

A Sermon on Recognizing Realistic Eventualities

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for January 8th, 2023 (and beyond)

Whether faith-based or secular, living a virtuous, responsible, and honest life includes accepting corporeal forms are temporal and finite where the next form is uncertain though the substance/soul/energy is constant. In Christianity, the Golden or fundamental rule of life is "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12). To the extent you wish to be left alone with only your own resources, leave other people and their resources alone. To the extent you wish to invade anyone else's privacy or violate anyone else's rights, accept when others respond in kind to avoid hypocrisy. And, to the extent you wish anyone, particularly loved ones, would prepare for their own medical emergencies (i.e. Living Wills-intentional medical directives in the event of coma or incapacitation) and deaths (meaning change in corporeal forms), you too should so prepare and lead by example in that regard.

If you fear a loved one who might currently be recognized as the decision maker in the event you are incapacitated will not respect your wishes, you should give that power to someone who will or who you would trust with that if not anyone currently likely to be recognized in the event of your incapacitation. Currently, I do not have health insurance and as a result I would not want anyone to go to extraordinary measures in the event odds were against recovery because I would not wish for anyone to arguably waste resources on prolonging the inevitable, particularly where I'll continue on in a new form after letting go of this one. If anyone can't let go of my current form even where the odds are against recovering mobility and consciousness, I would only be able to accept it if recovery was likely before the expense of hope hurts everyone. I love everyone and enjoy life more so than not so know living is always possible because I experience it all the time. My maternal grandmother was not always right, but she did say "Life is for the living" and I tend to agree. See "Boxing Helena" starring Julian Sands and Sherilyn Fenn. After that, see Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho" starring Anthony Perkins. Then, understand I don't like those scenarios and think it is creepy to so cling to any form and take such measures as in "Psycho" or even fantasize about disabling and keeping a person as a pet, even if a beloved one. But, if someone you love is disabled, charity starts at home. If you are incapacitated and unconscious, what do you want others to do and if roles were reversed would you be willing and able to return the favor?

You aren't truly an adult until you are prepared for death because otherwise you expect someone else to handle it for you where you wouldn't take care of your own business. No one really wants that responsibility and if you empathize with that, avoid hypocrisy by taking care of yourself to the extent possible, which includes medical directives and burial arrangements.

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>