

WORK SHOP FORMAT

- (1) OPEN MEETING WITH MOMENT OF SILENCE
FOLLOW BY THE SERENITY PRAYER.
- (2) READ ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PREAMBLE
PAGE THREE
- (3) INTRODUCE SELF (SHORT AND SWEET)
- (4) GIVE SHORT RESUME ON LAST WEEK CHAPTER
- (5) READ CHAPTER, ASK THE PREPARED QUESTIONS
AND BE SURE ALL PARTICIPATE.
- (6) MEETING SHOULD LAST NOT OVER NINETY MINUTES
- (7) QUESTIONS OVER, CALL FOR SECRETARY REPORT
- (8) COLLECTION
- (9) ASK FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS
- (10) ASK MEMBERS TO READ CHAPTER FOR NEXT WEEK
MEETING SOMETIME DURING THE WEEK, BE PREPARED.
- (11) MENTION THE CONFERENCE APPROVED LITERATURE ON
TABLE.
- (12) CLOSE WITH LORD'S PRAYER AS USUAL.

8-26-96

To: Servicee
This will enhance
your feelings regards our
Big Book - to keep on growing
24 hours!
Sincerely, Maggi Harrison

UNITY



WORK SHOP GROUP

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PREAMBLE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS A FELLOWSHIP OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE WITH EACH OTHER THAT THEY MAY SOLVE THEIR COMMON PROBLEM AND HELP OTHERS TO RECOVER FROM ALCOHOLISM.

THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP IS A DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING. THERE ARE NO DUES OR FEES FOR A.A. MEMBERSHIP; WE ARE SELF SUPPORTING THROUGH OUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS. A.A. IS NOT ALLIED WITH ANY SECT, DENOMINATION, POLITICS, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION; DOES NOT WISH TO ENGAGE IN ANY CONTROVERSY; NEITHER ENDORSES NOR OPPOSES ANY CAUSES. OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO STAY SOBER AND HELP OTHER ALCOHOLICS TO ACHIEVE SOBRIETY.

THIRD TRADITION: LONG FORM: BOOK OF ALCOHOLIS ANONYMOUS: PAGE NUMBER 565

OUR MEMBERSHIP OUGHT TO INCLUDE ALL WHO SUFFER FROM ALCOHOLISM. HENCE WE MAY REFUSE NONE WHO WISH TO RECOVER. NOR OUGHT A.A. MEMBERSHIP EVER DEPEND UPON MONEY OR CONFORMITY. ANY TWO OR THREE ALCOHOLICS GATHERED TOGETHER FOR SOBRIETY MAY CALL THEMSELVES AN A.A. GROUP, PROVIDED THAT, AS A GROUP, THEY HAVE NO OTHER AFFILIATION.

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

ONE--OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS UPON A. A. UNITY.

TWO--FOR OUR GROUP PURPOSE THERE IS BUT ONE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY A LOVING GOD AND HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN OUR GROUP CONSCIENCE. OUR LEADERS ARE BUT TRUSTED SERVANTS; THEY DO NOT GOVERN.

THREE--THE ONLY REQUIREMENT OF A. A. MEMBERSHIP IS A DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING.

FOUR--EACH GROUP SHOULD BE AUTONOMOUS EXCEPT IN MATTERS AFFECTING AFFECTING OTHER GROUPS OR A. A. AS A WHOLE.

FIVE--EACH GROUP HAS BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE--TO CARRY ITS MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.

SIX--AN A. A. GROUP OUGHT NEVER ENDORSE, FINANCE OR LEND THE A. A. NAME TO ANY RELATED FACILITY OR OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY AND PRESTIGE DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE.

SEVEN--EVERY A. A. GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING, DECLINING OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS.

EIGHT--ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SHOULD REMAIN FOREVER NON-PROFESSIONAL, BUT OUR SERVICE CENTERS MAY EMPLOY SPECIAL WORKERS.

NINE--A. A., AS SUCH, OUGHT NEVER BE ORGANIZED; BUT WE MAY CREATE SERVICE BOARDS OR COMMITTEES DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE.

TEN--ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HAS NO OPINION ON OUTSIDE ISSUES; HENCE THE A. A. NAME OUGHT NEVER BE DRAWN INTO PUBLIC CONTROVERSY.

ELEVEN--OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY IS BASED ON ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION; WE NEED ALWAYS MAINTAIN PERSONAL ANONYMITY AT THE LEVEL OF PRESS, RADIO AND FILMS.

TWELVE--ANONYMITY IS THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF OUR TRADITIONS, EVER REMINDING US TO PLACE PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT SOME AA MEMBERS DRINK AT THE FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLEDGE. OTHERS LIMIT THEMSELVES TO GARGLING.

IT IS FAR BETTER TO BE INFORMED INSTEAD OF BEING REFORMED .

AA'S TWELVE TRADITIONS APPLY TO THE LIFE OF THE FELLOWSHIP ITSELF. THEY OUTLINE THE MEANS BY WHICH AA MAINTAINS ITS UNITY AND RELATED ITSELF TO THE WORLD ABOUT IT, THE WAY IT LIVES AND GROWS.

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO EACH MEMBER. WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE FELLOWSHIP HAS GOT TO BE GOOD FOR THE MEMBER. THE TWELVE STEPS OF RECOVERY WAS NEEDED IN OUR LIVES, DUE TO ALCOHOLISM. THE TWELVE TRADITIONS IS NEEDED IN OUR LIVES DUE TO BEING SOBER. LET'S AS INDIVIDUALS HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THEM, NOT LIMIT OURSELVES TO GARGLING.

FORWARD

WITH THE PUBLICIATION OF THE BOOK ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN 1939, THE PIONEERING PERIOD ENDED AND A PRODIGIOUS CHAIN REACTION SET IN AS THE RECOVERED ALCOHOLICS CARRIED THEIR MESSAGE TO STILL OTHERS. IN THE NEXT YEARS ALCOHOLICS FLOCKED TO AA BY TENS OF THOUSANDS, LARGELY AS THE RESULTS OF EXCELLENT AND CONTINUOUS PUBLICITY FREELY GIVEN BY MAGIZINES AND NEWSPAPERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. CLERGYMEN AND DOCTORS ALIKE RALLIES TO THE NEW MOVEMENT, GIVING IT UNSTINTED SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT.

THIS STARTLING EXPANSION BROUGHT WITH IT VERY SEVERE GROWING PAINS. PROOF THAT ALCOHOLICS COULD RECOVER HAD BEEN MADE. BUT IT WAS NO MEANS SURE THAT SUCH GREAT NUMBERS OF YET ERRATIC PEOPLE COULD LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER WITH HARMONY AND GOOD EFFECT.

EVERYWHERE THERE AROSE TREADING QUESTIONS OF MEMBERSHIP, MONEY, PERSONAL RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, MANAGEMENT OF GROUPS, CLUBS, AND SCORES OF OTHER PERPLIXITIES. IT WAS OUT OF THIS VAST WELTER OF EXPLOSIVE EXPERIENCE THAT AA'S TWELVE TRADITIONS TOOK FORM AND WERE FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1946 AND LATER CONFIRMED AT AA'S FIRST INTER-NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN CLEVELAND IN 1950.

THE UNITY SECTION OF THE WORK SHOP GROUP STUDY MATERIAL IN SOME DETAIL THE EXPERIENCE WHICH FINALLY PRODUCED THE TWELVE TRADITIONS.

THE TWELVE SUGGESTED STEPS OF AA

- (1) WE ADMITTED WE WERE POWERLESS OVER ALCOHOL - THAT OUR LIVES HAD BECOME UNMANAGEABLE.
 - (2) CAME TO BELIEVE THAT A POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES COULD RESTORE US TO SANITY.
 - (3) MADE A DECISION TO TURN OUR WILL AND OUR LIVES OVER TO THE CARE OF GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM.
 - (4) MADE A SEARCHING AND FEARLESS MORAL INVENTORY OF OURSELVES.
 - (5) ADMITTED TO GOD, TO OURSELVES, AND TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING THE EXACT NATURE OF OUR WRONGS.
 - (6) WERE ENTIRELY READY TO HAVE GOD REMOVE ALL THESE DEFECTS OF CHARACTER.
 - (7) HUMBLY ASKED HIM TO REMOVE OUR SHORTCOMINGS.
 - (8) MADE A LIST OF ALL PERSONS WE HAD HARMED, AND BECAME WILLING TO MAKE AMENDS TO THEM ALL.
 - (9) MADE DIRECT AMENDS TO SUCH PEOPLE WHEREVER POSSIBLE, EXCEPT WHEN TO DO SO WOULD INJURE THEM OR OTHERS.
 - (10) CONTINUED TO TAKE PERSONAL INVENTORY AND WHEN WE WERE WRONG PROMPTLY ADMITTED IT.
 - (11) SOUGHT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION TO IMPROVE OUR CONSCIOUS CONTACT WITH GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM, PRAYING ONLY FOR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL FOR US AND THE POWER TO CARRY THAT OUT.
 - (12) HAVING HAD A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AS THE RESULT OF THESE STEPS, WE TRIED TO CARRY THIS MESSAGE TO ALCOHOLICS, AND TO PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS.
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THE PROMISES

WE SHOULD BE SENSIBLE, TACTFUL, CONSIDERATE AND HUMBLE WITHOUT BEING SERVILE OR SCRAPING. AS GOD'S PEOPLE WE STAND ON OUR FEET; WE DON'T CRAWL BEFORE ANYONE. IF WE ARE PAINSTAKING ABOUT THIS PHASE OF OUR DEVELOPMENT, WE WILL BE AMAZED BEFORE WE ARE HALF WAY THROUGH. WE ARE GOING TO KNOW A NEW FREEDOM AND A NEW HAPPINESS. WE WILL NOT REGRET THE PAST NOR WISH TO SHUT THE DOOR ON IT. WE WILL COMPREHEND THE WORD SERENITY AND WE WILL SEE HOW OUR EXPERIENCE CAN BENEFIT OTHERS. THAT FEELING OF USELESSNESS AND SELF-PITY WILL DISAPPEAR. WE WILL LOSE INTEREST IN SELFISH THINGS AND GAIN INTEREST IN OUR FELLOWS. SELF-SEEKING WILL SLIP AWAY. OUR WHOLE ATTITUDE AND OUTLOOK UPON LIFE WILL CHANGE. FEAR OF PEOPLE AND OF ECONOMIC INSECURITY WILL LEAVE US. WE WILL INTUITIVELY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE SITUATIONS WHICH USE TO Baffle US. WE WILL SUDDENLY REALIZE THAT GOD IS DOING FOR US WHAT WE COULD NOT DO FOR OURSELVES. THE AA PROMISES, YOUR INSTRUCTOR PROMISES, YOUR GROUP PROMISES, IF ONLY YOU WILL APPLY THE AA PROGRAM TO YOURSELF AS YOU WILL BE TAUGHT IN THE FEW WEEKS TO COME. GOOD LUCK.

TWELVE STEPS BACK TO DRINKING

- (1) ADOPT THE IDEA THAT ONE DRINK CANNOT HARM YOU---BELIEVE YOU ARE NO LONGER POWERLESS OVER ALCOHOL.
- (2) START MISSING AA MEETINGS---ABANDON YOUR RESOLVE TO LIVE THE WHOLE PROGRAM.
- (3) BELIEVE THERE IS NO GOD---COMPLETELY GOVERN YOUR OWN LIFE---RELY ENTIRELY ON SELF-WILL FOR SUCCESS.
- (4) CONTACT OLD ASSOCIATES AND DRINKING BUDDIES WITH THE NOTION THAT BEING "ONE-OF-THE-GANG" AGAIN WILL NOT ENDANGER YOUR NEW WAY OF LIFE.
- (5) RESUME NEGATIVE SEXUAL HABITS. BECOME INVOLVED IN ILLICIT SITUATIONS. TRY TO MAKE A HIT WITH THE MALES OR FEMALES IN AA. PLACE SEXUAL GRATIFICATION BEFORE MORAL PRINCIPLES.
- (6) FORGET WHO YOU WERE---WHAT YOU ARE---WHERE YOU CAME FROM.
- (7) ENTERTAIN NO RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY---FLOUT OR INSULT ALL STANDARDS YOU ALONE SET FOR YOURSELF AND FOR OTHERS.
- (8) FAIL TO PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TWELVE STEPS OF AA IN ANY OF YOUR AFFAIRS---BE INDIFFERENT TO THE SPIRITUALNESS OF THE PROGRAM.
- (9) REFUSE ANY JOB THAT INVOLVES MENIAL LABOR, EVEN THOUGH YOUR FUNDS ARE DEPLETED---AVOID ANY OFFERS OF HONEST EMPLOYMENT.
- (10) BEGIN JUSTIFYING YOUR WRONGS---DWELL WITH THE THOUGHT THAT EVERYBODY IS AGAINST YOU---WALK ALONE.
- (11) COMMENCE SPENDING YOUR MONEY RECKLESSLY---INVEST IN THINGS YOU DO NOT NEED---ALLOW DEBTS TO PILE UP WHICH COULD OTHERWISE BE PAID.
- (12) RUSH THROUGH EACH DAY FOR MATERIAL GAINS AT THE EXPENSE OF THINGS SPIRITUAL---PLUNGE HEADLONG INTO MATTERS BEYOND YOUR LIMITATIONS.

