally ill. I want a lawyer. None of this is admissible in any court.

Intellectually Honest Person: Are you familiar with the court of public opinion and first amendment protections of freedom of speech and free expression too?

Predator: As stated, I choose Religion.

Intellectually Honest Person: Revelations 11:18, everyone is subject to the law and judged accordingly and for temporal judgment there is US Justice System here now. Jesus would have already killed you for which he'd be arrested again for vigilantism. But, a system with due process where he could be recognized as acting in defense of another in such a killing, would mean Jesus walks or his sentence is mitigated. That seems fair. I'm sticking with US law. I'm choosing that imperfect but very reasonable bubble. I honestly believe Jesus would choose it too.

Predator: Fine, I choose US law. Prove it. I demand a lawyer and a trial by jury.

END Dialogue

And, that's why many victims of predators like the one described above become atheists, hate everything religious, and want to kill such predators where they don't take their own lives as a result of manufactured inequality and unjust shaming. The good news is that Jesus agrees such predators deserve the death penalty. Matthew 18:6. And, the predators seem okay with that given their desire to rewrite or erase history which reasonably includes any acknowledgement or record of their existence.

This sermon was originally going to be about how most fiction is based on fact and how it can be misinterpreted. This is the basis of the following meditative questions:

Where did the idea of vampires originate?

Did someone suffer a snake-bite and did a storyteller witness another person sucking the venom out of said bite to save the life of the victim? Was it too late and the victim died?

If you reasonably knew the whole story, would you believe the storyteller? Would you believe they were honest and reasonable based on the information available to them? Would you question more?

Would you need to know about snake-bites and that sometimes sucking the venom out of a snake or spider bite can save a live and/or prevent necrosis or further tissue damage? Would you need to know that sometimes help arrives too late and if caught in the act it may look worse than it actually is in terms of any judgment of the first responder?

Were you aware garlic does act as a bug repellent on mosquitoes and fleas? Both are bloodsucking parasites. So, that's the truth in the story of vampires. And, sometimes people believe that the fiction, theater, or imaginative stories inspired by real life are the hidden truth. In a way, that's true. But, you likely have to be a deconstructionist with the intention of understanding where stories come from and willingness to do a lot of research to find the reality that inspired the art regardless of art form.

Can garlic protect you from vampires? Is it good advice if you wish to avoid some bloodsucking parasites? Can sucking venom out of someone bitten by a snake save their life? Might they die if it wasn't done in time? We know now the answers or have the ability to know. So, whether anyone saw something disturbing and scurried off to another land to describe what appeared to be someone having bitten and sucked the blood of another person until they died out of context, you can know it was likely an attempt to suck venom out after the victim was bitten by a snake. And, that people started paying attention when garlic seemed to help, without attributing the repellent to a superstitious cause as if to believe the garlic brings good fortune, but rather knowing it works with a willingness to study to find out why, often through some deconstruction to pinpoint the exact element or particle to be concentrated for best results.

Do people ever act differently after being bitten by mosquitoes (bloodsuckers)? Yes, as a result of diseases such as dengue fever, yellow fever, encephalitis, malaria and more. Symptoms may include fever, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, rash, diarrhea, and vomiting. Source: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/mosquito-diseases.html> Fevers can cause hallucinations. "Most of the time, these hallucinations involve seeing images or hearing sounds that aren't present outside of the person's mind. Occasionally, people have hallucinations in which they feel, taste, or smell things that aren't real." Source: <https://www.healthline.com/health/fever-hallucinations#what-to-know>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the KidsHealth website. The page title is "Mosquito-Borne Diseases (for Parents)". The URL is "kidshealth.org/en/parents/mosquito-diseases.html". The page content includes a search bar, navigation tabs for "for Parents", "for Kids", "for Teens", and "For Educators", and a "Listen" button. The main heading is "What Are Mosquito-Borne Diseases?". Below this, it states that mosquito-borne diseases are illnesses spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. A list of diseases is provided: chikungunya, dengue fever, Eastern and Western equine encephalitis, Japanese encephalitis, La Crosse encephalitis, malaria, St. Louis encephalitis, West Nile virus, yellow fever, and Zika virus. A section titled "Viruses" explains that they cause most diseases spread to people by mosquitoes, and that malaria is caused by a parasite. Another section titled "What Are the Signs & Symptoms of Mosquito-Borne Diseases?" states that signs and symptoms vary depending on the disease. A button for "en español" is also visible.

Severe dehydration can also cause hallucinations and/or psychotic symptoms as a result of hyponatremia. Source: <https://www.relias.com/blog/is-dehydration-affecting-your-clients-minds> So, it is within the realm of possibility that once bitten by a bloodsucking insect an individual may describe it as being bitten by a bloodsucker which resulted in their fever and/or dehydration that may explain the theatrical or imaginative nature of how the illness is described by the afflicted. Before mass communication, documentation, and development of the scientific method, it was common to rely on oral tradition to explain life experiences or share knowledge. Sir Francis Bacon was the first to document and share the method through any form of mass communication. Bacon lived from 1561-1626. Source: <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/introchem/chapter/the-scientific-method/> The printing press was invented in 1450 in Germany. Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/inventions/printing-press> Today, 700 million people contract diseases as a result of mosquito bites and more than 1 million die from it annually. Source: <https://www.worldmosquitoprogram.org/en/learn/mosquito-borne-diseases> . But because of the scientific method, we know or often can identify the cause of the symptoms and may be able to treat or cure it. However, some still die from the occasional “vampire” bite while others may look like the undead or seem demented if suffering a fever or hyponatremia. Did this ruin vampire lore for you? I hope not.

What about werewolves? How did that idea start?

Another way to explain werewolves or humans turning into beasts every 14.75 to 29.53 days or so:

Up to 60% of the adult human body is made of water or consists of water. The heart and brain are 73% water. Source: https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-science-school/science/water-you-water-and-human-body?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

When the earth, moon, and Sun line up—which happens at times of full moon or new moon—the lunar and solar tides reinforce each other, leading to more extreme tides, called spring tides. Source: <https://scijinks.gov/tides/>

So, if the full moon influences bodies of water on earth and humans are scientifically bodies of water for the most part, then a full moon could cause humans to behave in more extreme ways. And, this might explain werewolves.

Another explanation is arguably purely hormonal with likely subconscious responses to smells in the air depending on reproductive cycles, but also on a similar schedule.

An explanation for people explaining behavior they witness but don't understand and believe to be inhuman may help everyone better understand each other, symbolism, and where to draw the line.

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>