

A Sermon on the #TaoFu of Expulsion

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for June 13th, 2021 (and beyond)

This sermon like many others is provided in dialogue format. The topic is expulsion and the characters are self-revelatory. It is a mystery/morality play and an example of #TaoFu.

Superstitious Party: I think Dave's possessed.

Theatrical Party: Maybe Dave's been abducted by aliens or is a pod person.

Superstitious Party: Do you think he was brainwashed?

Symbolic Party: Maybe Dave was bitten by a vampire. What do we do?

Religious Party: Why do you think Dave's possessed or brainwashed?

Material Party: Have there been any UFO sightings in the area?

Realistic Party: Is Dave having trouble with the law or some medical issue?

Superstitious Party: He's not been himself.

Theatrical Party: I knew it. Pod person. I called it.

Symbolic Party: In what way?

Religious Party: I've noticed.

Material Party: Has he been checked for marks or bites? Microchips?

Realistic Party: Any medical issue? Mosquito bite. Spider bite. Snake bite. Any?

Superstitious Party: The serpent is in the garden of Dave's mind.

Theatrical Party: Like the Khan Worm or something? What are those called? They're not Jefferson Starships, those were hybrids.

Religious Party: This is serious and about Dave. Should we try expelling the demonic spirit or serpent? I know a ritual.

Superstitious Party: Yes, I think we should do that. Are you a priest?

Religious Party: No, I'm a Protestant. First, we need to know the name or names of the demons possessing Dave.

Material Party: I'm thinking maybe we should listen more to Realistic Party's ideas. Can Dave join the discussion?

Dave: What?

Religious Party: What demons possess this Kingdom of God before me?

Theatrical Party: That should've been mine. Seriously.

Dave: By demons do you mean spirits?

Superstitious Party: I'm very spiritual. I think by demons Religious Party means malevolent spirits. There are only benevolent spirits in my heart. I'm very intuitive.

Material Party: By spirits, I believe Realistic Party would be referring to drugs and alcohol.

Realistic Party: That would explain abnormal behavior, yes. But, I didn't bring the topic of spirits up, I want that on the record.

Religious Party: Your demons could be gluttony, which can present as or be called addiction. In such situations, we often find sloth, lust, and wrath along for the ride. How many you got Dave?

Realistic Party: Are you agreeing with me Religious Party?

Religious Party: I believe abstract intangibles such as gluttony, sloth, lust, and wrath can manifest in the material world and tempt humanity to sin. Can you prove wrath exists Realistic Party? By wrath I mean hate or vicious anger?

Realistic Party: Ask Material Party.

Material Party: What appear to be tangents are annoying me. This is about Dave or have I missed something?

Dave: How would you expel my demons if it were drugs? It's not. I'm just curious.

Religious Party: I'd advise you to detox and perhaps do some soul-searching with or without help to determine the root cause of your oppression. You need to expel your oppressors.

Realistic Party: I'd advise something very similar using different language.

Material Party: Were you ever expelled from anything Dave? Do you know anyone who has ever been expelled?

Superstitious Party: What if I'm an expelled spirit? Is this where expelled spirits go?

Material Party: Do you realize spirits are also another name for human sperm? So, as a material fact coupled with the double entendre, the answer is yes. That's exactly where you are and where expelled spirits end up if they don't die in darkness. [Note: Spirit as a euphemism for sperm discussed here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1355835807078258>]

Symbolic Party: Yes, those between lives are trapped in one form waiting to traverse the acidic River Styx to seeming safety where they await arrival in a room full of people in white coats with white and blue masks. Only a few ever make it to heaven's gate alive.

Superstitious Party: So this is heaven or hell?

Dave: I feel like I'm in hell.

Superstitious Party: I knew it! You are possessed!

Dave: I've never been expelled. My brother was expelled from 2 different schools and has now been exiled for a crime he committed. The exile is temporary. He's in prison. Is this making sense to everyone?