PROFANITY

ALCOHOLICS HAVE A RAFT OF CHARACTER DEFECTS AND ALL OF THEM GIVE US SOME MEASURE OF PLEASURE OR SATISFACTION--WITH ONE EXCEPTION--PROFANITY.

OF ALL THE PROFITLESS, DEBASEING, USELESS AND DEGRADING HABITS, THIS ONE IS TOPS.

IT ONLY SERVES AS FURTHER PROOF OF OUR STUPIDITY, OUR INABILITY TO EXPRESS OURSELVES OTHERWISE, AND THE VERY LOW GRADE OF OUR MENTALITY.

A GOOD THERMOMETER
"H A L T"

H---NEVER BE HUNGRY

A---NEVER ANIMOSITY

L---NEVER LONSOME

T---NEVER BE TIRED

LANDMARKS IN AA HISTORY

- 1934, SUMMER: DR. WILLIAM D. SILKWORTH PRONOUNCES BILL W. HOPELESS
- 1934, NOVEMBER: EBBY T. VISITS BILL, DESCRIBES HOW HE SOBERED UPON SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES
- 1934, DECEMBER: BILL'S SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE IN TOWNS HOSPITAL
- 1935, MAY: DR. BOB AND BILL MEET IN AKRON
- 1935, JUNE 10: DR. BOB HAS HIS LAST DRINK; ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS FOUNDED.
- 1937, DECEMBER: THE TWELVE STEPS COME INTO BEING
- 1938, MAY: THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION (NOW CALLED THE AA GENERAL SERVICE BOARD) ESTABLISHED AS A TRUSTEESHIP FOR AA
- 1939, APRIL: THE BIG BOOK, ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, PUBLISHED
- 1939, AUGUST: DR. BOB AND SISTER IGNATIA BEGIN HOSPITAL WORK IN AKRON
- 1940, FEBRUARY: FIRST AA WORLD SERVICE OFFICE OPENED ON VESEY STREET, N. Y.
- 1941, MARCH: SATURDAY EVENING POST ARTICLE JUMPS 2,000 MEMBERSHIP TO 8,000
- 1944, JUNE: FIRST AA GRAPEVINE
- 1945, DR. SILKWORTH AND TEDDY R. BEGIN WORK AT KNICKERBOCKER HOSPITAL IN N. Y. (TREATED 10,000 IN 10 YEARS)
- 1946: TWELVE TRADITIONS FORMULATED; FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE GRAPEVINE
- 1950, JUNE: FIRST INTERNATIONAL AA CONVENTION, CLEVELAND, OHIO; TWELVE TRADITIONS ADOPTED
- 1950, NOVEMBER: DR. BOB'S DEATH
- 1951, APRIL: FIRST GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE (HELD ANNUALLY SINCE) CARRIES OUT IDEA SUGGESTED BY BILL AND DR. BOB IN THE DECEMBER 1950 GRAPEVINE

- 1951, OCTOBER: LASKER AWARD GIVEN TO AA BY AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
- 1953, JUNE: THE BOOK TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS PUBLISHED
- 1955, JULY: 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION. ST. LOUIS, MO.: PRESENTATION OF THE THREE LEGACIES (RECOVERY, UNITY, SERVICE)
- 1957, OCTOBER: THE BOOK ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS COMES OF AGE PUBLISHED
- 1960, JULY: 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION, LONG BEACH, CALIF.
- 1961, JANUARY: THE BILL W. -CARL JUNG CORRESPONDENCE (FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE GRAPEVINE, JANUARY 1963)
- 1965, JULY: 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION, TORONTO, ONT., "I AM RESPONSIBLE" ADOPTED
- 1966: CHANGE IN RATIO OF TRUSTEES ON GENERAL SERVICE BOARD TO PROVIDE FOR A MAJORITY OF ALCOHOLICS
- 1969, JUNE: THE GRAPEVINE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY
- 1969, OCTOBER: FIRST WORLD SERVICE MEETING (NOW BIENNIAL)
- 1970, JULY: 35TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION, MIAMI BEACH, FLA.; UNITY DECLARATION ADOPTED
- 1971, JANUARY: BILL'S DEATH
- 1973, APRIL: DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIG BOOK REACHES 1,000,000
- 1975, JULY: 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION, DENVER, COLO.

FOR THE NEXT WEEKS WE WILL BE STUDYING THE HISTORY OF AA. THE REASON FOR THIS IS FOUND ON PAGE XIII OF THE BOOK ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, WHICH STATES: "WE, OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, ARE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE RECOVERED FROM A SEEMINGLY HOPELESS STATE OF MIND AND BODY. TO SHOW OTHER ALCOHOLICS PRECISELY HOW WE HAVE RECOVERED IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK. FOR THEM, WE HOPE THESE PAGES WILL PROVE SO CONVINCING THAT NO FURTHER AUTHENTICATION WILL BE NECESSARY. WE THINK THIS ACCOUNT OF OUR EXPERIENCES WILL HELP EVERYONE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE ALCOHOLIC. MANY DO NOT COMPREHEND THAT THE ALCOHOLIC IS VERY SICK PERSON. AND BESIDES, WE ARE SURE THAT OUR WAY OF LIVING HAS ITS ADVANTAGES FOR ALL."

CONTINUING IN THE BOOK ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. WE DISCOVER THE PRINCIPLES BY WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL ALCOHOLIC CAN LIVE. PRINCIPLES BY WHICH THE AA GROUPS AND AA AS A WHOLE CAN SURVIVE AND FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. PRINCIPLES THAT NO ALCOHOLIC MAN OR WOMEN CAN BE EXCLUDED FROM OUR SOCIETY, THAT OUR LEADERS MIGHT SERVE BUT NEVER GOVERN; THAT EACH GROUP IS TO BE AUTONOMOUS AND THAT THERE IS TO BE NO PROFESSIONAL CLASS OF THERAPY. THERE ARE TO BE NO FEES OR DUES: OUR EXPENSES ARE TO BE MET BY OUR OWN VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. FROM THE BEGINNING THERE WAS TO BE THE LEAST POSSIBLE ORGANIZATION, EVEN IN OUR SERVICE CENTERS. OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS WERE TO BE BASED UPON ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION. IT WAS DECIDED THAT ALL MEMBERS OUGHT TO BE ANONYMOUS AT THE LEVEL OF PRESS, RADIO, TV, AND FILMS. IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD WE GIVE ENDORSEMENTS, MAKE ALLIANCES, OR ENTER PUBLIC CONTROVERSIES.

THIS WAS AND IS SUBSTANCE OF THE AA'S TWELVE ~~TWELVE~~ TRADITIONS. THOUGH NONE OF THESE PRINCIPLES HAVE THE FORCE OF RULES OR LAWS, THEY BECAME WIDELY ACCEPTED BY 1950. BY THAT TIME IT WAS PLAIN TO SEE THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF AA

NOT ONLY HAD TO LIVE WITH THEIR FELLOW ALCOHOLICS AND THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF AA.

REFLECT FOR A MOMENT ON THE LAST FEW WORDS IN THE TWELVE STEPS, "PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS." THE WORD "AFFAIRS", MEANS OUR ENVOLEMENT WITH OTHERS SHOULD TAKE A 180 DEGREE TURN IF WE AS ALCOHOLICS ARE TO MAINTAIN OUR SOBRIETY. IF WE WANT TO BE HAPPY WITHOUT ALCOHOL IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE LEARN TO LIVE WITH OTHERS.

THIS DESIRE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH OTHERS SHOULD AWAKEN OUR INTEREST IN THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF AA, AS WELL AS THE INTEREST WE HAVE SHOWN TOWARD THE TWELVE STEPS TO RECOVERY IN AA. LET'S HOPE THAT THE FOLLOWING WEEKS WILL OPEN NEW DIMINISONS FOR YOU IN LIVING AND HAPPENESS. FOR A SOUND BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THIS IT IS NECESSARY TO START FROM THE BEGINNING AND CREATE A NEED IN OUR AA LIVES FOR THE TWELVE TRADITONS. SO WE BEGIN WITH THOSE FIRST DAYS IN 1934. BILL OUR CO-FOUNDER BEGINS:

"NO WORDS CAN TELL OF THE LONEINESS AND DESPAIR I FOUND IN THAT BITTER MORALL OF SELF PITY. QUICKSAND STRETCHED AROUND ME IN ALL DIRECTIONS. I HAD MET MY MATCH. I HAD BEEN OVERWHELMED. ALCOHOL WAS MY MASTER.

TREMBLING, I STEPPED FROM THE HOSPITAL A BROKEN MAN. FEAR SOBERED ME UP FOR A WHILE. THEN CAME THE INSIDIOUS INSANITY OF THAT FIRST DRINK, AND ON ARMISTICE DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1934, I WAS OFF AGAIN. I WAS SOON TO BE CATAPULTED INTO WHAT I LIKE TO CALL THE FOURTH DIMENSION OF EXISTENCE. I WAS TO KNOW HAPPINESS, PEACE, AND USEFULNESS, IN A WAY OF LIFE THAT IS INCREDIBLY MORE WONDERFUL AS TIME PASSES.

NEAR THE END OF NOVEMBER, A DAY THAT WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED, IT WAS IN THE AFTERNOON, MY TELEPHONE RANG. IT WAS MY OLD BOARDING SCHOOL FRIEND AND DRINKING COMPANION, "EBBY". EVEN OVER THE PHONE I SOMEHOW KNEW HE WAS SOBER. I COULD NOT REMEMBER A TIME WHEN HE HAD BEEN SOBER IN NEW YORK CITY. LONG AGO I MARKED HIM AS A HOPELESS CASE. HE ASKED IF HE COULD COME OVER AND EAGERLY I SAID 'COME RIGHT ON OVER'. WE'LL TALK OF THE OLD DAYS.' SOON EBBY STOOD BEAMING

IN THE DOORWAY. THEN HE WAS SITTING ACROSS THE KITCHEN TABLE FROM ME. THERE WAS A BIG CROCK OF GIN AND PINEAPPLE JUICE BETWEEN US.

IMMEDIATELY I FELT THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT EBBY. IT WAS NOT ONLY THAT HE WAS SOBER. I COULD NOT PUT A FINGER ON WHAT IT WAS. I OFFERED HIM A DRINK AND HE REFUSED. THEN I ASKED HIM, 'WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT? YOU SAY YOU AREN'T DRINKING. BUT YOU ALSO SAY YOU AREN'T ON THE WAGON EITHER. WHAT'S UP?'

'WELL' SAID EBBY, ' I'VE GOT RELIGION.'

WHAT A CRUSHER THAT WAS—EBBY AND RELIGION! MAYBE HIS ALCOHOLIC INSANITY HAS BECOME RELIGIOUS INSANITY. IT WAS AN AWFUL LET DOWN. BUT I HAD TO BE POLITE, SO I SAID, 'WHAT BRAND OF RELIGION HAVE YOU GOT, EBBY?' 'OH,' HE SAID, 'I DON'T THINK IT HAS ANY SPECIAL BRAND NAME.' 'I JUST FELL IN WITH A GROUP OF PEOPLE, "THE OXFORD GROUP". I DIDN'T GO ALONG WITH ALL THEIR TEACHINGS BY ANY MEANS. BUT THOSE FOLKS HAVE GIVEN ME SOME WONDERFUL IDEAS. I LEARNED THAT I HAD TO ADMIT I WAS LICKED; I LEARNED THAT I OUGHT TO TAKE STOCK OF MYSELF AND CONFESS MY DEFECTS TO ANOTHER PERSON IN CONFIDENCE; I LEARNED THAT I NEEDED TO MAKE RESTITUTION FOR THE HARM I HAD DONE OTHERS. I WAS TOLD THAT I OUGHT TO PRACTICE THE KIND OF GIVING THAT HAS NO PRICE TAG ON IT, THE GIVING OF YOURSELF TO SOMEBODY.' 'NOW,' HE ADDED, 'I KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO GAG ON THIS, BUT THEY TAUGHT ME THAT I SHOULD TRY TO PRAY TO WHATEVER GOD I THOUGHT THERE WAS FOR THE POWER TO CARRY OUT THESE SIMPLE PRECEPTS. AND IF I DISBELIEVE IN ANY GOD, THEN I HAD BETTER TRY THE EXPERIMENT OF PRAYING TO WHATEVER GOD THERE MIGHT BE. AND YOU KNOW, BILL, IT'S A QUEER THING, BUT EVEN BEFORE I HAD DONE ALL THIS, JUST AS SOON AS I DECIDED THAT I WOULD TRY WITH AN OPEN MIND, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT MY DRINKING PROBLEM WAS LIFTED RIGHT OUT OF ME. IT WASN'T LIKE THE WATER WAGON BUSINESS AT ALL. THIS TIME I FELT COMPLETELY RELEASED OF THE DESIRE, AND I HAVE NOT HAD A DRINK FOR MONTHS.'

