

A Sermon on Ruling the World

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for May 8th, 2022 (and beyond)

Some believe the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Happy Mother's Day! Mother's Day is not an official COPE holiday, but is a widely celebrated secular holiday in many parts of the world including the USA. The remainder of this service is in dialogue format and not specifically about mothers, but no one is intentionally excluded.

DIALOGUE:

Ruler of the World (including all land masses (i.e. what some now refer to as countries or states), oceans, tributaries, and all living beings (including humans), but is just one person him/herself): What's on the agenda?

Public Crier #1: There are 7.9 billion people and only 10 million doctors. There aren't enough knowledgeable people to effectively teach the number of people who might become medical professionals needed to insure quality of life for everyone. 1.6 billion people are homeless and exposure to the elements along with malnutrition are creating a health crisis that can't be addressed without sacrificing quality of care. We need housing for everyone and to address malnutrition immediately.

Public Crier #2: If I may add, there are 153 million orphans worldwide. They are just children. I say we prioritize the children. They need good, loving family homes. Most of them are orphans as a result of no fault of their own.

Ruler of the World: Advisor #1, what say you on these matters?

Advisor #1: Perhaps we should mandate apprenticeships where people can learn the medical practices and procedures on the job. This may result in medical malpractice claims. However, if those seeking medical attention sign waivers and give informed consent, there shouldn't be any blame attributed beyond those making the choice to take the chance at improving their condition. With housing, public housing has been deemed a form of antisocial segregation as a result of where zoning boards will allow such to exist. This is often a result of the locals' rejection of any such projects or housing in their neighborhoods. We could seize the real property and redistribute it, but I'm pretty certain that will result in protest or riots. There is plenty of food, we just need to find a better way to distribute it so everyone gets their share. Teaching people to grow and/or raise their own food might resolve this issue to some extent as well. I don't see any reason why orphans and/or the homeless can't be accepted for medical apprenticeships or apprenticeships in other fields where provided housing, clothing, food, practical skills, and modest pay.

Ruler of the World: Public Crier #1, are you in accord with Advisor #1's recommendations?

Public Crier #1: Yes, the recommendations are very reasonable and practical.

Ruler of the World: Public Crier #2, are you in accord with Advisor #1's recommendations?

Public Crier #2: No. Everyone deserves the best quality of medical care and I only want highly qualified medical professionals providing it. I don't care if seizing real property and redistributing it would result in protest and riots. If you don't do that, I can pretty much guarantee there will be protests and riots anyway. You want to put orphaned children in labor camps? Children? They deserve loving family homes. Every child deserves a loving family home. You should force everyone to provide one who is at all qualified to care for children.

Ruler of the World: Public Crier #2, are you willing to lead by example and become a foster parent and provide a loving home to as many orphans as you can with the resources allotted or available to you now? Can you prepare them for independent living and gainful employment?

Public Crier #2: I'm not the ruler of the world. I'm not YOU. It isn't my job.

Ruler of the World: Right, but there are many people who are gainfully employed who volunteer to care for orphans and provide loving family homes. We need more volunteer family homes. That's the solution we all want and it is up to individuals to volunteer to meet the need. Regardless of age, vulnerable adults and children need a way to contribute to society as well as benefit from it. It seems apprenticeship programs have a place as long as there aren't enough volunteer family homes. I ask Public Crier #2, again, will you volunteer to be a foster parent for a child in need?

Public Crier #2: You should force people to do it. The whole problem is "Freedom" and the fact people have the choice whether to volunteer to be foster parents or not.

Ruler of the World: Public Crier #2, I feel you are evading my questions. If I force you to be a foster parent of an orphaned child or children, will you raise them to be Public Criers too?

Public Crier #2: You can't, I'm a free person. You can't force me to do anything. You can force them to though and you should.

Ruler of the World: That's right, under my rule I can't force you nor anyone else to do anything unless a crime has been committed and you've been proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt by a jury of your peers. Under my rule, everyone has the same rights you do and equality is a problem you feel needs to be addressed. Advisor #1, is equality the problem?

Advisor #1: Equality is not a problem. Ignorance, willful blindness, and inferiority complexes that manifest as superiority complexes due to deimatic instinctual responses to feeling inadequate for independence or self-sufficiency as well as in response to being actually traumatized, threatened, or perceiving such to be the case is the problem.

Sometimes dialogue can reveal whether it is hyper-vigilance resulting from actual traumatic life experiences or a false claim of authority. Offering reasonable explanations and solutions while seeing the response to such can usually ferret it out. Some people are slow to learn and may require specialized services for their special needs. The ones with superiority complexes love the sound of that because they know they are exceptional. Unfortunately, we just don't have enough qualified professionals to address the problem.

Ruler of the World: Public Crier #2, I can't force you to be a foster parent and I can't force anyone else to open their homes and hearts to orphans either. I can tell you my whole family provides foster family homes, except those still in school that haven't started their professional lives yet. I hope someday you will join us. I'm in accord with Advisor #1's recommendations as is Public Crier #1, majority rules. Let's give apprenticeships a shot!

END DIALOGUE

Final Thought: The source on 7.9 billion humans alive on earth at this time is https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population 1.6 billion people lack adequate housing. Source: <https://homelessworldcup.org/homelessness-statistics/> This suggests that 20.25% of the human population right now doesn't have adequate shelter/housing and/or is homeless. That equates to approximately 1 in 5 people right now. If you were a student in a classroom with a total of 30 students, 6 would be homeless or have inadequate shelter according to the data. But, in the United States of America less than 1% of the population is homeless. 22 in 10,000 men and 13 in 10,000 women are homeless in the USA. 10.5% of the US population lives in poverty and are homeless or housing insecure spending more than 50% of their income on shelter. Source: <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-2021/> Now, you can look at it as the USA having ½ the housing insecurity/homeless population per capita when compared to the rest of the world and still understand the need to address poverty at home. In terms of orphaned children, there are 153 million orphaned children in the world. Source: <https://www.orphanlifeline.org/orphan-fact-sheet> There are 2.2 billion children in the world today. Source: <https://www.humanium.org/en/children-world/> That means 6.95% of children in the world are orphans. There are 424,000 children under 18 years of age in foster care in the US right now. Source: <https://www.ccaoinstitute.org/resources/fact-sheets> There are 73,000,000 children under 18 years of age in the USA right now whether orphaned or not. Source: <https://www.childrensdefense.org/state-of-america-children/soac-2021-overview> So, less than 1% (actually 0.58%) of America's children are homeless or in foster care. And, that's 1/6th of the global average. As imperfect as the citizens that make up all societies including the USA are, it does seem from a bird's eye view that we're doing something right.

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>