

Whose fault?

There is a tide of unrest and apathy rising in our Program of recovery from alcoholism. Singleness of purpose has become a bone of contention, as has having a sponsor and working the Steps of recovery.

Non-alcoholics speak of their rights, yet fail to acknowledge that not being members of AA they have no rights.

I have always believed in and based my recovery from alcoholism on the Program developed by the first 100 members and written down in our Big Book.

As we grow further apart from those first 100, those who contributed to the writing of our Big Book, we allow their teachings to fade into antiquity. Like impudent children we have come to believe that we know better than those who came before us. We mock our own history, as if that history was all a lie. We forget what was written at great expense, and we stumble and sometimes fall over things that are identified in our book.

I have heard newcomers being told from the podium that there is no need for a sponsor or to work our Steps, forget all the tools that are in our AA books, do whatever you want and believe what you will. Just go to meetings and don't drink and all will be well.

AA as originally written was here for me, yet is not here for many younger members, and may not be here at all within the next decade. We may end up with something called AA, but it will be addictions anonymous, and many an alcoholic will then walk down a dark alley looking for the light of recovery. The light will have gone out.

Whose fault is it that our recovery rate is no longer even 50%? Whose fault is it that the mere mention of singleness of purpose brings forth anger and resentment in our meetings? Whose fault is it that what little sponsorship we have, has for the most part fallen silent?

Whose fault? Each and every one of us who believes what is written in our Big Book yet sits mute in the face of its destruction.

Akron Intergroup Newsletter