EBBY DIDN'T TRY TO PRESSURE OR EVANGELIZE ME, AND SOON HE LEFT. FOR SEVERAL DAYS I WENT ON DRINKING. BUT IN NO WAKING HOUR WAS THE THOUGHT OF MY FRIEND

ABSENT FROM MY MIND. I COULD NOT FORGET WHAT HE HAD SAID. IN THE KINSHIP OF COMMON SUFFERING, ONE ALCOHOLIC HAD BEEN TALKING TO ANOTHER.

MY MOOD SWINGS CONTINUED FROM REBELLION AGAINST GOD TO HOPE AND THEN BACK AGAIN. ONE DAY I GOT A GREAT IDEA. I FIGURED IT WAS TIME I DID SOME RELIGIOUS INVESTIGATION ON MY OWN HOOK. REMEMBERING THAT SAM SHOEMAKER'S CALVARY CHURCH HAD A MISSION WHERE EBBY'S OXFORD GROUP FRIENDS HAD LODGED HIM, I THOUGHT I COULD GO AND SEE WHAT THEY DID DOWN THERE. I LEFT THE SUBWAY AT FOURTH AVENUE AND TWENTY-THIRD STREET. IT WAS A GOOD LONG WALK ALONG TWENTY-THIRD STREET, SO I BEGAN STOPPING IN BARS. I SPENT MOST OF THE AFTERNOON IN THE BARS AND FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE MISSION. AT NIGHTFALL I FOUND MYSELF IN EXCITED CONVERSATION IN A BAR WITH A FINN NAMED ALEC. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN A SAILMAKER AND A FISHERMAN IN THE OLD COUNTRY. SOMEHOW THAT WORD 'FISHERMAN' CLICKED. I THOUGHT AGAIN OF THE MISSION. OVER THERE I WOULD FIND FISHERS OF MEN. ODDLY ENOUGH IT SEEMED LIKE A WONDERFUL IDEA.

I SOLD ALEC ON COMING ALONG, AND SOON WE REELED IN THE FRONT DOOR OF THE MISSION. TEX, AN EX-ALKY IN CHARGE, WAS RIGHT THERE TO MEET US. HE NOT ONLY HAD THE PLACE; HE PROPOSED TO RUN US OUT OF IT. THIS MADE US QUITE SORE AS WE THOUGHT OF OUR GOOD INTENTIONS.

JUST THEN EBBY TURNED UP, GRINNING, HE SAID, 'WHAT ABOUT A PLATE OF BEANS?' AFTER THE FOOD, ALEC AND I HAD SLIGHTLY CLEARED HEADS. EBBY TOLD US THERE WOULD BE A MEETING IN THE MISSION AND WOULD WE LIKE TO GO? CERTAINLY WE WOULD GO; THAT'S WHY WE WERE THERE. THE THREE OF US WERE SOON SITTING ON ONE OF THOSE HARD WOODEN BENCHES THAT FILLED THE ROOM. I HAD NEVER SEEN A MISSION BEFORE AND I SHIVERED A LITTLE AS I LOOKED AT THE DERELICT AUDIENCE. THERE WAS A SMELL OF SWEAT AND ALCOHOL. I COULD WELL IMAGINE HOW MUCH SUFFERING WAS REPRESENTED IN THIS GATHERING.

THERE WERE SOME HYMNS AND PRAYERS. THEN TEX, THE LEADER, EXHORTED US. 'ONLY JESUS COULD SAVE,' HE SAID. SOMEHOW THIS STATEMENT DID NOT JAR ME. CERTAIN

MEN GOT UP AND MADE TESTIMONIALS. NUMB AS I WAS I FELT INTEREST AND EXCITEMENT
ISING. THEN CAME THE CALL. SOME MEN WERE STARTING FORWARD TO THE RAIL. UN-
ACCOUNTABLY IMPELLED, I STARTED TOO. DRAGGING ALEC WITH ME. EBBY REACHED FOR
MY COATTAILS, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. I KNELT AMONG THE SHAKING PENITENTS. MAYBE
HEN AND THERE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, I WAS PENITENT, TOO. SOMETHING TOUCHED
ME. I GUESS IT WAS MORE THAN THAT. I WAS HIT. I FELT A WILD IMPULSE TO TALK.
UMPING TO MY FEET, I BEGAN.

AFTERWARD I COULD NEVER REMEMBER WHAT I SAID. I ONLY KNEW THAT I WAS REALLY
IN EARNEST AND THAT PEOPLE SEEMED TO PAY ATTENTION. EBBY, WHO AT FIRST HAD BEEN
EMBARRASSED TO DEATH, TOLD ME WITH RELIEF THAT I HAD DONE ALL RIGHT AND HAD
'GIVEN MY LIFE TO GOD!.

UPSTAIRS AFTER THE MEETING I SAW THE DORMITORY WHERE THE DERELICTS SLEPT.
I MET A FEW WHO HAD MADE GOOD RECOVERIES. SOME WERE LIVING AT THE MISSION,
WORKING OUTSIDE BY DAY. EAGERLY I LISTENED TO THEIR STORIES. I SOBERED UP VERY
FAST AND THE DEAD WEIGHT ON ME SEEMED TO BE LIFTING. WITH A QUALM I REMEMBERED
LOIS. I HAD NOT PHONED HER AND SHE WOULD BE WORRIED. I MUST TELL HER ALL ABOUT
THIS. IT WAS GOOD TO HEAR HER SIGH OF RELIEF AT THE OTHER END OF THE WIRE.

SLOWLY AND QUITE CONFIDENTLY I MADE MY WAY UP TWENTY-THIRD STREET TO THE
SUBWAY. AS I WENT DOWN THE STAIRS IT WAS STARTLING TO REALIZE THAT I HADN'T
THOUGHT OF LOOKING IN ANY OF THE BARS. THIS WAS SOMETHING NEW, VERY NEW. HAD
I, TOO, BEEN RELEASED?

BEFORE GOING TO BED, LOIS AND I HAD A LONG TALK. THERE WAS HOPE IN EVERY
WORD. WITHOUT AN OUNCE OF GIN I SLEPT LIKE A CHILD. I WAS DUE FOR A TERRIBLE
HANGOVER THE NEXT MORNING, BUT I HAD ALMOST NONE AT ALL. YET THAT SMALL HANG-
OVER WAS MY UNDOING ONCE MORE. I FELT I WOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE WATCHING THE
TRAIN COME UP IF I HAD A DRINK. JUST ONE OR TWO, MAYBE. SAYING NOTHING TO LOIS,
I TOOK A COUPLE ABOARD AND FOLLOWED THEM UP WITH MOUTHWASH. SHE NOTICED NOTHING
AND I FELT FINE.

AFTER SHE LEFT FOR WORK THE HANGOVER GOT VERY TROUBLESOME AGAIN. THIS WAS TO BE THE LAST ONE. RATIONALIZING AS USUAL, I FELT JUSTIFIED IN TAPERING OFF. AS ALWAYS OF COURSE I TAPERED ON INSTEAD OF OFF, AND AT SIX O'CLOCK POOR LOIS FOUND ME UPSTAIRS ON THE BED DEAD DRUNK.

YET I HAD SEEN SOME KIND OF LIGHT, AND ALTHOUGH I DRANK ON FOR THREE DAYS, I KEPT PONDERING THAT MISSION EXPERIENCE. SOMETIMES IT SEEMED REAL; THEN AGAIN I WOULD BRUSH IT AWAY, CHARGING IT OFF TO AN ALCOHOL-FIRED IMAGINATION.

ON THE MORNING OF THE THIRD DAY MY WANDERING THOUGHTS GATHERED INTO A SHARP FOCUS. I REMEMBER COMPARING MYSELF TO A CANCER VICTIM. IF I HAD CANCER, I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO GET WELL, WOULD I NOT? YES, ANYTHING WHATEVER. WHAT WOULD I DO? I WOULD HEAD FOR THE BEST PHYSICIAN IN THE BUSINESS AND BEG HIM TO DESTROY OR CUT AWAY THOSE CONSUMING CELLS. I WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON HIM, MY GOD OF MEDICINE, TO SAVE ME. MY DEPENDENCE WOULD BE ABSOLUTE; FOR MYSELF I COULD DO NOTHING.

ALCOHOLISM, NOT CANCER, WAS MY ILLNESS. BUT WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE? WAS NOT ALCOHOLISM ALSO A CONSUMER OF BODY AND MIND? ALCOHOLISM TOOK LONGER TO DO ITS KILLING, BUT THE RESULT WAS THE SAME. SO IF THERE WAS A GREAT PHYSICIAN WHO COULD CURE THE ALCOHOLIC SICKNESS, I HAD BETTER SEEK HIM NOW, AT ONCE. I HAD BETTER FIND WHAT MY FRIEND HAD FOUND. WOULD I, LIKE THE CANCER SUFFERER, DO ANYTHING TO GET WELL? IF GETTING WELL REQUIRED ME TO PRAY AT HIGH NOON IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE WITH THE OTHER SUFFERERS, WOULD I SWALLOW MY PRIDE AND DO THAT? MAYBE I WOULD. MEANWHILE THOUGH, I WOULD GO BACK TO TOWNS HOSPITAL WHERE DR. SILKWORTH WOULD SOBER ME UP AGAIN. THEN I COULD LOOK CLEAR-EYED AT EBBY'S FORMULA FOR SOBRIETY. PERHAPS I WOULD NOT NEED AN EMOTIONAL CONVERSION. MAYBE A CONSERVATIVE DOUBTER LIKE ME COULD GET BY WITHOUT ANYTHING LIKE THAT. ANYHOW I STARTED FOR THE HOSPITAL.

WALKING US CLINTON STREET TO THE SUBWAY, I FISHED SIX CENTS OUT OF MY POCKET. A NICKEL WOULD GET ME TO THE HOSPITAL. BUT HADN'T I FORGOTTEN SOMETHING? HERE I WAS ON MY WAY TO BE CURED. TYPICAL ALCOHOLIC THAT I WAS, I FIGURED I MIGHT

AS WELL BE COMFORTABLE UNTIL THE HOSPITAL TOOK OVER. SO I STEPPED INTO A GROCERY STORE WHERE I HAD SLIM CREDIT. I REMEMBER EXPLAINING TO THE CLERK THAT I WAS AS ALCOHOLIC ON MY WAY TO BE CURED. COULD I HAVE FOUR BOTTLES OF BEER ON THE CUFF?

I DRANK ONE BOTTLE ON THE STREET AND ANOTHER IN THE SUBWAY. MY SPIRITS ROSE AS I OFFERED THE THIRD TO A PASSENGER. HE TURNED DOWN MY REFRESHMENT, SO I DRAINED THAT BOTTLE ON THE STATION PLATFORM NEAR THE HOSPITAL. HOLDING THE LAST BOTTLE BY THE NECK, I WALKED INTO TOWNS, WHERE DR. SILKWORTH MET ME IN THE HALL.

