

A Sermon on "The Tao of Pooh" a Book by Benjamin Hoff  
Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for April 9th, 2023 (and beyond)

First, I wish everyone a happy Easter no matter how, if, or when you celebrate! I recently read "The Tao of Pooh" by Benjamin Hoff. Before finishing it, I did do a #TaoFu Short on Twitter commenting on it which is available here: <https://twitter.com/heal247/status/1635728106068770816> The remainder of this sermon is in dialogue format. [Yes, that Hannibal.]

DIALOGUE

Hannibal: Thank you for giving me such insight into your psyche by writing "The Tao of Pooh", Mr. Hoff. Your mother was a stay-at-home parent and your primary caregiver. She was on Valium or some other depressant whether prescribed or not. As a result of her intoxication, she neglected your needs but her mental state required rest, relaxation, entertainment and fun. She was unable to function beyond that due to the intoxication. This resulted in your arrested development unless your tendency to malignant narcissism is genetic and passed down to you from your mother. You either had a maid service or your father did all the work to provide economically and maintain an environment conducive to endless hospitality (fun and relaxation) for your malignantly narcissistic mother who through deimatic displays including tantrums at times got her way making a slave out of your useful idiot of a father from her perspective. You were her partner in crime and/or irresponsibility. But, because of her narcissism, you too learned to kiss her ass and accept the spoils since she shared with you that which your father earned and generously allotted her because he was responsible and could afford to do that. Your father has paid to send you on trips around the world and was so busy providing the lifestyle you took and/or continue to take for granted that he didn't have time to constantly entertain or teach you or your mother. You imprinted on your mother as a result and/or are naturally inclined to malignant narcissism too. It is clear to me you are nothing more than a tourist when it comes to Asian culture, history, and practices. And, if you are homosexual, you will be like your mother in any committed relationship. But, some of your writing suggests potential for sexual aggression and/or violence against women or manipulative deception to trick and lure victims. The abuse of redirection to avoid challenges is clear in your work. Being provided for to such an extent spoiled you rotten and to avoid change you've taken Eastern Philosophies way out of context to claim superiority/enlightenment and/or Youthful Immortality by refusing to change claiming such is the key to longevity. You don't appreciate what you have because you don't appreciate the source or how it came to be. You seem to believe you'd be privileged and spoiled left to your own devices without a responsible provider AKA "Bisy Backson" [Busy Back Soon], but just sucker useful idiots that may remind you of your mother into recognizing providers as useful idiots that need to be babysat or controlled by manipulative, intoxicated, malignant narcissists who feel it's all such a bother. Your mother uses that phrase a lot, doesn't she? She's Pooh or how you see Pooh. And, Pooh's "The Way". You think she's got it made and the easiest life on earth. You think everyone can have that too which is delusional because if no effort is put forth to create a hospitable environment where rest, relaxation, fun, and entertainment are even possible

because discipline and responsibility make it possible, then there's no time for it because everyone is feral and fighting off predators just trying to survive while looking for a relatively safe place to sleep even a short while near food and water. Instead of seeking to lift the burden of your father by contributing to domestic or economic maintenance, you compounded it following your mother's example. You have no generosity of spirit and are the opposite of independent.

Benjamin: Excuse me? I wasn't listening.

Hannibal: You and your mother are dependents. Your mother is being deimatic and assumes authority she does not have because being totally dependent on your father makes her feel extremely vulnerable. This is compounded by the fact that she is useless and does nothing but relax and enjoy life to the extent possible while intoxicated. She is a dependent twice over as a result and uses spirituality as an excuse to live in her own world where she's "queen" and everyone lives to serve or entertain her exactly how she wants whenever she wants which is why you may be acting like her or adopting her attitude because she only rewards herself and she sees herself in you. If you are being deimatic in mirroring her for the rewards, then the book is a cry for help. If you sincerely believe every word you wrote in it, you are just like her. Does she have Alzheimer's or has she been diagnosed with dementia yet if still living? Delusional people who block out most of reality with or without pharmaceutical help in doing so, often are so diagnosed in old age. But, if you seem developmentally disabled and never make an effort to be your own provider, whether you suffer dementia or not, the dependency alone can get you institutionalized and if compounded with malignant narcissism, likely incarcerated.

Benjamin: You get out of it what you put into it. Don't you want a stress-free life? It's easy.

#TaoFu Joker: How rich is this guy and will he ever hit bottom?

Benjamin: Hannibal?

Hannibal: There is no such thing as a stress-free life and your struggle between being an uncarved block that is happy all the time so always having fun without making any effort and the idea of change through learning practical facts and skills reveals your ignorance in regards to Taoism and Chinese culture. Yes, being spoiled rotten by an affluent provider is very easy, but they can put an end to that at any time which is why dependents feel vulnerable in light of their failure to contribute anything of value beyond their presence such as it may be and resort to vicious and deceptive conduct to secure their position and subjugate their provider rather than pursue independence by providing for themselves. Criminal minds reveal themselves in many environments and many ways.

#TaoFu Joker says: Just saw this online about Hoff... "In 2006, he denounced the publishing industry and announced his resignation from book-writing." Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin\\_Hoff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Hoff) Also says he's 77 years old.

Hannibal: It looks like you may have answered your own question with 2006. And, the tantrum suggests you Hoff are a malignant narcissist like your mother who never grew up, but did grow old.

