

A Sermon on Vice

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for October 15th, 2023 (and beyond)

I believe the root cause of most vicious conduct is impatience coupled with hypocrisy (lack of equally considering others to the same extent you consider yourself which many call a lack of self-awareness which is a confusing way to refer to it). To lead by example, one should respond to impatience with patience and teach patience by leading by example in that regard to avoid hypocrisy that results in responding in kind with one's own impatience.

Deception is dependent on ignorance which itself is often a result of the ignorant failing to exercise due diligence which is sometimes a result of a hypocrite deceiving and then abusing or punishing anyone who doesn't accept the falsehood(s) as fact(s). Many hypocrites assume authority they do not have and all hypocrites exhibit the vice of vanity. Deception takes advantage of ignorance and vanity exiles, punishes, denies, and abuses knowledge/wisdom.

Wrath and/or violence is often a result of impatience and unreasonable expectations in full context. One place set up to teach patience above all else is prison and the justice system overall in most, if not all, countries that have one.

Rape (AKA Lust) is also often a result of impatience and unreasonable expectations in full context as well as vanity in many cases. Rape is also an act of violence.

Patience and due diligence (which requires patience and effort) are the two virtues necessary to evolve or develop all the others. I see patience as an aspect of love and impatience as evidence of love's absence even if the impatience is only momentary. The love is absent in regards to the approach to the individual on the receiving end and that's the evidence of hypocrisy where the love is there for the impatient one, but not the ones on whom the impatient visit their impatience whether they deny that truth or not.

Murder is an act of impatience because corporeal death is inevitable and energy transfers but never dies and so absolute death is impossible. If you wish anyone corporeal death, the wish will be granted without your participation, although not necessarily as quickly as you'd prefer. And, impatience in such an instance will result in prison terms unless acting in self-defense as defined or understood at law. So, if you exhibit impatience in an unlawful manner, the system is set up to address that first in most cases.

The speed at which many of us can now get whatever creature comforts we want in many cases, as a result of the internet, has exponentially increased impatient behavior throughout all other areas of life. The solution is to commit to practicing patience for your own sake and the sake of everyone with whom you may interact at any given time. But, if that impatient, you likely never attend any church services and/or pay attention to your own mobile devices rather than engage with your environment other than to receive what you ordered that you wanted that you get within 2 days maximum which feels like a long wait when often it is same day or even within 2-4 hours or less than 30 minutes

depending on your order. When you are conditioned for instant gratification due to technological advances, patience seems obsolete but is actually absolutely necessary for any hope for universal peace, love, and understanding. And, it is necessary for developing meaningful relationships with others too.

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.