NOW IN VERY HIGH SPIRITS, I WAVED THE BOTTLE AND SHOUTED, 'AT LAST, DOC, I'VE FOUND SOMETHING!' EVEN THROUGH MY HAZE I COULD SEE THE GOOD OLD MAN'S FACE FALL. I NOW KNOW HOW MUCH HE LOVED ME. THIS OUTBURST REALLY HURT HIM. I TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE NEW THING I THOUGHT I HAD FOUND. HE LOOKED AT ME, SHAKING HIS HEAD, AND AFTER A WHILE HE QUIETLY SAID, 'WELL, MY BOY, ISN'T IT TIME YOU WENT UPSTAIRS AND WENT TO BED?' "

QUESTIONS

1. DO YOU AS AN AA MEMBER REALIZE THAT YOU ARE IDENTICAL IN MANY WAYS WITH THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS?
2. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT A MEMBER OF AA COULD BUILD ENOUGH RESENTMENT IN HIS OR HER MIND THAT WOULD MAKE THEM DRINK AGAIN? COULD YOU BUILD THIS KIND OF RESENTMENT IN YOUR OWN MIND?
3. DO YOU THINK "LIVING IN UNITY WITH OTHERS" IS IMPORTANT?
4. ALCOHOLISM GAVE YOU A DESIRE TO RECOVER, DOES YOUR INABILITY TO LIVE WITH OTHERS GIVE YOU THE DESIRE TO LEARN TO LIVE IN UNITY WITH OTHERS?
5. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT "THINGS" INDICATED IN THE SERENITY PRAYER MEANS A PERSONALITY OUTSIDE YOURSELF OVER WHICH YOU HAVE NO CONTROL? (GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE.)
6. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT "RESENTMENTS" ARE FATAL TO AN ALCOHOLIC, AS STATED IN THE BIG BOOK OF AA?
7. DO YOU THINK THAT "LIVING IN UNITY WITH YOUR FELLOW-MAN GIVES YOU A BETTER CHANCE TO LIVE BETTER EACH DAY?
8. DO YOU THINK "ACCEPTING YOUR FELLOW-MAN JUST AS HE IS "IS A CRITERIA TO A HAPPIER SOBRIETY EACH DAY?
9. IN YOUR LIFE SPAN HAS "TRYING TO CHANGE PERSONALITIES OTHER THAN YOUR OWN", BROUGHT ON A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PERSONALITY, OR HAS IT HINDERED OR DESTROYED THE RELATIONSHIP?
10. HAVE YOU EVER GONE TO A RELIGIOUS REVIVAL AND AFTER THE SERMON, GONE TO THE ALTAR AND CONFESSED?
11. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY PERSONALITY YOU CAN CHANGE IS YOUR OWN?
12. BILL, OUR CO-FOUNDER, DID NOT NEED AN EMOTIONAL CONVERSION, DID YOU?

LAST WEEKS MESSAGE LEFT US WITH A CONVICTION THAT WE AS MEMBERS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS FIND IT NECESSARY TO LIVE IN UNITY WITH OUR FELLOW-MAN. IN DOING THIS WE MUST LEARN THE SUBSTANCE OF AA HISTORY TO UNDERSTAND THE MAKING AND DEVELOPMENTS OF THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF OUR PROGRAM, WHICH IN TURN TEACHES US THE WISDOM AND POWER OF UNITY.

"I WAS NOT IN TOO AWFUL A CONDITION. IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS I WAS FREE OF THAT LITTLE SEDATIVE THEY GAVE ME, BUT I WAS VERY DEPRESSED. I WAS STILL CHOKING ON THE GOD BUSINESS. BRIGHT AND EARLY ONE MORNING FRIEND EBY SHOWED UP AND STOOD IN THE DOORWAY, SMILING BROADLY. I DIDN'T SEE WHAT WAS SO FUNNY. THEN I HAD A SUSPICION: MAYBE THIS IS THE DAY HE IS GOING TO EVANGELIZE ME; MAYBE HE IS GOING TO POUR ON THE SWEETNESS AND LIGHT. BUT NO, HE MADE ME WAIT UNTIL I ASKED HIM. 'WELL,' SAID I, 'WHAT IS YOUR NEAT LITTLE FORMULA ONCE MORE?' IN PERFECTLY GOOD HUMOR, HE HANDED IT OUT AGAIN: 'YOU ADMIT YOU ARE LICKED; YOU GET HONEST WITH YOURSELF; YOU TALK IT OVER WITH SOMEBODY ELSE; YOU MAKE RESTITUTION TO THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE HARMED; YOU TRY TO GIVE YOURSELF WITHOUT STINT, WITH NO DEMAND FOR REWARD; AND YOU PRAY TO WHATEVER GOD YOU THINK THERE IS, EVEN AS AN EXPERIMENT.' IT WAS AS SIMPLE AND YET MYSTERIOUS AS THAT. AFTER SOME SMALL TALK HE WAS GONE.

MY DEPRESSION DEEPENED UNBEARABLY AND FINALLY IT SEEMED TO ME AS THOUGH I WAS AT THE VERY BOTTON OF THE PIT. I STILL GAGGED BADLY ON THE NOTION OF A POWER GREATER THAN MYSELF, BUT FINALLY, JUST FOR THE MOMENT, THE LAST VESTIGE OF MY PROUD OBSTINACY WAS CRUSHED. ALL AT ONCE I FOUND MYSELF CRYING OUT, 'IF THERE IS A GOD, LET HIM SHOW HIMSELF! I AM READY TO DO ANYTHING, ANYTHING!'

SUDDENLY THE ROOM LIT UP WITH A GREAT WHITE LIGHT. I WAS CAUGHT UP INTO AN ECSTASY WHICH THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE. IT SEEMED TO ME, IN THE MIND'S EYE, THAT I WAS ON A MOUNTAIN AND THAT A WIND, NOT OF AIR BUT OF SPIRIT, WAS BLOWING. AND THEN IT BURST UPON ME THAT I WAS A FREE MEN. SLOWLY THE ECSTASY SUBSIDED. I LAY ON THE BED, BUT NOW FOR A TIME I WAS IN ANOTHER WORLD, A NEW WORLD OF CONSCIOUSNESS. ALL ABOUT ME AND THROUGH ME THERE WAS A WONDERFUL FEELING OF PRESENCE, AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, 'SO THIS IS THE GOD OF THE PREACHER!' A GREAT PEACE STOLE OVER ME AND I THOUGHT, 'NO MATTER HOW WRONG THINGS SEEM TO BE, THEY ARE STILL ALL RIGHT. THINGS ARE ALL RIGHT WITH GOD AND HIS WORLD.'

THEN, LITTLE BY LITTLE, I BEGAN TO BE FRIGHTENED. MY MODERN EDUCATION CRAWLED BACK AND SAID TO ME, 'YOU ARE HULLUCINATING. YOU HAD BETTER GET THE

DOCTOR.' DR. SILKWORTH ASKED ME A LOT OF QUESTIONS. AFTER A WHILE HE SAID, NO BILL, YOU ARE NOT CRAZY. THERE HAS BEEN SOME BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL OR SPIRITUAL EVENT HERE. I'VE READ ABOUT THESE THINGS IN THE BOOKS. SOMETIMES SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES DO RELEASE PEOPLE FROM ALCOHOLISM.' IMMENSELY RELIEVED, I FELL AGAIN TO WONDERING WHAT ACTUALLY HAD HAPPENED.

MORE LIGHT ON THIS CAME THE NEXT DAY. IT WAS EBBY, I THINK, WHO BROUGHT ME A COPY OF WILLIAM JAMES' VARIETIES OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE. IT WAS RATHER DIFFICULT READING FOR ME, BUT I DEVoured IT FROM COVER TO COVER. SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES, JAMES THOUGHT, COULD HAVE OBJECTIVE REALITY; ALMOST LIKE GIFTS FROM THE BLUE, THEY COULD TRANSFORM PEOPLE. SOME WERE SUDDEN BRILLIANT ILLUMINATIONS; OTHER WERE NOT. BUT NEARLY ALL HAD THE GREAT COMMON DENOMINATIONS OF PAIN, SUFFERING CALAMITY. COMPLETE HOPELESSNESS AND DEFLATION AT DEPTH WERE ALMOST ALWAYS REQUIRED TO MAKE THE RECIPIENT READY. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ALL THIS BURST UPON ME. DEFLATION AT DEPTH—YES, THAT WAS IT. EXACTLY THAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME. DR. CARL JUNG HAD TOLD A OXFORD GROUP FRIEND OF EBBY'S HOW HOPELESS HIS ALCOHOLISM WAS AND DR. SILKWORTH HAD PASSED THE SAME SENTENCE UPON ME. THEN EBBY, ALSO AN ALCOHOLIC HAD HANDED ME THE IDENTICAL DOSE. ON DR. SILKWORTH'S SAY—SO ALONE MAYBE I WOULD HAVE COMPLETELY ACCEPTED THE VERDICT, BUT WHEN EBBY CAME ALONG AND ONE ALCOHOLIC BEGAN TO TALK TO ANOTHER, THAT CLINCHED IT.

MY THOUGHTS BEGAN TO RACE AS I ENVISIONED A CHAIN REACTION AMONG ALCOHOLICS, ONE CARRYING THIS MESSAGE AND THESE PRINCIPLES TO THE NEXT. MORE THAN I COULD EVER WANT ANYTHING ELSE, I NOW KNEW THAT I WANTED TO WORK WITH OTHER ALCOHOLICS.

AS SOON AS I WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL, I ASSOCIATED MYSELF WITH THE OXFORD GROUPS. WE WORKED AT SAM SHOEMAKER'S CALVARY MISSION AND ALSO AT TOWNS HOSPITAL. EBBY CAME TO LIVE WITH LOIS AND ME IN BROOKLYN. I STARTED OUT AFTER DRUNKS ON JET PROPULSION.

MY SUDDEN SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, HAD ITS DISADVANTAGES. I WAS SOON HEARD TO SAY THAT I WAS GOING TO FIX UP ALL THE DRUNKS IN THE WORLD, EVEN THROUGH THE BATTING AVERAGE ON THEM HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY NIL FOR THE LAST 5,000 YEARS. THE OXFORD GROUPERS HAD TRIED, HAD MOSTLY FAILED, AND WERE FED UP. SAM SHOEMAKER IN FACT HAD JUST HAD A RUN OF BAD LUCK. HE HAD HOUSED A BATCH OF DRUNKS IN AN APARTMENT NEAR HIS CHURCH, AND ONE OF THEM, STILL RESISTING SALVATION, HAD PEEVISHLY THROWN A SHOE THROUGH A FINE STAINED-GLASS WINDOW IN SAM'S CHURCH.

NO WONDER MY OXFORD GROUP FRIENDS FELT THAT I HAD BETTER FORGET ABOUT ALCOHOLICS. BUT I WAS STILL MIGHTY COCKSURE AND I IGNORED THEIR ADVICE. MINE WAS A KIND OF TWIN-ENGINE POWER DRIVE CONSISTING OF ONE PART OF GENUINE SPIRITUALITY AND ONE PART OF MY OLD DESIRE TO BE A NUMBER ONE MAN. THIS POSTURE DID'NT PAN OUT WELL AT ALL. AT THE END OF SIX MONTHS NOBODY HAD SOBERED UP. AND, BELIEVE ME, I HAD TRIED THEM BY THE SCORE. THEY WOULD CLEAR UP FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND THEN FLOP DISMALLY. NATURALLY THE OXFORD GROUPERS BECAME VERY COOL INDEED TOWARD MY DRUNK-FIXING.

LOIS MEANWHILE WAS STILL WORKING IN THE DEPARTMENT STORE, AND FOLKS WERE BEGINNING TO SAY, 'IS THIS FELLOW BILL GOING TO BE A MISSIONARY FOR LIFE? WHY DOESN'T HE GO TO WORK?' EVEN TO ME, THIS BEGAN TO LOOK LIKE A GOOD IDEA. I BEGAN TO HANG AROUND WALL STREET AGAIN AND THROUGH A CHANCE ACQUAINTANCE I HAD SCRAPED UP IN A BROKERAGE SHOP, I INSINUATED MYSELF INTO A PROXY ROW THAT INVOLVED CONTROL OF A LITTLE MACHINE TOOL COMPANY IN AKRON, OHIO. IN MAY OF 1935 A PARTY OF US WENT OUT TO AKRON, FIGHTING FOR CONTROL OF THE COMPANY. I COULD ALREADY SEE MYSELF AS ITS NEW PRESIDENT. BUT WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN THE OTHER SIDE HAD MORE PROXIES AND OUR SIDE GOT LICKED. MY NEWFOUND ACQUAINTANCES WERE DISCOURAGED, AND THEY LEFT ME IN AKRON'S MAYFLOWER HOTEL WITH ONLY ABOUT TEN DOLLARS IN MY POCKET.

THEY DEPARTED ON FRIDAY. ON SATURDAY, MOTHER'S DAY EVE, I WAS PACING UP AND DOWN THE HOTEL LOBBY, WONDERING WHAT I COULD DO. THE BAR AT ONE END OF MY BEAT WAS FILLING UP RAPIDLY. I COULD HEAR THE FAMILIAR BUZZ OF CONVERSATION IN

THERE. DOWN AT THE OTHER END OF THE LOBBY I FOUND MYSELF PAUSING BEFORE A CHURCH DIRECTORY. THEN I WAS SEIZED WITH A THOUGHT: I AM GOING TO GET DRUNK, OR NO, MAYBE I'LL JUST GO INTO THAT BAR AND DRINK SOME GINGER ALE AND SCRAPE UP AN ACQUAINTANCE. THEN I PANICKED. THAT WAS REALLY A GIFT! I HAD NEVER PANICKED BEFORE AT THE THREAT OF ALCOHOL. MAYBE THIS MEANT THAT MY SANITY HAD BEEN RESTORED. I REMEMBER THAT IN TRYING TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE, I HAD STAYED SOBER MYSELF. FOR THE FIRST TIME I DEEPLY REALIZED IT. I THOUGHT, 'YOU NEED ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC TO TALK TOO. YOU NEED ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC JUST AS MUCH AS HE NEEDS YOU!'