Superstitious Party: So, Dave's still in there. He's trapped with the demons.

Theatrical Party: I'm pretty sure feeling like you are in hell and actually being in hell are two different things. Are we all in Dave's head? Is this like "Herman's Head" or "Being John Malkovich"? What's up? I'm not a demon. I believe we are all actually here and in our own meat-suits as some say.

Material Party: So, I happen to agree with some of what Theatrical Party has said. Did Superstitious Party mean Dave's brother when saying "He's trapped with the demons" or Dave?

Superstitious Party: Yes, Dave's trapped by the burden of his brother's demons. I can feel it.

Dave: Nope. My brother is a fuck up, but, he pleaded guilty and should be out soon enough.

Realistic Party: I'm starting to see why Dave might have some issues.

Symbolic Party: Do you, Dave, feel at all responsible for your brother? Which of you is the eldest? Is there any jealousy or sibling rivalry?

Dave: Yes, my brother is jealous that I'm such a good citizen who works hard, contributes to society, and by abiding by social norms and/or laws, I get to have conversations like this with you rather than whatever his day looks like right now.

Religious Party: So, assuming you weren't being sarcastic Dave, jealousy is the demon plaguing your family and you? Even if sarcastic, it would seem to suggest slight jealousy over your brother in believing his day might be better than yours today. You are surrounded by people who love you and want to help. I doubt that's the case for your brother.

Realistic Party: I don't know how a guilt trip is going to help Dave, but still an interesting point.

Dave: It was sarcasm, but it was a joke as well. See, my brother is a lot of things, but, jealous isn't one of them. He was a great wrestler. He was on every wrestling team because he was so good. He disabled opponent after opponent, which is why he was expelled. He's a bit like Hercules sometimes and doesn't recognize his own strength in the moment. That lack of self-awareness is also why he's in jail right now. I'm not jealous of that. I'm aware of my condition.

Material Party: You mean you already know what's wrong with you? What is it?

Dave: Do you have any idea how being approached like this results in feelings of self-consciousness? How self-aware are you? All of you? I mean it.

Superstitious Party: Is he talking to the other side or to the demons in his head?

Theatrical Party: Did the aliens brainwash you or was it a cult?

Symbolic Party: Are you talking to Dave or Superstitious Party? That question is for Theatrical Party.

Religious Party: So, you are blaming everyone else for your problems. We are here because we care about you. And, now, you are pulling a classic narcissism move, Dave. Unbelievable. That's full on demonic possession and only a public shaming can cure it. Where's your Jimmy Swaggart moment? It's coming.

Theatrical Party: Symbolic Party, are you being serious or joking? I think it is clear to whom the question was aimed.

Symbolic Party: My question was sincere and I feel your answer was evasive.

Superstitious Party: Obviously, Theatrical Party was asking Dave, am I right?

Dave: I have not been brainwashed. I've not been abducted by aliens. I've not been brainwashed by a cult. Have you?

Realistic Party: I can't nor would I wish to speak for most everyone else here, but I can't find anything wrong with you Dave. All in all, you've handled this very well. Your statement about anxiety around people focusing on you really hit home. I apologize. I want no part in this.

Material Party: I have a right to know in the event Dave is a public figure. And, everyone is now because of the internet. So, we all have the right to know everything about everything including everyone.

Religious Party: I disagree. Call me a Wycliffite if you want, but I believe in some level of privacy. Dave has a right to privacy.

Symbolic Party: So, whose idea was this intervention?

Theatrical Party: Superstitious Party. It was ALL Superstitious Party's idea. I had no part in the planning, writing, story, direction, or any of it. It was ALL Superstitious Party.

Dave: That was awesome. Now, everyone keep the same tones and pace for when we do this live and in front of an audience.

