

## A Sermon on Prejudicial Ignorance

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for August 6th, 2023 (and beyond)

Like many of my sermons, this is a meditative one in the form of multiple-choice questions. Please feel free to use your favorite search engine to check the facts before answering. You grade yourself.

Q: Which of the following snack options has the greatest overall nutritional value per serving?

- a. Hostess Chocolate Cupcake
- b. Goat Cheese (wrong)
- c. Hostess Devils Food Zinger
- d. Peanut M & Ms

Q: What ailment(s) do doctors still prescribe cigarettes to treat in the US?

- a. Parkinson's Disease
- b. Alzheimer's/Dementia
- c. Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis
- d. All of the Above and No Prescription Needed

Q: In the first question, do you think Goat Cheese is more nutritious than any of the other options?

- a. Yes
- b. No (I looked it up.)

Q: In the second question above, do other animals besides humans benefit from human use of cigarettes?

- a. Yes (Birds use butts for insulation and tobacco for pest control to protect nests from parasites, etc.)
- b. No (The risks from parasites do not outweigh the risk of exposure to tobacco.)

[Special Note: If you answered “no” to the last question, you need to know a single parasite species sickens 3.5 billion and kills over 200,000 people annually. That’s just one species of parasite and just its impact on humans, not birds or other species. Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8397551/> 43,000 pigeons killed by a newly identified parasite in Carmel Valley, CA in one year. Source: <https://www.thepoultrysite.com/news/2014/07/new-parasite-found-to-cause-deaths-of-wild-pigeons> To give you some perspective, the total human population of Carmel Valley, CA is 57,197. It's possible even more pigeons were killed than were recorded. It's as if parasites wiped out the whole village. But, nicotine is no longer used as a common pesticide in agriculture to protect food crops and the new pesticides that are tobacco-free kill 10% of birds exposed to it annually, the other 90% exposed do not die immediately or as a result of exposure. Source: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/news/when-it-comes-pesticides-birds-are-sitting-ducks> “Surprisingly, fewer than 10 percent of lifelong smokers will get lung cancer. Fewer yet will contract the long list of other cancers, such as throat or mouth cancers. In the game of risk, you're more likely to have a condom break than to get cancer from smoking.” Source: <https://www.livescience.com/3093-smoking-myths-examined.html> So, you could save everyone and tolerate tobacco since it kills parasites or let everyone die because you can't tolerate smokers. What’s your choice?]

Bonus Q: Are underweight people more likely to die than overweight people?

- a. Yes
- b. No

See the following citations/sources before answering the final bonus question(s):

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-20607413>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/nature.2012.11952>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4401726/>

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/underweight-people-at-greater-risk-of-death-than-obese-040314>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/06/090623133523.htm>

<https://healthland.time.com/2011/11/22/why-are-thinner-people-more-likely-to-die-after-surgery/>

[Extra Note: 25% of the world’s human population smokes cigarettes. Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/smoking> 154,050 Americans die of lung cancer annually. That's 0.04% of the US population. 1 in 5 people who die of lung cancer are non-smokers. Source: [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/lung/basic\\_info/risk\\_factors.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/lung/basic_info/risk_factors.htm) . 11.5%

of the US population smokes cigarettes, but that varies and is reportedly as much as 15.5% or more. Source:

[https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/adult\\_data/cig\\_smoking/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/adult_data/cig_smoking/index.htm) 1,796,144 people die of lung cancer each year out of the total world population. Source:

<https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/lung-cancer-non-small-cell/statistics#:~:text=Lung%20cancer%20is%20the%20leading,died%20worldwide%20from%20the%20disease>. This means 0.02% of the entire human population dies of lung cancer and 25% of the world's human population smokes. Total human deaths due to

parasites in one year is 1,000,700. Source: <https://speakingofmedicine.plos.org/2015/01/16/one-million-deaths-parasites/>

What would that number be in a world without smokers? Reliably sourced and contextually accurate is my belief and intent.]

Enjoy your summer! Amen.

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.