THEN FOLLOWED A STRANGE CHAIN OF CONSEQUENCES. CHOOSING AT RANDOM FROM THE CHURCH DIRECTORY, I CALLED UP AN EPISCOPAL PADRE BY THE NAME OF WALTER TUNKS, GREAT FRIEND OF AA TILL HIS DEATH. IN FRANTIC EAGERNESS I Poured OUT MY TALE TO HIM. I ASKED IF MAYBE HE KNEW SOME PEOPLE WHO COULD PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC. I THOUGHT HE MIGHT KNOW SOME OF THE OXFORD GROUPERS AROUND AKRON. WHEN THE GOOD MAN LEARNED THAT I WAS AN ALCOHOLIC LOOKING FOR ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC TO WORK ON, HE AT FIRST APPARENTLY ENVISIONED TWO PEOPLE DRUNK INSTEAD OF ONE, BUT HE FINALLY GOT THE POINT AND GAVE ME A LIST OF ABOUT TEN PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO DIRECT ME.

I IMMEDIATELY BEGAN CALLING THEM UP. IT WAS SATURDAY AFTERNOON. PEOPLE WERE NOT A HOME. OTHERS WERE NOT INTERESTED AND MADE EXCUSES. THE LIST QUICKLY WINDLED UNTIL IT CAME DOWN TO ONE NAME AT THE VERY END. THAT NAME WAS HENRIETTA SEIBERLING. I HAD A VAGUE RECOLLECTION FROM MY WALL STREET DAYS OF MEETING AN ELDERLY MR. SEIBERLING, ONE-TIME FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF GOODYEAR RUBBER.

COULD HARDLY IMAGINE CALLING UP HIS WIFE AND TELLING HER THAT I WAS A DRUNK FROM NEW YORK LOOKING FOR ANOTHER DRUNK TO WORK ON. SO I WENT BACK DOWNSTAIRS AND WALKED UP AND DOWN THE LOBBY SOME MORE. BUT SOMETHING KEPT SAYING TO ME, 'YOU'D BETTER CALL HER.' SO I FINALLY RANG UP. UNEXPECTEDLY, A YOUNG SOUTHERN VOICE CAME OVER THE WIRE, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE THAT OF A SEIBERLING DAUGHTER-

IN-LAW. I EXPLAINED THAT I WAS AN ALCOHOLIC FROM THE NEW YORK OXFORD GROUPS WHO NEEDED HELP ANOTHER DRUNK IN ORDER TO STAY SOBER HIMSELF. VERY QUICKLY SHE GOT THE DRIFT OF WHAT I WAS SAYING. SHE SAID, 'I'M NO ALCOHOLIC, BUT I'VE HAD MY DIFFICULTIES. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATTERS, I THINK I UNDERSTAND. I KNOW SOMEONE YOU MIGHT HELP. WON'T YOU COME OUT HERE RIGHT AWAY? I LIVE IN THE GATEHOUSE OF THE SEIBERLING PLACE.

WHEN I GOT THERE I FOUND A PERSON OF CHARM AND UNDERSTANDING. SHE SAID SHE HAD WORKED THROUGH MANY A BAD PROBLEM AND HAD FOUND HER ANSWERS IN THE OXFORD GROUPS. SHE UNDERSTOOD DEEP SUFFERING. WHEN I HAD TOLD MY STORY SHE SAID, 'I KNOW JUST THE MAN FOR YOU. HE IS A DOCTOR. WE ALL CALL HIM DR. BOB. HIS WIFE ANNE, IS A GRAND PERSON. BOB HAS TRIED SO HARD; I KNOW HE WANTS TO STOP. HE HAS TRIED MEDICAL CURES, HE HAS TRIED VARIOUS RELIGIOUS APPROACHES, INCLUDING THE OXFORD GROUPS. HE HAS TRIED WITH ALL HIS WILL, BUT SOMEHOW HE CANNOT SEEM TO DO IT. SO HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK TO DR. BOB AND ANNE?'

SOON ANNE S. WAS ON THE PHONE--AA'S MUCH-LOVED ANNE. QUICKLY HENRIETTA TOLD HER ABOUT ME, AN ALCOHOLIC FROM NEW YORK WHO WANTED TO TALK ABOUT HIS DRINKING PROBLEM. COULD SHE AND DR. BOB COME OVER? ANNE SAID, 'I'M SORRY, HENRIETTA. I DON'T THINK WE CAN MAKE IT TODAY. BOB ALWAYS MAKES A GREAT FUSS OVER ME ON MOTHER'S DAY. HE HAS JUST COME HOME, BRINGING A BIG POTTED PLANT.' WHAT ANNE DIDN'T SAY WAS THAT THE PLANT WAS ON A TABLE AND THAT BOB WAS UNDER THE TABLE, SO POTTED THAT HE COULDN'T GET UP. HENRIETTA SAID, 'WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW? WHY CAN'T BOTH OF YOU COME OVER TO DINNER?' ANNE SAID THEY WOULD TRY TO MAKE IT.

NEXT AFTERNOON AT FIVE O'CLOCK THAT WONDERFUL COUPLE, DR. BOB AND ANNE, STOOD AT HENRIETTA'S OPEN DOOR.

THIS WAS THE MAN WHO WAS TO BE MY PARTNER AND FOUNDER OF AKRON'S GROUP NUMBER ONE. THIS WAS THE WONDERFUL FRIEND WITH WHOM I WAS NEVER TO HAVE A HARD WORD. THIS WAS DR. BOB, AA'S CO-FOUNDER-TO-BE."

AT FIVE O'CLOCK THAT SUNDAY AFTERNOON DR. BOB DID NOT LOOK MUCH LIKE A
DUNDER. HE WAS SHAKING BADLY. UNEASILY HE TOLD US THAT HE COULD STAY ONLY
ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES. THOUGH EMBARRASSED, HE BRIGHTENED A LITTLE WHEN I SAID
I THOUGHT HE NEEDED A DRINK. AFTER DINNER, WHICH HE DID NOT EAT, HENRIETTA
SCREETLY PUT US OFF IN HER LITTLE LIBRARY. THERE BOB AND I TALKED UNTIL
ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

JUST BEFORE LEAVING FOR AKRON, DR. SILKWORTH HAD GIVEN ME A GREAT PIECE OF
ADVICE. WITHOUT IT, AA MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN. 'LOOK, BILL,' HE SAID,
YOU'RE HAVING NOTHING BUT FAILURE BECAUSE YOU ARE PREACHING AT THESE ALCOHOLICS.
YOU ARE TALKING TO THEM ABOUT THE OXFORD GROUP PRECEPTS OF BEING ABSOLUTELY
HONEST, ABSOLUTELY PURE, ABSOLUTELY UNSELFISH, AND ABSOLUTELY LOVING. THIS IS
A VERY BIG ORDER. THEN YOU TOP IT OFF BY HARPING ON THIS MYSTERIOUS SPIRITUAL
EXPERIENCE OF YOURS. NO WONDER THEY POINT THEIR FINGER TO THEIR HEADS AND GO
OUT AND GET DRUNK. WHY DON'T YOU TURN YOUR STRATEGY THE OTHER WAY AROUND? AREN'T
YOU THE VERY FELLOW WHO ONCE SHOWED ME THAT BOOK BY THE PSYCHOLOGIST JAMES WHICH
SAYS THAT DEFLATION AT GREAT DEPTH IS THE FOUNDATION OF MOST SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THAT? HAVE YOU ALSO FORGOTTEN THAT DR. CARL JUNG
IN ZURICH TOLD A CERTAIN ALCOHOLIC, THE ONE WHO LATER HELPED SOBER UP YOUR
FRIEND EBBY, THAT HIS ONLY HOPE OF SALVATION WAS A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE? NO,
WELL, YOU'VE GOT THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE. YOU'VE GOT TO DEFLATE THESE PEOPLE
FIRST. SO GIVE THEM THE MEDICAL BUSINESS, AND GIVE IT TO THEM HARD. POUR IT
RIGHT INTO THEM ABOUT THE OBSESSION THAT CONDEMNS THEM TO DRINK AND THE PHYSICAL
SENSITIVITY OR ALLERGY OF THE BODY THAT COMDEMNS THEM TO GO MAD OR DIE IF THEY
KEEP ON DRINKING. COMING FROM ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC, ONE ALCOHOLIC TALKING TO
ANOTHER, MAYBE THAT WILL CRACK THOSE TOUGH EGOS DEEP DOWN. ONLY THEN CAN YOU
BEGIN TO TRY YOUR OTHER MEDICINE, THE ETHICAL PRINCIPLES YOU HAVE PICKED
UP FROM THE OXFORD GROUPS.'

QUESTIONS

1. DO YOU BELIEVE THE STATEMENT, "THINGS ARE ALRIGHT WITH GOD AND HIS WORLD"?
2. WERE YOU LIKE BILL, OUR CO-FOUNDER: DID YOUR DOCTOR, MINISTER, WIFE, OR FRIEND TELL YOU TIME AND AGAIN YOU WERE AN ALCOHOLIC? DID YOU TAKE THEIR WORD OR SAY-SO ALONE; OR DID IT TAKE ONE ALCOHOLIC TALKING TO A ANOTHER TO CLINCH IT?
3. DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO HANG-IN-THERE FOR SIX MONTHS WITHOUT ONE SUCCESS AS BILL, OUR CO-FOUNDER DID?
4. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT BILL'S TRIP TO AKRON TO GET CONTROL OF THE SMALL COMPANY WAS PART OF GOD'S OVER ALL PLAN FOR AA?
5. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE SET OF CONSEQUENCES IN THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL WERE ALSO PART OF GOD'S OVER ALL PLAN FOR AA?
6. DO YOU WAVER IN YOUR DECISIONS AS BILL DID BEFORE HE CALLED HENRIETTA?
7. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DR. BOB'S EXPERIENCES IN THE OXFORD GROUP TWO YEARS PRIOR TO THE TIME BILL MET HIM, WERE ALSO PART OF GOD'S PLAN?
8. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IT IS MORE THAN A COINCIDENCE THAT GOD'S PLAN FOR AA WAS TO BRING TOGETHER A MEDICAL DOCTOR AND A SUPER SALESMAN FROM WALL STREET?
9. DO YOU BELIEVE THE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE BEEN ATTRACTIVE TO YOU IF YOUR INTRODUCTION HAD BEEN A PREACHING APPROACH?
10. DO YOU BELIEVE YOU WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED THE PRECEPTS OF THE OXFORD GROUPS: ABSOLUTE LOVE, ABSOLUTE HONEST, ABSOLUTE UNSELFISHNESS, ABSOLUTE PURE?
11. COULD YOU HAVE LISTENED TO AN INDIVIDUAL HARPING ON HIS SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES?
12. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE STATEMENT "DEFLATION AT GREAT DEPTH IF THE FOUNDATION OF MOST SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES?"
13. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE STATEMENT OF AN ALCOHOLIC'S "MENTAL" OBSESSION THAT CONDEMNS THEM TO DRINK AND THE PHYSICAL SENSITIVITY OR ALLERGY OF THE BODY THAT CONDEMNS THEM TO GO MAD OR DIE IF THEY KEEP ON DRINKING?

CHAPTER THREE

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED ABOUT BILL'S LAST DRINK AND HIS SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE, HIS SIX MONTHS OF FAILURE, TRYING TO GIVE AWAY HIS THEORY SO HE COULD STAY SOBER. WE ALSO STUDIED THE CONSEQUENCES LEADING UP TO HIS MEETING WITH DR. BOB. ALSO WE STUDIED DR. SILKWORTH'S THEORY OF WHAT BILL WAS DOING WRONG IN HIS TWELVE STEP APPROACH.

NOW--TALKING WITH DR. BOB--I REMEMBERED ALL THAT DR. SILKWORTH HAD SAID. SO I WENT VERY SLOWLY ON THE FIREWORKS OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE. I JUST TALKED AWAY ABOUT MY OWN CASE UNTIL HE GOT A GOOD IDENTIFICATION WITH ME, UNTIL HE BEGAN TO SAY, 'YES, THAT'S ME, I'M LIKE THAT.'