END DIALOGUE

Superstition is the result of ignorance. Superstitious Party is dependent. We recognize this in part because Superstitious Party needed reinforcements and didn't recognize the power of suggestion was influencing the reinforcements requested to determine what is wrong with Dave, if anything. Superstitious Party might be likened to a blind person who acts on instinct and when faced with uncertainty tests imagined theories by potentially inadvertently unduly influencing others to adopt the same position. And, Superstitious Party only focuses on statements that reinforce Superstitious Party's instinct, intuition, or imagined theory. As a result, Superstitious Party in the above dialogue is most likely a malignant narcissist because it appears Superstitious Party is willfully blind and/or oblivious to statements that undermine Superstitious Party's narrative. Whether or not the entire collective chooses to humor Superstitious Party and later makes fun of said Party's theories is anyone's guess. But, those who fear upsetting Superstitious Party are exhibiting dependence on the idiot in some way because they so fear. I'm not afraid of upsetting Superstitious Party and have enough compassion to just be honest rather than humor the superstitious and then laugh behind said Party's back. However, where being honest and providing facts have repeatedly failed to enlighten the superstitious, determining whether it is developmental disability or malignant narcissism (the secular language for determining whether it is ignorance or evil) may be difficult as both exhibit deimatic responses feeling threatened by those on whom they depend. The dependency results in the desire to dominate and those who can't accept the "sink or swim" of it keep trying to dominate because they can't imagine being independent or instinctually believe they aren't equipped for it. It's like when an infant or toddler who is

learning to walk just collapses and gives up while holding their arms up to be carried by someone who can already do it no problem. But, as someone who has carried dependents including small children and nonhuman animals (small pets), I can tell you I believe you can walk if I've seen you stand and know maybe you just need a nap before trying again. Needing a nap may explain the "Woke" movement, I don't know for sure.

MEDITATIVE QUESTIONS

1. And, if you've ever been surrounded by any collective of nonhuman animals, insects (i.e. bees), or people where all of their attention is focused on you for any reason where it was not a scheduled appearance for which you prepared in advance, how anxious and/or uncomfortable did you feel?
2. Do you believe you would instinctually or naturally feel uneasy if any collective as described in the first meditative question above seemed focused on you? Would you feel threatened by it?
3. Would you be relieved to know that the collective has no legal authority over you and that any inquiries would amount to satisfying their own curiosity? What if the collective did have legal authority to deprive you of your civil liberties depending on their own subjective judgments without due process of law?
4. Do you prefer when people wait for you to ask for help before offering to help? What if you were clearly a victim of a crime or tort in progress? Would you welcome unsolicited assistance where it was clear to the helpful party that you were being victimized?
5. Do you think it is unreasonable to respond defensively when basic instincts of being threatened have kicked in on some level? If you were surrounded by strangers that were circling you and focused on you, do you think any fear or recognition of the situation as threatening would be irrational or unreasonable? Would you consider that a sign of mental illness or does full context actually fucking matter when determining whether anyone is being irrational or unreasonable?
6. Do you see yourself and/or your associates as totally non-threatening where you think you have no issue when they focus on or surround you? If the situation is your place of employment, would you assume it is a surprise party, notification of dismissal, emergency situation, spontaneous meeting, or something else? What if it was just one authority figure that watched you all day and took notes without speaking to you, consulted with another co-worker, and then called you into their office to talk? What if that was your first day on the job and everyone was pretty much a stranger to you?
7. Does your level of dependency on those who surround you at any given moment impact how threatened or insecure you feel overall? Do you depend on everyone to refrain from causing unlawful harm to you and your property? Are you as dependable in that regard as you expect or assume everyone else to be?

8. Do you think ignorant and/or uneducated people are the most dependent on others therefore most vulnerable to the power of suggestion, undue influence, and exploitation? Are you more likely to take advantage of their frailty or offer to help enlighten them in a meaningful and practical way? What if they are like Superstitious Party and ignore everything that doesn't reinforce their position? Do you tolerate that, study them, troubleshoot, or simply accept they are either retarded or diabolically infuriating? Does your answer depend on variables including your relationship to such a party?

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>