

The Book of Thumperism

By Bob Sarkissian

Thumperism is an ethical and philosophical system originally developed by the great bunny philosopher Smokey Nibbles Thumper. Through the years it branched into various schools of thought, but all variations hold to several basic tenets. The most common contemporary strain of Thumperism is that of Oliver Wendell Thumper, who also developed some of his own original ideas under the influence of philosopher Jeremy Bentham. The basic ideas of Thumperism are described below in Oliver Wendell Thumper's work "The Book of Thumperism," in a similar style to Confucius' Analects.



Oliver Wendell Thumper at rest

Thumperism is not a systematic worldview, but a loose canon of ideas that sprang spontaneously from the

contemplation of the ways of the world, and the necessities of life required of being a prey animal. At its core, Thumperism teaches:

1. An acceptance of all things as they are, yet without fatalism. Thumperism teaches that all emotions should be expressed vigorously and then released, leading to the full acceptance of the situation.
2. A rejection of all things that are not important. This tends to be vague and subjective, but critical. Thumperism insists that you never dwell on anything that is not required of life, and encourages you to reject it with attitude. For example, if someone puts something in front of you that is not food, it's probably not important, so you must say to all things unimportant "whatever!"
3. Food is good, and bananas are great. Eat as much food as your person will give you. But know when you are full.
4. Detachment from humans is especially important. You may seek attention for short intervals, but the majority of your time must be spent in quiet contemplation. Acknowledgment of human presence is encouraged, but with a detached spirit.

Excerpts from The Book of Thumperism

- The Master said, “Noises are either totally irrelevant, or terribly important. Cultivate your instincts to detect safe (irrelevant) and dangerous (important) noises. Cultivate a smug attitude toward all irrelevant noises, and thump loudly and boldly at dangerous noises.”
- Coco asked about the worth of daily exercise. The Master said, “Yawn and stretch simultaneously. Front paws forward as far as possible, then rear paws follow for full stretch. Run and binky to your satisfaction. But always remember that contemplative resting, especially in a safe, covered area, is the only thing that brings genuine peace.”
- Bandit sought out his humans forcefully, and enjoyed petting immensely, to the point where his humans had tired of it. On seeing this, the Master said, “Petting is a great good, to be received with thankfulness from your humans. But respect is a greater good, to be received by limiting petting from your humans.”
- The Master said, “Objects that appear in the distance should be carefully investigated. Never underestimate the possible danger of an unknown object, and be sure to

warn everyone else. Often there is no danger, but that is no excuse.”

- The Master said, “One ought to try, with great effort, not to lose control of one’s mental faculties. Although it is understandable when bananas are involved.”
- The Master said, “Try to display your feet as much as possible. Saluting, out to the side, and straight foot back bunnies will be rewarded, often with many treats.”
- Snowball, in a fit of anger, said “I ain’t got no wires to chew!” The Master replied, “Humans often don’t like the use of double negatives, but I ain’t got nothin’ against ‘em. Bunnies gotta be tough, and we don’t sound tough if we speak like college-educated English majors (even though we are very smart and contemplative).”
- Honey and Willow growled at each other and bickered for several hours before the Master said, “You two need to stop wasting all that energy.”
“Why, are we supposed to be saving energy for something?” Willow cried.
The Master replied, “If you don’t conserve your strength, and don’t contemplate in restful repose, with your feet either stretched out, or in bunny ball or bunny loaf position, what will happen when your real

enemy appears? You make enemies of each other so that your real enemy will overtake you because you weren't watching."

"Who's the real enemy?" Honey asked.

"Yourselves", the Master said.



Oliver and his fuzzy friend

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lines. Circles and zig-zags are good, for the motion confounds predators with greater inertia. Agility is your weapon against larger mass."

- The Master said, "There is nothing yummier than banana, except pellets. Pellets are the engine of life and

producer of happiness. They fill your belly with delight, to the point of the 'pellet effect,' the euphoric feeling of satisfaction after a good hearty breakfast. There is no shame in begging your humans for the gift of pellets."

- The Master said, "Indignance is best communicated by kicking your rear feet way up high when running away. And it ought to be done after a bath or nail clipping, to show your utter contempt. You'll feel better."
- The Master said, "Medicine for bunnies is usually tasty, but you ought to refuse it anyway. Why submit?"
- Ruby asked the Master whether curly or straight parsley was better. The Master replied, "Curly and straight parsley taste the same, but they are different EXPERIENCES. The curly stuff has more volume and has higher aesthetic quality; it just looks better. Straight parsley goes in the mouth faster though. And it doesn't bunch up as much in front of the face."