IN TURN, DR. BOB TALKED TO ME ABOUT HIMSELF AS HE HAD NEVER TALKED BEFORE. HE TOO WAS A VERMONTER, HIS FATHER HAD BEEN A STERN BUT DEEPLY RESPECTED JUDGE IN ST. JOHNBURY. ALSO, AS IN ANY CASE, DR. BOB'S DRINKING PROCLIVITIES HAD SHOWN UP EARLY. IN FACT, HE HAD BUSTED OUT OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE FOR THIS REASON. SOMEHOW HE HAD WORMED HIS WAY THROUGH MEDICAL SCHOOL AND INTERNSHIP IN CHICAGO. DESPITE HIS DRINKING, HE HAD SHOWN A TALENTED FLAIR FOR SURGERY. AFTER HIS MARRIAGE TO ANNE, THEY HAD SETTLED IN AKRON WHERE IN DUE COURSE YOUNG BOB WAS BORN AND A DAUGHTER, SISTER SUE, WAS ADOPTED.

DR. BOB AT THE TIME OF OUR FIRST MEETING WAS FIFTY-FIVE, SOME FIFTEEN YEARS OLDER THAN I. HE MUST HAVE HAD AN IRON CONSTITUTION. HE SAID THAT ALL THROUGH THE YEARS HIS DRINKING HAD BEEN PRACTICALLY CONTINUOUS. WHEN HE GOT TOO JITTERY TO OPERATE OR TO SEE PATIENTS, HE SEDATED HIMSELF HEAVILY. WHEN THIS RECOURSE SOMETIMES FAILED, HE WOULD STEAL AWAY FOR A WEEK OR SO TO A DRYING-OUT PLACE SO THAT HE COULD START THE SAME CYCLE ALL OVER AGAIN. IN THOSE RARE MOMENTS WHEN HE GOT THOROUGHLY SOBER, THE INSATIABLE CRAVING FOR ALCOHOL NEVER LET UP. THIS WAS A PHYSICAL PHENOMENON WHICH BEDEVILED EVEN HIS FIRST YEARS IN AA, A TIME WHEN ONLY DAYS AND NIGHTS OF CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO OTHER ALCOHOLICS COULD CAUSE HIM TO FORGET ABOUT IT. ALTHOUGH THIS CRAVING WAS HARD TO WITHSTAND, IT DOUBTLESS CREATED SOME PART OF THE INTENSE INCENTIVE AND ENERGY THAT WENT INTO FORMING AKRON'S GROUP NUMBER ONE. BOB'S SPIRITUAL RELEASE DID NOT COME EASILY; IT WAS TO BE PAINFULLY SLOW. IT ALWAYS ENTAILED THE HARDEST KIND OF WORK AND THE SHARPEST VIGILANCE. YET HE SEEMED TO HAVE NO SERIOUS NEUROTIC DIFFICULTIES. AS HE OFTEN PUT IT, 'I JUST LOVED MY DRINKS.'

BY THE TIME I MET HIM THIS COMPELLING LOVE HAD ALMOST DONE HIM IN. HIS

SURGICAL SKILL WAS STILL RECOGNIZED, BUT FEW COLLEAGUES OR PATIENTS DARED TO TRUST HIM. HE HAD LOST HIS POST ON THE STAFF OF AKRON'S CITY HOSPITAL AND BARELY EXISTED THROUGH A PRECARIOUS AND DWINDLING GENERAL PRACTICE. IN DEBT UP TO HIS EARS, HE WAS ONLY ONE JUMP AHEAD OF THE SHERIFF AND HIS MORTGAGE PAYMENTS. ANNE VERGED ON A NERVOUS CRACK-UP, AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN OF COURSE WERE GREATLY UPSET. SUCH WAS THE PAY-OFF OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF ALCOHOLISM. HOPE WAS A WORD THEY HAD COME TO AVOID.

IN OUR FIRST CONVERSATION I BORE DOWN HEAVILY ON THE MEDICAL HOPELESSNESS OF DR. BOB'S CASE, FREELY USING DR. SILKWORTH'S WORDS DESCRIBING THE ALCOHOLIC'S DILEMMA, THE 'OBSESSION PLUS ALLERGY' THEME. THOUGH BOB WAS A DOCTOR, THIS WAS NEWS TO HIM, BAD NEWS. ALWAYS BETTER VERSED IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS THAN I, HE HAD PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO THAT ASPECT OF MY STORY. EVEN THOUGH HE COULD NOT MAKE THEM WORK, HE ALREADY KNEW WHAT THE SPIRITUAL ANSWERS WERE. WHAT REALLY DID HIT HIM HARD WAS THE MEDICAL BUSINESS, THE VERDICT OF INEVITABLE ANNIHILATION. THE FACT THAT I WAS AN ALCOHOLIC AND KNEW WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE NAME THE BLOW A SHATTERING ONE."

DR. BOB IN HIS STORY AND IN MANY OF HIS TALKS MADE THIS POINT VERY CLEAR. "IT WAS NOT ANY SPIRITUAL TEACHING OF BILL, RATHER IT WAS THOSE TWIN OGRES OF MADNESS AND DEATH, THE ALLERGY PLUS THE OBSESSION, THAT TRIGGERED HIM INTO A NEW LIFE. IT WAS DR. SILKWORTH'S IDEA, CONFIRMED BY WILLIAM JAMES, THAT STRUCK HIM AT GREAT DEPTH."

YOU SEE, OUR TALK WAS A COMPLETELY MUTUAL THING. I HAD QUIT PREACHING. I KNEW THAT I NEEDED THIS ALCOHOLIC AS MUCH AS HE NEEDED ME. THIS WAS IT! AND THIS MUTUAL GIVE-AND-TAKE IS AT THE VERY HEART OF ALL OF AA'S TWELFTH STEP WORK TODAY. THIS WAS HOW TO CARRY THE MESSAGE. THE FINAL MISSING LINK WAS LOCATED RIGHT THERE IN MY FIRST TALK WITH DR. BOB.

UNEXPECTEDLY I GOT A LITTLE FRESH FINANCING FROM MY NEW YORK BUSINESS ASSOCIATES, SO I STAYED ON IN AKRON THAT SUMMER OF 1935 TO CONTINUE THE PROXY

IGHT. STILL WORRIED ABOUT DR. BOB, ANNE INVITED ME TO COME OVER AND LIVE WITH THEM AT THEIR HOME A 855 ARDMORE AVENUE. HOW WELL I REMEMBER OUR MORNING MEDITATION, WHEN ANNE WOULD SIT IN THE CORNER BY THE FIREPLACE AND READ THE BIBLE, AND THEN WE WOULD HUDDLE TOGETHER IN STILLNESS, AWAITING INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE.

THREE OR FOUR WEEKS AFTER THE MOTHER'S DAY MEETING, DR. BOB LOOKED AT ME ONE MORNING AND SAID, 'BILL, FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS I HAVE HAD TO GO DOWN TO ATLANTIC CITY TO OUR MEDICAL CONVENTION. I HAVEN'T MISSED ONE IN A LONG TIME. DON'T YOU THINK I HAD BETTER GO?' VERY FRIGHTENED, ANNE SAID, 'OH, NO, NO!' BUT SEEING THAT HE HAD TO FACE THE MUSIC SOMETIME, I REPLIED, 'WELL, WHY DON'T YOU GO? AFTER ALL, WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE IN A WORLD THAT'S FULL OF ALCOHOL.' AND SLOWLY BOB SAID, 'I GUESS MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.'

SO HE WENT TO ATLANTIC CITY MEDICAL CONVENTION AND NOTHING WAS HEARD OF HIM FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THEN ONE MORNING HIS OFFICE NURSE CALLED UP AND SAID, 'HE IS OVER HERE AT MY PLACE. MY HUSBAND AND I PICKED HIM OFF THE RAILROAD STATION PLATFORM AT ABOUT FOUR A. M. PLEASE COME OVER AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO.'

WE GOT BOB HOME AND INTO BED, AND RIGHT THEN WE MADE AN ALARMING DISCOVERY. HE HAD TO PERFORM A CERTAIN OPERATION THAT ONLY HE COULD DO. THE DEADLINE WAS JUST THREE DAYS AWAY; HE SIMPLY HAD TO DO THE JOB HIMSELF; AND HERE HE WAS, SHAKING LIKE A LEAF. COULD WE GET HIM SOBER IN TIME? ANNE AND I TOOK TURNS AROUND THE CLOCK TRYING TO TAPER THE OLD BOY OFF. EARLY ON THE MORNING OF THE OPERATION HE WAS ALMOST SOBER. I HAD SLEPT IN THE ROOM WITH HIM. GLANCING ACROSS TOWARD HIS BED, I SAW THAT HE WAS WIDE AWAKE BUT STILL SHAKING. I'LL NEVER FORGET THE LOOK HE GAVE ME AS HE SAID, 'BILL, I AM GOING TO GO THROUGH WITH IT.' I THOUGHT HE MEANT THE OPERATION. 'NO,' HE SAID, 'I MEAN THIS THING WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT.'

ANNE AND I DROVE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL AT NINE O'CLOCK. I HANDED HIM A BOTTLE OF BEER TO STEADY HIS NERVES SO HE COULD HOLD THE KNIFE, AND HE WENT IN. WE RETURNED TO THE HOUSE AND SAT DOWN TO WAIT. AFTER WHAT SEEMED AN ENDLESS TIME, HE PHONED; ALL HAD GONE WELL. AFTER THAT HE DID NOT COME HOME FOR HOURS.

INSPITE THE AWFUL STRAIN HE HAD LEFT THE HOSPITAL, GOT INTO HIS CAR, AND COMMENCED TO VISIT CREDITORS AND OTHERS HE HAD HARMED BY HIS BEHAVIOR. THAT WAS JUNE 10, 1935. TO THE TIME OF HIS DEATH FIFTEEN YEARS LATER, DR. BOB NEVER TOOK ANOTHER DRINK OF ALCOHOL.

NEXT DAY HE SAID, 'BILL DON'T YOU THINK THAT WORKING ON OTHER ALCOHOLICS IS TERRIBLY IMPORTANT? WE'D BE MUCH SAFER IF WE GOT ACTIVE, WOULDN'T WE?' I SAID, 'YES, THAT WOULD BE JUST THE THING. BUT WHERE CAN WE FIND ANY ALCOHOLICS?' HE SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS HAVE A BATCH DOWN AT THE AKRON CITY HOSPITAL. I'LL CALL THEM UP AND SEE WHAT THEY'VE GOT.' GETTING HOLD OF A NURSE FRIEND OF HIS ON THE RECEIVING WARD OF THE HOSPITAL, HE. BOB EXPLAINED THAT A MAN FROM NEW YORK HAD JUST FOUND A NEW CURE FOR ALCOHOLISM. (WE CALLED IT A CURE IN THOSE DAYS.) BUT THE NURSE KNEW DR. BOB OF OLD. SO SHE RETORTED. 'IS THAT SO, DR. BOB? YOU DON'T MEAN TO TELL ME YOU'RE TRIED IT ON YOURSELF?!' 'YES,' HE SAID, 'I SURE HAVE.'

THE NEW COUSTOMER WAS IN NO SHAPE TO BE SEEN. BUT TWO DAYS LATER, DR. BOB AND I WERE LOOKING INTO THE FACE OF THE FIRST 'MAN ON THE BED.' IT WAS BILL D. LA NUMBER THREE, WHOSE STORY YOU CAN READ IN THE SECOND PART OF THE BIG BOOK. BILL WAS STILL PRETTY GLASSY-EYED. WHEN DR. BOB AND I GAVE HIM THE MEDICAL BAD NEWS ABOUT THE ALLERGY AND THE OBSESSION, BILL SHOWED A STARTLED INTEREST. WHEN WE BEGAN TO DESCRIBE OUR SPIRITUAL APPROACH, BILL SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SAID, 'NO, I'M TOO FAR GONE FOR THAT. I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN GOD. I USED TO BE A DEACON IN THE CHURCH. BUT, BOYS, I'VE BEEN IN AND OUR OF THIS PLACE SIX TIMES IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS. THIS TIME IN D.T.'S I BADLY BEAT UP ONE OF THE NURSES. I KNOW I CAN'T EVEN GET HOME FROM HERE SOONER. I'M AFRAID TO GO OUT. NO, ITS TOO LATE FOR ME. I STILL BELEVE IN GOD ALRIGHT, BUT I KNOW MIGHTY WELL THAT GOD DOESN'T BELIEVE IN ME ANYMORE.'

'WELL, BILL,' WE SAID, 'CAN WE COME BACK AND SEE YOU TOMORROW?' 'YES,' HE REPLIED, 'YOU FELLOWS REALLY UNDERSTAND. SURE, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU.' SO THE NEXT DAY WE CAME BACK AND FOUND HIM TALKING TO HIS WIFE, HENRIETTA. BILL D. POINTED TO US AND SAID, 'THESE ARE THE FELLOWS I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT. THEY ARE THE

ONES WHO KNOW. THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS THING IS ALL ABOUT.'

