

A Sermon on Positive Thinking

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for May 21st, 2023 (and beyond)

This is a meditative sermon for the most part. You are free to contemplate the meditative questions without considering the sample responses/answers. For this sermon some of the worst actions and/or experiences are question subjects and the purpose is to apply positive thinking to each to find the silver-lining if any can be found.

MEDITATIVE QUESTIONS (Q) WITH SAMPLE RESPONSES/ANSWERS (R/A):

Q: What is good about committing crime?

R/A: Those who commit crime are actually job creators. Without criminals many insurance companies, law enforcement bodies, bail bondsmen, correctional officers, and mental health/rehabilitation specialists wouldn't have a job. Same goes for many in the legal profession. A world without crime would devastate the Prison Industrial Complex.

Q: What is good about a viral infection?

R/A: If you have a hyperactive immune system (opposite of HIV/AIDS) that spars with almost anything, often manifesting as allergies, some types of arthritis, and more, an infection often results in symptoms from the perpetual sparring being greatly alleviated. It is as if with a hyperactive immune system the body is the witches in "American Horror Story: Coven" when the Axe Man pays an impromptu visit and one of them says "Boy, did you walk into the wrong house" because they were all amped up fighting with each other when a threat walked in which they all turned on. #SpoilerAlert. And, sometimes if a body inadvertently hosts two or more viruses at once, one of the viruses blocks or destroys the others leaving it the only one the immune system has to fight. Source: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20230210-can-you-get-two-viruses-at-the-same-time>

Q: What is good about cockroaches?

R/A: "American cockroaches are an important source of food for lizards, birds, mice, and other insects. They are also high in protein levels and healthy to eat... Cockroaches eat just about anything, including garbage and dead plants, and animal waste... These cockroaches are natural composters. They play a huge role in the process of decaying organic matter to produce soil rich in nutrients..." They feed the birds, help recycle waste of all sorts, and that includes both recycling and composting. Source: <https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/about-the-american-cockroach>

Q: What is "Positive Thinking"?

- a. Honest and objective context.
- b. Happy Thoughts/Optimism
- c. Subjective denial of unpleasant realities
- d. When cations handle brain synapses and anions don't.

Q: Do you feel more enlightened after receiving this sermon?

Q: Would you change the R/A to the first question because necessitating action and paying for the justice system are two different things or some think they should be who would abolish labor as one of the ways to pay for criminal misconduct beyond inflated prices for phone calls and commissary items?

END MEDITATIVE QUESTIONS AND SAMPLE RESPONSES/ANSWERS
(WHERE APPLICABLE)

I considered adding a final thought to this sermon, but believe I'll leave it up to you. I welcome your feedback and understand if you still dislike crime/criminals, viruses, and cockroaches. I wouldn't go so far as to say by so disliking you aren't thinking positively enough, but there are those who would say so. What is "Positive Thinking"?

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.