Benjamin: What tantrum?

#TaoFu Joker says: So, Alzheimer's or dementia. Hannibal's right. Some people pretend themselves into non-existence or at least try to and sometimes their minds give up the fight because to tolerate a conversation with Hoff's mother intoxication and/or idiocy helps. She always feels threatened by intelligent people and then freaks out when anyone hints they recognize her ignorance or stupidity because on some level she's aware of it, which is the root of her insecurity, which is exacerbated by her dependency resulting in deimatic displays/power-plays/tantrums/etc. So, to meet her needs or just because he was always just like her anyway, he embraced immaturity, irresponsibility, and the spoiled cunt lifestyle attributing it to Eastern Philosophy, not even India either. That's nuts!

Hannibal: I wouldn't put it that way exactly. Some may appreciate your brevity though.

Benjamin: Thank you.

END DIALOGUE

Final Thought: I wrote this on 3/16/23. I've got 40 pages left to read of "The Tao of Pooh" as of March 16<sup>th</sup> and if it improves greatly at the end, I'll feel so foolish about the above that I'll correct myself here but leave the above as it is because it will reveal my own ignorance. If it does not improve, I again wish everyone a very happy Easter and remind you that death is illusory and Jesus never left, just changed forms. Oh, and if "The Tao of Pooh" was a mock of "New Agers" and not to be taken seriously at all, I applaud it as a masterpiece. See, Winnie the Pooh is an imaginary friend created by Christopher Robin's fictional imagination created by A. A. Milne's imagination. Potentially each imaginary friend is based on fictional characters Christopher Robin knows and/or real people A. A. Milne knew or knows. If "Pooh" is "The Way", then becoming an imaginary friend is how to reach enlightenment, which doesn't need reaching because Pooh was born perfect or so some imagine. It's important to remember that Christopher Robin is 6-years old. "In fact, by age 7, 65 percent of children will have had an imaginary friend, according to a 2004 study. Stephanie Carlson, a professor at the University of Minnesota's Institute of Child Development and one of the study's co-authors, says that the prime time for having imaginary friends is from the ages of 3 to 11." Source: <https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2019/07/why-do-kids-have-imaginary-friends/594919/> "As the story continues, Christopher Robin and Pooh take a walk to an enchanted place (a special place at the top of the forest) and Christopher Robin says, "But what I like doing best is Nothing...It's when people call out to you just as you're going off to do it, What are you going to do, Christopher Robin, and you say, Oh, nothing, and then you go and do it." Christopher Robin laments that when he goes to school, he will not be allowed to do Nothing any more." Source:

<https://bookriot.com/avoid-that-last-chapter-in-the-house-at-pooh-corner/> And, from a Judeo-Christian perspective, the meaning of “The House on Pooh Corner” is best summarized with 1 Corinthians 13:11 (KJV) “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” And, though Christopher Robin has been 6-years old since 1928, we know his story didn’t end there because there is a clear suggestion that he at least went on to school even if we don’t get to know the rest or are welcome to imagine it ourselves. In 1928 the population was far less dense in the USA and most people didn’t have televisions because they didn’t even exist until September, 1927. So, children had to find other ways to entertain themselves and at least pretend to have a social life if separated from other children for miles with very few, if any, play dates until they finally go to school. But, school mandates are decided by the individual states in the US with Massachusetts being first to so mandate in 1852 and Alaska the last in 1929. Although, AA Milne lived in England his whole life and school was mandated for those age 5-13 years old as of 1893. This suggests Christopher Robin may have had some developmental delay unless the story takes place during school breaks like Summer vacation.

That being said, vacations and/or environments in which everything is done for you that needs doing like building or paying others for building shelter, eating food grown and prepared by other people, toys with which to imagine being friends, and any other good or service that provides the space and support to so imagine in peace without disruption or disturbance relies on everyone else doing the work. And, the individual being provided for to that extent is a dependent and cannot be identified as independent even if affluent because he/she still relies on everyone else for food, shelter, etc. whether they pay for it from an inheritance or accept it as charity. And, such spoiled people avoid responsibility by claiming perfection or otherwise exhibiting delusions of grandeur to claim divine right to subjugate and exploit everyone else so they can live in a regressive and womb-like state while bastardizing Eastern religions to claim that’s spiritual enlightenment and as good as it gets which is why they deserve it. They deserve it because they are enlightened and better than everyone else which is why everyone serves them or that’s what they believe whether delusional on that point or not. If they can’t pay and no one pays for them, they complain about goods and services available through charities without truly valuing nor recognizing the generosity of others beyond lip service, which sometimes is a sarcastic or snide “Thank you” or “Thanks for nothing”. If industrious and laborious people didn’t exist, one would have to conclude everyone is now developmentally disabled with the intellect of at best a 6-year old with imaginary friends not even represented by toys, but maybe a stick, tree, or other mobile species like a dog who remembers when people were cool and hopes that will be a thing again someday so brings food or guides to shelter if anyone can be so guided. Birds build their own houses too and even insulate with cigarettes/cigarette butts to keep warm and pest-free. Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-20607413> That’s just one example of birds being potentially smarter and more resourceful than a do-nothing that takes everything for granted. I could keep going about how most species build their shelters and hunt/gather food. But, I think I’ve made my point. And, yes, I finished reading “The Tao of Pooh” by Benjamin Hoff before completing this Final Thought.

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.

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