DR. BOB, BILL D. AND I WENT FRANTICALLY TO WORK WITH MORE OF THOSE ALCOHOLIC CHARACTERS AT THE CITY HOSPITAL. WE HAD A LONG STRING OF FAILURES. NOTABLE AMONG THESE HAD BEEN EDDIE. IN FACT, DR. BOB AND I HAD TACKLED HIM JUST BEFORE OUR FIRST VISIT WITH BILL D. EVERY TIME EDDIE GOT DRUNK HE WANTED TO JUMP OFF THE CLEVELAND DOCKS. ONCE WHEN ANGERED HE HAD TRIED TO EMPHASIZE A POINT BY HAVING A KNIFE AT ANNE AND ME. HE FINALLY DID MAKE THE GRADE AND RECENTLY WROTE ME THAT HE HAD BEEN SOBER FOR SEVEN WONDERFUL YEARS. SO EDDIE, OUR FIRST 'FAILURE', SO-CALLED, IS TODAY A SUCCESS.

THEN FROM ANOTHER QUARTER WE TURNED UP WITH A PRIZE. I GUESS THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF AA'S YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT. THIS NEW ONE, ERNIE, HAD BEEN A TERRIBLY WILD CASE, YET HE CAUGHT ON VERY QUICKLY TO BECOME AA NUMBER FOUR. AS I REMEMBER IT, WE STRAIGHTENED UP ONLY TWO MORE DURING THE SUMMER IN AKRON. IN SEPTEMBER, MY PROXY FIGHT BACKERS HAD GOT TIRED AGAIN. I HAD TO GO HOME TO NEW YORK.

BY THE TIME I GOT HOME I WAS ENDOWED WITH A LITTLE MORE HUMILITY, A LITTLE MORE UNDERSTANDING, AND CONSIDERABLY MORE EXPERIENCE. VERY SLOWLY A GROUP BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE IN NEW YORK. LOIS, NOT CONTENT WITH NURSING ME ALL THOSE YEARS, THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF WE FILLED THE OLD FAMILY HOUSE ON CLINTON STREET WITH ALCOHOLICS. HER MOTHER HAD PASSED AWAY AND HER FATHER, A DOCTOR, HAD MOVED ELSEWHERE. SO WHY NOT? WE THOUGHT WE COULD FEED OUR CHARGES AT LOW COST AND PICK UP A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM. AS IT TURNED OUT WE DID NOT SOBER UP A SINGLE ONE, BUT WE DID PICK UP A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE. WE USED TO HAVE AS MANY AS FIVE IN THE HOUSE AT A TIME, AND SOMETIMES THEY WOULD ALL BE DRUNK AT ONCE. ONE DAY WE CAME HOME TO FIND A DRUNK SWINGING A PIECE OF TWO-BY-FOUR LUMBER ON ANOTHER DOWN IN THE CELLAR. I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT THEIR RESENTMENT WAS. ON ANOTHER OCCASION WE HAD BEEN AWAY FOR A WEEK LEAVING ONLY ONE PROBLEM DRINKER ALONE IN THE HOUSE, AND WE CAME BACK TO FIND HIM DEAD, A SUICIDE.

WE CONTINUED OUR WORK ON ALCOHOLICS, SOME OF THEM IN SAM SHOEMAKER'S OXFORD GROUP, SOME AT CALVARY MISSION, SOME AT CHARLIE TOWN'S HOSPITAL. WHERE GOOD OLD DR. SILKWORTH RISKED HIS REPUTATION BY LETTING US SEE THEM. LOIS AND I CONTINUED TO FIND, HOWEVER, THAT IF WE PERMITTED ALCOHOLICS TO BECOME TOO DEPENDENT ON US THEY WERE APT TO STAY DRUNK. IN THAT FALL OF 1935, A WEEKLY MEETING TOOK SHAPE IN OUR BROOKLYM PARLOR. IN SPITE OF MUCH FAILURE A REALLY SOLID GROUP FINALLY DEVELOPED.

THERE WAS JUST HENRY P., AND THERE WAS FRITZ M., BOTH OUT OF TOWNS HOSPITAL. FOLLOWING THEM, MORE BEGAN TO MAKE REAL RECOVERIES.

UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF 1937 WE IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN WORKING ALONG SIDE OF THE OXFORD GROUPS. BUT IN THE LATTER PART OF THAT YEAR WE MOST RELUCTANTLY PARTED COMPANY WITH THESE GREAT FRIENDS. NATURALLY ENOUGH, THEY DID NOT THINK TOO HIGHLY OF OUR OBJECTIVE, LIMITED AS IT WAS TO ALCOHOLICS. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW WE FELT SURE WE COULD NOT DO MUCH ABOUT HELPING THE OXFORD GROUPS TO SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD. BUT WE WERE BECOMING MORE CERTAIN EVERYDAY THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SOBER UP MANY ALCOHOLICS.

THE OXFORD GROUPS HAD CLEARLY SHOWN US WHAT TO DO. AND, JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, WE HAD ALSO LEARNED FOR THEM WHAT NOT TO DO AS FAR A ALCOHOLICS WERE CONCERNED. WE HAD FOUND THAT CERTAIN OF THEIR IDEAS AND ATTITUDES SIMPLY COULD NOT BE SOLD TO ALCOHOLICS. FOR, EXAMPLE, DRINKERS WOULD NOT TAKE PRESSURE IN ANY FORM, EXCEPTING FROM JOHN BARLEYCORN HIMSELF. THEY ALWAYS HAD TO BE LED, NOT PUSHED. THEY WOULD NOT STAND FOR THE RATHER AGGRESSIVE EVANGELISM OF THE OXFORD GROUP. AS THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF 'TEAM GUIDANCE' FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL LIVES. IT WAS TOO AUTHORITARIAN FOR THEM. IN OTHER RESPECTS, TOO, WE FOUND WE HAD TO MAKE HASTE SLOWLY. WHEN FIRST CONTACTED, MOST ALCOHOLICS JUST WANTED TO FIND SOBRIETY, NOTHING ELSE. THEY CLUNG TO THEIR OTHER DEFECTS, LETTING GO ONLY LITTLE BY LITTLE. THEY SIMPLY DID NOT WANT TO GET 'TO GOOD TOO SOON'. THE OXFORD GROUPS' ABSOLUTE CONCEPTS—ABSOLUTE PURITY, ABSOLUTE HONESTY, ABSOLUTE UNSELFISHNESS, AND ABSOLUTE LOVE—WERE FREQUENTLY TOO MUCH FOR THE DRUNKS.

THESE IDEAS HAD TO BE FED WITH TEASPOONS RATHER THAN BY BUCKETS.

BESIDES, THE OXFORD GROUPS' 'ABSOLUTES' WERE EXPRESSIONS PECULIAR TO THEM. THIS WAS TERMINOLOGY WHICH MIGHT CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY US IN THE PUBLIC MIND WITH THE OXFORD GROUPERS EVEN THOUGH WE HAD COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN FROM THEIR FELLOWSHIP.

THERE WAS YET ANOTHER DIFFICULTY. BECAUSE OF THE STIGMA THEN ATTACHED TO THE CONDITION, MOST ALCOHOLICS WANTED TO BE ANONYMOUS. WE WERE AFRAID ALSO OF DEVELOPING ERRATIC PUBLIC CHARACTERS WHO, THROUGH BROKEN ANONYMITY, MIGHT GET DRUNK IN PUBLIC AND SO DESTROY CONFIDENCE IN US. THE OXFORD GROUPS, ON THE CONTRARY, DEPENDED VERY MUCH UPON THE USE OF PROMINENT NAMES—SOMETHING THAT WAS DOUBTLESS ALL RIGHT FOR THEM BUT MIGHTY HAZARDOUS FOR US. OUR DEBT TO THEM, NEVERTHELESS, WAS AND IS IMMENSE, AND SO THE FINAL BREAKAWAY WAS VERY PAINFUL.

OUT IN AKRON WONDERFUL FRIENDS CONTINUED TO SHOW UP. IN THE FORE FRONT OF THESE WAS T. HENRY WILLIAMS AND HIS WIFE CLARACE, OXFORD GROUPERS ALSO. THEY AND HENRIETTA SEIBLING HAD REPEATLY TRIED TO HELP DR. BOB. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THEY HAD GONE FAR IN DISCUSSING THEIR OWN PERSONAL DEFECTS WITH HIM IN ORDER TO GET SOME KIND OF CLOSER IDENTIFICATION WITH HIM. THIS HAD IMPRESSED HIM A GREAT DEAL AND HAD DOUBTLESS MADE HIM FAR MORE READY TO WORK WITH ME WHEN I SHOWED UP. I MET T. HENRY AT THE TIME OF THE PROXY FIGHT, AND AS A RESULT OF THE SHAKE-UP HE HAD LOST A FINE JOB. HE WAS BIGHEADED ENOUGH, NEVERTHELESS, HE LET US ALCOHOLICS COME TO HIS HOUSE FOR MEETINGS ALONG WITH HIS OXFORD GROUP FRIENDS. I AM AFRAID THOSE EARLY PROBLEM DRINKERS OFTEN GAVE THE WILLIAM'S A BAD TIME, RANGING FROM JARRING GLIMPSES OF LIFE IN THE RAW TO CIGARETTE BURNS ON THEIR CARPETS.

T. HENRY AND CLARACE ALWAYS TREATED US WITH GREAT GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS, AND NONE OF US CAN EVER FORGET THE INSPIRITIONAL ATMOSPHERE OF THEIR HOME AND THEIR SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE ON THAT FIRST FRIGHTENED LITTLE GROUPS OF AKRON ALCOHOLICS, EACH WONDERING WHO MIGHT SLIP NEXT. IT WAS NOT UNTIL LATER, AND WELL AFTER

THE BIG BOOK WAS PUBLISHED THAT OUR AKRON MEMBERS WITHDREW FROM THE OXFORD GROUPS
AND FINALLY FROM THE HOME WHICH HAD SHELTERED THEM SO WELL. T. HENRY AND CLARACE
WILLIAMS WILL ALWAYS BE COUNTED IN THE FRONT RANKS OF AA'S PIONEERS.

QUESTIONS

1. DID YOU NOTE IN BOTH CO-FOUNDERS AN INTENSE INCENTIVE AND ENERGY TOWARD AA? COULD THIS BE PART OF GOD'S PLAN FOR AA?
2. DID YOU NOTE ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN YOUR FAMILY AND THE FAMILIES OF OUR CO-FOUNDERS AS TO MATERIAL WEALTH OR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ANGUISH?
3. DOES THE TWIN OGRES OF MADNESS AND DEATH, THE ALLERGY PLUS OBSESSION, AWAKEN YOU AS AN ALCOHOLIC AT GREAT DEPTH?
4. DO YOU BELIEVE "THAT YOU NEED AN ALCOHOLIC AS MUCH AS HE OR SHE NEEDS YOU? IS THE MUTUAL GIVE AND TAKE THE VERY HEART OF ALL OUR SOBRIETY"? IS GIVING OF OURSELVES THE MISSING LINK IN OUR LIVES?
5. DO YOU BELIEVE IN SOFT SOAPING THE ALCOHOLIC, OR SHOULD HE OR SHE LEARN AT ONCE TO LIVE IN A WORLD FULL OF ALCOHOL?
6. WHEN AN ALCOHOLIC WHO YOU HAVE WORKED WITH DRINKS, ARE YOU TO SCOLL OR CONDEMN HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE?
7. ON YOUR ARRIVAL IN AA DID YOU FEEL "THAT GOD DID NOT BELIEVE IN YOU ANY MORE"?
8. IS WORKING WITH OTHER ALCOHOLICS IMPORTANT TO YOU IN AA? WOULD YOU FEEL SAFER IN AA IF YOU BECAME ACTIVE AT ONCE ON YOUR ARRIVAL?
9. DID YOU REALIZE THAT OUR CO-FOUNDERS IN AA ALSO HAD FAILURES IN THEIR TWELVE STEP WORK?
10. WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IN TWELVE STEP WORK? IS IT TO PLANT THE SEED AS OUR CO-FOUNDERS DID WITH EDDY, A SO-CALLED FAILURE WHICH IS A SUCCESS TODAY?
11. SHOULD YOU ALLOW AN ALCOHOLIC TO BECOME DEPENDENT ON YOU, AS BILL AND LOIS DID?
12. DO YOU REALIZE THAT THE FUNCTION OF AA IS TO SOBER UP ALCOHOLICS, NOT TO SAVE THE WORLD?
13. DO YOU BELIEVE YOU SHOULD PREACH TO ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC?
14. COULD YOU STAY SOBER USING OXFORD GROUP ABSOLUTES? (ABSOLUTE PURITY, ABSOLUTE HONEST, ABSOLUTE UNSELFISHNESS AND ABSOLUTE LOVE)
15. DO YOU FEED THE NEW AA MEMBERS BY BUCKETS OR SPOONFULS?
16. DO MOST ALCOHOLICS COMING TO AA WANT TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS?

