

A Sermon on Myth and History

Sermon by Minister Angela Smith of COPE for May 17th, 2020 (and beyond)

I'm leaving the Holy Bible out of this week's sermon because we all know it is the most accurate and down to earth of the available holy texts regardless of storefronts and cultural influences. And, if you don't know that, you are welcome to disagree. For instance, if you would hold a science book or history book and say to yourself or others "This is my bible or holy text and I believe it to be more accurate and down to earth than your scripture", then in the sense that those books cover recorded events that happened on earth from the perspectives of those who could read and write and/or how they may have reported or translated for those who could not whether as a result of oppression in being denied or even punished for seeking an education or as a result of some other issue, I really don't see how that's much different from the Holy Bible. The Holy Bible is not that difficult a code and pretty straight forward to those who are focused on agriculture and territory disputes particularly in the middle east. If you don't understand how astronomy or astrology plays a part in the Holy Bible in regards to best times to plant and best times to reap what was sown, pickup a Farmer's Almanac. If you read one Farmer's Almanac and then read the Holy Bible again everything will make way more sense in the event you find the Holy Bible confusing because farming and agricultural work is beyond your comprehension though vital for the entire planet's survival. It's also a fun mock of all the surrounding morons in the region or from some perspectives that is how I believe some would see it. Why? That's the topic of today's sermon.

What went on in Egypt and Rome? Do you believe Marc Antony and Cleopatra were real people that existed? What if I told you that Marc Antony claimed to be the "god" Apollo live and in the flesh? It's true. Look it up. Cite your source in comments if participating on Twitter during Sunday Service. And, Cleopatra claimed to be the Egyptian Goddess Isis live and in the flesh, a vessel for the divine. Now, are you starting to see a pattern? Did you know the Greek Scythians were the basis of the myth of the Amazons on which "Wonder Woman" is loosely based? The deal is some people, with delusions of grandeur who are affluent as a result of monarchical authoritarian governments and their claimed birthright to positions of authority, falsely claim to be living gods with supernatural powers and infinite authority over others. This way of administering social control to enslave the Jewish people in Egypt for instance is enough to bring out the court jester in anyone, really, even a protestant like myself. So, in the event the Jewish people were enslaved by people pretending to be holier than thou, reading the Holy Bible or Torah with a touch of sarcastic humor in light of the politics of the day might result in greater understanding and enlightenment. So, one perspective on the Holy Bible is that the Jews felt Jesus was acting holier than thou and perceived him as potentially "too Egyptian" given his friendliness with the three wise men from the east and journeys there and that's what happened rather than getting the death penalty for killing a bunch of CHOMOS. But, I trust in the Book of Matthew and believe Jesus did in fact kill a bunch of CHOMOS when read in conjunction with the Book of Ezekiel. Well, I suppose I just can't leave the good book out of my sermons. Go figure.

See, if the Jewish community felt that Jesus was demanding service for those in need rather than appealing to the better natures by humbly asking others to be more charitable, wait, he tried that first. He tried so hard. So, in that sense the Jewish community had become in Jesus' eyes like the Pharaoh with the hardened heart in regards to caring for the less fortunate. And, that's another perspective. But, very possibly the Holy Bible is the most important of religious texts because it is historical, factual, symbolic, literal, and God is abstract thanks to Jesus and we all know it. So, no matter how you feel about religion, please thank Jesus once in a while even if you're in atheist.

Now, back to mythology. I'm sorry but a bunch of funny hat wearing, jewel-adorned, sun-worshipping nerf-herders in the Mediterranean area and beyond tell stories about their self-importance while using fear and trauma to control the enslaved and claim superiority while surrounding themselves with echo chambers hoping no one recognizes the "emperors have no clothes or idols have no gold" and in fearing discovery perpetuate the fear, terror, and trauma to avoid recognizing the equality of everyone in the eyes of God that is the abstract archetype of Absolute Truth and All the Virtues. Namaste. Of course, promising that living an honest life of truth and virtue will keep you likely safe enough for a modest life in most circles and great rewards when you die. But, that's only in some religions. In the Greek Myths everyone goes to hell, everyone. Everyone is bound to Hades aka Hell via the river Styx. But, arguably that would encourage everyone to make today and now as pleasant as possible for everyone knowing that all will be miserable in the afterlife. With the Holy Bible you get a little of this and a little of that. The Holy Bible is #TaoFu. And, at times I think Clive Barker was on to something and that The Holy Bible for some is the puzzle box.

This sermon got away from me. I really didn't want to offend anyone. I do understand there are still worshipers of Greek and Egyptian deities but they are worshiped in the abstract with no one falsely claiming to be one in the flesh to my knowledge. So, I consider that progress and I hope you do too.

The bottom line for me is God is Good. People committed to God in word, practice, and deed are godly or exemplify godliness to one degree or another. But, we are all individuals and equal in the eyes of God (Abstract Archetype of Absolute Truth and ALL the Virtues (i.e. mercy, justice, modesty, moderation, humbleness, honesty (including intellectual honesty), love, etc...true love is willing to come last in the list of virtues and if it isn't true, it isn't love) and none of us who are living in the material world, where we can address suffering directly if able to do so rather than ask God in the Abstract to do something when we've been given the means and resources to do it ourselves, is a God nor able to through some bizarre abstraction of ideas from the film "The Matrix" download all the knowledge to our minds and retain it in completion for all time and access through osmosis or doing nothing and calling that enlightenment or a path thereto. We have something close and that is called the internet and the information is only as reliable as the sources and opinions on the reliability of sources varies. But, you still have to run a search on www.google.com or your favorite search engine to find the information on a subject and then cross-reference and check reliability of sources to be sure you are acting on reasonably certain information when it counts most. And, if

you've decided to let the internet be your brain and instant gratification your game, then welcome to the Wild West meets Thunderdome online my friends. Because to many of us, that is an apt description of the internet, but, the cool part is it's also like the biggest library where smart people can share info and get smarter without being too big a bother to one another because we recognize the merit in each other's projects as well as our own.

So, maybe you don't believe in God. I think you are ignorant and unaware that God is the Anglo-Saxon word for Good. I believe if you say things like "That meal was so good. You could almost taste the love." that you believe in God even though you say good and love rather than God for all that is good meaning honest, founded in truth, and virtuous. So, how about this... All the atheists are no longer allowed to use any "good" words to describe anything and that includes any words describing honesty, truth, love, or any of the virtues. They don't believe in good, then why borrow from our word to describe anything in existence? Liars self-negate. Semantics is a serious problem someone you love may be having difficulty overcoming. There is help. Start with a dictionary and go from there. I have eternal and perpetual faith in the eternal and perpetual Abstract Archetype of Absolute Truth and All the Virtues known to me as God. Disagree if you wish. I'll pray for you.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.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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