

A Sermon on Outrage

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for April 10th, 2022 (and beyond)

“Outrage” is defined by Oxford Languages via Google.com as “an extremely strong reaction of anger, shock, or indignation.” “Tantrum” is defined by Oxford Languages via Google.com as “an uncontrolled outburst of anger and frustration, typically in a young child.” I’m not certain I recognize a significant difference between the two words, their appropriate uses, and relative definitions. When I studied child development in school, I was taught that the way to respond to a young child throwing a tantrum was to step out of the child’s sight while still observing because often when the child believes they no longer have an audience they self-sooth and calm down. Usually I’ve found that to work or be effective. Where the media might show up to capture a tantrum or outburst of outrage, they are doing the opposite of what is recommended by the experts in terms of social response though arguably hoping the spectacle improves ratings and goes viral.

Impressionable people may be rabble-roused by such spectacles believing it is a way to raise awareness, get attention, and/or build a critical mass to rally against the cause or reason of their outrage. But, often I’ve found outrage is a deimatic response by those assuming authority they do not have to attempt to deny or strip others of their legal rights particularly in cases where the media has amplified the outcry. For some, they feel it is beneath them to report things properly to the correct enforcement bodies when they have cause to do so and would rather go as high in the power structure from their perspective as possible to demand attention to their cause. And, then they lobby congress because they are so ignorant and don’t understand what each branch of the government does nor that congress isn’t the justice department. From pussyhats and primal screaming in the streets to riots, from a distance, it all looks like tantrums to me. There are remedies available at law where laws have been broken, the violations just need to be reported properly with sufficient evidence to support disciplinary action by the correct enforcement body which is not congress. Congress is the legislative branch and you want the judiciary branch and justice system for addressing violations of the law, not the legislative branch. But having your ass kissed in exchange for donations, votes, tea and sympathy is so much lovelier than going through the justice system and due process. It is better for those violating the law too who have no warrants against them because no one reported the violations to the correct enforcement bodies. The impatient call upon congress just to watch their suggested legislation die in committee year after year after session after session if not a restatement/repackaging of existing laws or otherwise lacking in substance without ever recognizing the futility of it and still voicing outrage as a result of change that never comes because the complained about issue is already a criminal offense at the state and federal level in most jurisdictions so the legislature already did their part by recognizing the offending conduct as harmful and unlawful.

I initially composed a sermon for today voicing my own outrage that was really an expansion on the 4/3/22 sermon on patience, respect, and understanding available at <https://wwwCOPE.church/patiencesermon.pdf> now. I ended the original for today with a #TaoFu short featuring #TaoFu Joker, #TaoFu Harvey Dent, and #TaoFu Riddler if familiar with those which are typically delivered on Twitter. I did say basically the same

as above, but with more focus on issues covered by the HEAL Mission and voicing my own frustration with ignorant, deimatic people who don't get justice because they don't seek it and instead seek legislative action which is more peaceful than rioting when the two aren't tandem. But, equally unfruitful in the end in most cases because they were barking up the wrong proverbial tree the whole time and squirting them with water would be a human rights violation depending on water pressure.

"Let the river run" ~Carly Simon.

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>