

A Sermon on Word Count

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for November 20th, 2022 (and beyond)

“How many words do you know?” is a question I ask for many reasons and meditate on as well at times. The number is finite and knowable, yet also ever-changing as new words are learned. The answer is knowable on an individual basis yet arguably the question is impossible to answer accurately. If in a court of law, one could use that question to arguably prove that something can exist that is knowable but impracticable or impossible to establish beyond a reasonable doubt even for the party whose knowledge of his/her own word count is in question. It establishes a reasonable basis for believing something can be knowable and yet unknown to the only party who could possibly have the answer.

The above question I believe reinforces the fact that abstract intangibles exist as exhibited at <https://www.cope.church/manifestevidence.htm> and since God is a word, disproving it or knowledge of it is potentially impossible. Would God memory-hole the word God to see if that results in God being knowable yet unknown to those unfamiliar with the word?

Does being unfamiliar with a word mean the word doesn't exist outside of your knowledge of words? I accept that I don't know every word of every language that ever existed in any form, symbol, or sound. As such, I also don't know the meaning nor what meaning any record of it may have had to those who established the record where unfamiliar with the language. I do recognize my own ability to recall words I've learned throughout my life as well as learn new ones and their meanings. I personally do not believe being unfamiliar with a word means the word doesn't exist. I recognize that things exist beyond my own knowledge and experience.

I find the question “How many words do you know?” helpful in managing traumatic stress as well because if you seriously consider it and try to answer it, you'll forget everything else as you focus on that and when dealing with a trauma trigger such exercises can be very helpful.

The question “How many words do you know?” is also something I consider #TaoFu because it is finite and knowable, but undeterminable at this time in terms of an exact number even for small children with limited vocabulary. By age 3-years, toddlers know on average over 200 words. And, at ages 3-4 years, the average child can only count to 20. Source: <https://otsimo.com/en/when-do-kids-learn-numbers-and-start-counting/> So, from that age group one might expect “more than 20” from a fairly intelligent child. Only the individual could possibly know how many words the individual actually knows, but how many could you possibly know? How many do you actually know? Would you be interested in knowing and would you believe someone else if they told you an exact number based on any test or reading they concocted to give you a number? If it was a question you couldn't answer for yourself, would you trust someone else's answer or assume it is roughly the same as the average person? Regardless, it wouldn't be certain unless you knew for certain and it is something only you would know about yourself.

Some may claim how many words anyone else knows is a big secret that everyone keeps about ourselves, but in this case I honestly don't have the answer though know it exists and that I'm the only one besides God who might have a chance at getting it right in terms of my own word count. I'm going to trust God knows and hope it is just omniscience because such a record's purpose may only be meaningful to God though I'd prefer to think it would be something that can't be helped as a result of the omniscience. It's something knowable I'd never expect to know for sure that I still feel is possible while wondering if pursuing an accurate count would be a wise use of time regardless of the pursuer of that truth. I love words and feel the more the merrier even if I can't get an accurate count on all I know or may ever know.

I wish everyone that celebrates Thanksgiving a very Happy Thanksgiving! May this sermon and the questions posed help keep the peace this holiday season and beyond!

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>