

A Sermon on Defeating Suicidal Ideation

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for December 11th, 2022 (and beyond)

This sermon is in dialogue format for the most part. For the purposes of this sermon, “Suicide” is an imaginary character, one may consider a demon or not, arguing with a living person trying to tempt him/her/them to itself.

DIALOGUE

Suicide: 33% of rape victims commit suicide.

Individual: 67% don't.

Suicide: I thought you were exceptional. Still not gainfully employed?

Individual: I took a vow of poverty and believe anything is possible.

Suicide: Under what circumstances would you commit suicide? Apparently being a repeat victim of crime where identifying the suspects effectively enough for warrants and convictions is difficult. Do you think that's because of injustice? Can you live in an unjust world?

Individual: Due process requires material evidence that proves guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. I do not wish to live in a world without due process even though I know people get away with crime due to insufficient evidence even when they are known to be guilty by their direct victims. I would not want to be stripped of my liberty without sufficient evidence proving that is warranted and therefore accept that is universally the law protecting both the guilty and the innocent by requiring sufficient evidence that proves guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Whenever I see due process at risk, I feel suicidal.

Suicide: No one cares if you live or die. So, why not die if no one cares?

Individual: You seem to care whether I live or die and seem to have a preference in that regard. But, like most vicious types, you are too damn lazy to do it yourself and would rather see if you can drive me to it. I choose not to die to spite you and all who share your desire to see me dead.

Suicide: Spite is a vicious reason to live. Do you think vicious people should commit suicide?

Individual: I said it was my reason not to die. I live for and to love.

Suicide: Love is just a lie. So, you live for and to lie? That sounds vicious.

Individual: I personally define love as a welcoming spirit of kindness and goodwill.

Suicide: Oxford Languages via Google provides the following origin of the word “Love”: “Old English *lufu*, of Germanic origin; from an Indo-European root shared by Sanskrit *lubhyati* ‘desires’, Latin *libet* ‘it is pleasing’, *libido* ‘desire’, also by *leave* and *lief*.” So, you live for libidinous desire? That sounds pretty vicious. So, you’ve never been raped because you live for libidinous desire?

Individual: If you are part of my imagination I’d kill myself to kill you and words have a life all their own with slang uses and a variety of definitions from various sources. For example, The Holy Bible defines love as patient and kind and 1 John 4:8 says God is charity (charity) and/or love depending on version. But, such is defined by the University of Michigan’s Middle English Dictionary as “The supreme virtue of Love or Charity according to Christian doctrine, comprising affection, devotion, benevolence, kindness, mercy, gratitude as between God and human, and, human and human.”

Suicide: Don’t you believe it is merciful to stop all your own suffering by killing yourself?

Individual: First law of thermodynamics, energy transfers and never dies. It is always the same amount. The human body produces between 100 and 2000 Watts of energy at any given time. I believe my energy is eternal even if this form is temporary and I believe newborns are way more vulnerable than I am so as long as I’m not as vulnerable as a fetus or newborn regardless of species including plants, the wisest thing to do is to stick it out and keep working on the things I need to address for my own sustainability in this form while recognizing it is all temporary and objectively doesn’t really matter if I change forms right now or not, but to me this form is what I know and I can be just as surprised or pleased with changes that happen while in this form as I might be in any other and the same goes for any unpleasant changes. I’d like to think when I change forms that my energy will be drawn to the person or people I love most and that I may re-emerge as part of their family or that I may explore being a flying (gliding) lizard somewhere in the world because I was curious if they feel like little dragons or if how we label and see them even reaches their awareness or piques their interest. I understand some never touch the ground and they live high up in the trees. I imagine I’d instinctually enjoy the diet because of the new form and genetic presets on that, so would just enjoy it. One human sperm has 30 milliwatts before being ejaculated but the energy level increases after ejaculation. So, I think it is reasonable to believe that even the slightest bit of energy transfer could be enough to power multiple sperm and provide consciousness to that or many other living things including flying lizards. So, I’m sure I’ll still be here in some way in part because of gravity. It requires enough energy to make it to escape velocity to leave earth. My understanding is that’s 2500 watts of power and even at our most productive, humans only produce 2000 watts max. So, somewhere here in a different form. I do believe changing forms can be merciful, but do not understand your obsession with it. Without knowing the form I’m changing into, though knowing it will be more vulnerable than my present form, I’m most comfortable at this time keeping my current form.

Suicide: What if when you die you die and there is no energy transfer? If I can guarantee that you will just cease to exist, will you do it?

Individual: You can't guarantee that and I know the science on this one so don't believe you.

Suicide: What will it take for you to kill yourself?

Individual: Three things must occur for me to even consider it. All three have to do with change, but that's a double entendre as used in this sentence. If the three changes occur, I can see myself changing forms or choosing that even if you are right and I'd just cease to exist. Also, if everyone defines "love" the way you did and not any of the ways I did, but as long as I exist my definitions for love do too so that wouldn't change anything. However, if people said I was crazy for defining love as I do and/or using the definitions I use for it rather than its supposed origin as the basis and institutionalized me for believing or defining love as I do, then I would be suicidal because if the first amendment has been eradicated or made impotent, then due process is likely gone too. With both those gone, I'd lean towards Patrick Henry and "Live Free or Die".

Suicide: So, I have to change the US Constitution to get you to commit suicide?

Individual: Good luck with that. You have to get the change approved by congress and then ratified by all 50 states before the time to ratify expires unless an extension is granted via vote of some sort for getting it ratified. The Equal Rights Amendment was initially proposed in congress in 1923 and Virginia was the 38th State to ratify it in 2020, but 5 states are seeking to rescind their ratification which if successful will make Virginia the 33rd still signed on.

Suicide: I give up.

END DIALOGUE

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>