CHAPTER FOUR

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED BILL'S APPROACH TO DR. BOB, AND HIS ACCEPTANCE THAT BILL KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT. WE ALSO DISCUSSED BILL'S MOVING INTO DR. BOB AND ANNE'S HOME AND DR. BOB'S LAST DRINK. WE STUDIED DR. BOB'S AND BILL'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL TWELVE STEP CALL TO BILL DOBSON. WE ALSO DISCUSSED A FEW THINGS ABOUT THE OXFORD GROUPS PROGRAM AND THE VALUE OF NON-ALCOHOLICS WHO ASSISTED AA IN THE BEGINNING.

IN 1937 I WENT BACK TO WALL STREET FOR A BRIEF STRETCH. IN THE FALL OF THAT YEAR ANOTHER DEPRESSION HIT THE USA, AND I WAS SUDDENLY OUT OF A JOB. I WENT WEST, WHERE I TRIED DETROIT AND CLEVELAND FOR ANOTHER POSITION IN THE FINANCIAL BUSINESS. NOTHING TURNED UP, BUT THIS TRIP GAVE ME A MUCH NEEDED CHANCE TO VISIT DR. BOB IN AKRON. IT WAS ON A NOVEMBER DAY IN THAT YEAR WHEN DR. BOB AND I SAT IN HIS LIVING ROOM COUNTING NOSES OF OUR RECOVERIES. THERE HAD BEEN FAILURES GALORE, BUT NOW WE COULD SEE SOME STARTLING SUCCESSES TOO. ALL OF A SUDDEN WE REALIZED TWENTY ALCOHOLICS HAD RECOVERED FROM ALCOHOLISM. THEY ASKED EACH OTHER, 'HOW CAN THIS EXPERIENCE BE SHARED?' HOW CAN THE WORD BE SPREAD?' BY THIS TIME DR. BOB HAD BEEN SOBER TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS AND BILL THREE YEARS.

IT HAD TAKEN ALL THIS TIME TO PERFECT A PROGRAM OF RECOVERY AND TO BRING SOBRIETY TO ONLY A HANDFUL OF SUFFERERS. THERE WERE MILLIONS OF ALCOHOLICS IN THE WORLD WHO WANTED TO STAY SOBER. HOW COULD THIS GREAT MESSAGE, BE SENT TO THEM? AT THE PACE AA WAS GROWING IT WAS CLEAR THAT MOST OF THEM WOULD NEVER BE REACHED.

AA COULD NO LONGER BE A SECRET SOCIETY. WORD OF MOUTH COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE FEW ALCOHOLICS THEY COULD CONTACT WAS DANGEROUS BECAUSE THE RECOVERY MESSAGE IN WHICH THEY HAD SUCH CONFIDENCE, MIGHT SOON BE SO GARBLED AND TWISTED, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED AS A PROGRAM FOR ALCOHOLICS. THE MESSAGE WOULD HAVE TO BE PUBLICIZED.

HARDLY A FRACTION OF THE WORLD'S ALCOHOLICS COULD BE EXPECTED TO COME TO NEW YORK OR AKRON FOR TREATMENT. SOMEHOW THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE REACHED, ON THEIR HOME GROUND. MAYBE THEY COULD USE MISSIONARIES TO DO THIS. IT WAS PLAIN THAT THE HOSPITAL DID NOT WANT TO BOTHER WITH ALCOHOLICS. THEY IMMEDIATELY SAID, 'ABOVE ALL, WE SHOULD PUT OUR METHODS DOWN ON PAPER. A BOOK OF EXPERIENCES COULD CARRY THE MESSAGE TO DISTANT PLACES. MOREOVER SUCH A BOOK COULD PREVENT THE GARBLE AND DISTORTION OF THE PROGRAM. IT WOULD NOT ONLY GUIDE THE ALCOHOLICS

TO RECOVERY, BUT ALSO BECOME THE METHOD FOR TELLING THE AA STORY TO THE WORLD, THEREFORE, A GUIDE TO PUBLIC RELATIONS, AS WELL.'

DR. BOB LIKED THE IDEA OF THE BOOK. HE WAS DUBIOUS ABOUT HOSPITALS AND MISSIONARIES. BILL WAS A PROMOTER. HE FELT LIKE AA WOULD NEED LOTS OF MONEY TO GET THE PROGRAM UNDERWAY. THE CO-FOUNDERS HAD NO MONEY. MEMBERS COULD NOT GIVE UP THEIR JOBS IN ORDER TO DO THIS MISSIONARY WORK. IF BILL AND BOB DID IT, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE FINANCED. THE BOOK ALONE WOULD TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME AND MONEY. EVERY MEMBER IN AA AT THAT TIME, HAD NO MONEY, JUST DEBTS. THEY WOULD HAVE TO SOLICIT MONEY OR ELSE.

ONLY HALF CONVINCED, DR. BOB WONDERED WHAT ALL THESE COMPLICATIONS MIGHT DO TO THE SPIRIT OF AA. THE CARRYING OF THE MESSAGE TO ALCOHOLICS EYE BALL TO EYE BALL WITH NO STRINGS, OR MONEY ATTACHED. FINALLY DR. BOB SUGGESTED THAT THEY CALL THE AKRON MEMBERS TOGETHER AND TRY THESE IDEAS OUT ON THEM. EIGHTEEN MEMBERS MET AT A HENRY T.'S HOUSE TO LISTEN TO THEIR PROPOSALS. THEY REJECTED THE MISSIONARIES, PAID WORKERS WOULD KILL THE GOOD WILL WITH ALCOHOLICS. HOSPITAL BUSINESS, EVERYBODY SAID IT WAS A RACKET. MANY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD SHUN PUBLICITY, AFRAID THEY WOULD BE SWAMPED WITH ALCOHOLICS, AND THEY COULDN'T HANDLE THE TRAFFIC. SOME TURNED THUMBS DOWN ON PAMPHLETS AND BOOKS, AFTER ALL, THEY SAID, THE APOSTLES DID NOT NEED ANY PRINTED MATTER.

FINALLY THEY TOOK A VOTE, BY THE BAREST MAJORITY AND OVER STRENUOUS OBJECTIONS, THE AKRON MEETING DECIDED THAT BILL AND BOB SHOULD GO FOR THE PACKAGE. THE MISSIONARIES, THE HOSPITALS, AND THE BOOK.

WITH THIS DECIDED, IT WOULD TAKE LOTS OF MONEY, SO BILL RETURNED TO NEW YORK, WITH DR. BOB'S BLESSINGS. BILL THOUGHT PLENTY OF MONEY WAS WAITING FOR THE PROGRAM. AA LAID IN THE BALANCE HERE, IF THE MINORITY HAD THEIR WAY, 'TODAY I KNOW THAT'S CORRECT'. ON THE OTHER HAND IF THE ULTA-CONSERVATIVE PREVAILED THEY WOULD HAVE DONE NOTHING. THIS IS WHAT WE CALL GROUP CONSCIENCE, AND IT WAS HAMMERING OUT RIGHT DECISIONS FOR AA'S FUTURE. THE MAJORITY HAD GIVEN BILL PERMISSION TO DO AS HE WISHED, AND IT WAS QUITE EASY FOR THE TIME BEING TO

IGNORE THE MINORITY WARNINGS.

BILL WENT TO NEW YORK, ALL EXCITED AND THE NEW YORK GROUP GAVE HIM MORE ENCOURAGEMENT THAN THE AKRON GROUP. MOST OF THEM FELL IN WITH THE BIG IDEAS. THEY TOLD THEMSELVES, 'WHY THIS IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE GREATEST MEDICAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENTS OF ALL TIMES. CERTAINLY THE RICH WILL HELP US. SO THE NEW YORK GROUP, SCRAPED UP A COUPLE OF SUPER SALEMEN, PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT EXACTLY LIKE BILL AND THE FIRST AND LAST CRUSADE FOR MONEY IN AA GOT OFF TO A FLYING START.

ARMED WITH A LIST OF WEALTHY PROPECTS THEY STARTED SOLICITION FUNDS. THE WEALTHY PROPECTS HAD THEIR OWN IDEAS, THEY SEEMED TO THINK THAT TUBERCULOUS, CANCER, AND THE RED CROSS WERE BETTER CHARITY INVESTMENTS. WHY SHOULD THEY HELP DOWN AND OUT ALCOHOLICS WHO HAD BROUGHT THEIR TROUBLES UPON THEMSELVES. BILL AND THE GROUP SAW THAT DRUNKS AS OBJECTS OF CHARITY MIGHT NEVER BE A POPULAR CAUSE.

BILL WAS QUITE ANGRY AND DEPRESSED AND IN THIS MOOD HE VISTED HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, DR. LEONARD V. STRONG, JR., TO WHOM HE DELIVERED HIS ANGRY REMARKS AGAINST THE RICH. THEY SEEMED TO BE VERY SHORT SIGHTED, BILL KNEW THE AA PROGRAM FOR SURE, WAS GOING TO SWEEP THE WORLD.

DR. STRONG SAID, 'YEARS AGO , I KNEW A MEN CALLED WILLARD RICHARDSON, AS I REMEMBER MR. RICHARDSON HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE ROCKEFELLER'S CHARITIES. IF HE IS STILL ALIVE HE WILL REMEMBER ME. MAYBE HE IS STILL AT THE ROCKEFELLER OFFICES.'

DR. STRONG CALLED, AT ONCE THE VOICE OF RICHARDSON CAME OVER THE WIRE. R. STRONG TOLD HIM ABOUT BILL, AND ASKED IF HE AND BILL COULD COME AND TALK TO HIM ABOUT A PROGRAM THAT BILL HAD HAD SUCCESSES WITH STRAIGHTING OUT ALCOHOLICS. HE ARRANGED AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE NEXT DAY.

THE NEXT MORNING DR. STRONG AND BILL FOUND THEMSELVES ON THE FIFTY-SIXTH FLOOR OF THE R.C.A. BUILDING WHERE MR. ROCKEFELLER, JR., HAS HIS OFFICES. SOON THEY WERE SHAKING HANDS WITH MR. RICHARDSON, AN ELDERLY GENTLEMAN, WITH

A TWINKLE IN HIS EYES. HE SHOWED DEEP INTEREST AS BILL UNFOLDED THE STORY OF THE STRUGGLING FELLOWSHIP OF AA. AFTER HE HAD HEARD BILL, HE SAID, 'I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER MEETING SOON. WHAT ABOUT NEXT WEEK?' BILL FOUND OUT BEFORE LEAVING THE BUILDING THAT 'MR. RICHARDSON' WAS THE MAN TO SEE IF YOU WANTED ANYTHING FROM MR. ROCKEFELLER'S PRIVATE CHARITIES. HERE WAS THE INSIDE TRACK. AS A PROMOTER, BILL THOUGHT, OUR MONEY TROUBLES ARE OVER.

THE FOLLOWING WEEK BILL HAD LUNCH WITH MR. RICHARDSON AND EXPECTATIONS WERE CONFIRMED. HE WAS KEENLY INTERESTED IN AA'S NEEDS. HE PROPOSED ANOTHER MEETING WITH MR. ALBERT SCOTT, CHAIRMAN OF THE TRUSTEES FOR RIVERSIDE CHURCH; MR. FRANK AMOS, ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE; MR. A. LEROY CHIPMAN, AN ASSOCIATE OF MR. ROCKEFELLER'S AND DR. STRONG. ALSO DR. SILKWORTH AND SOME OF THE NEW YORK ALCOHOLICS, DR. BOB, AND CERTAIN MEMBERS FROM AKRON AND BILL. THE MEETING WAS TO BE HELD IN MR. ROCKEFELLER'S PRIVATE BOARD ROOM. AA WAS RIDING ON A PINK CLOUD, NUMBER SEVENTEEN.

THE MEMBERS OF AA WERE A BIT STRUCK WITH THE COMPANY THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN. THEN SOMEONE SUGGESTED THAT EACH ALCOHOLIC TELL HIS OWN STORY, JUST AS THEY DID IN A MEETING. AS THEY TOLD THEIR TALES OF ALCOHOLIC MISERY AND RELEASE, THEY COULD SEE A VERY DEEP IMPRESSION WAS BEING MADE, MR. SCOTT WHO CHAIRED THE MEETING EXCLAIMED, 'WHY THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIANITY.'

THEIR BIG MOMENT HAD COME. BILL MENTIONED THEIR NEED FOR THE MONEY, FOR PAID WORKERS, A CHAIN OF HOSPITALS AND LITERATURE. THEY COULD START MODESTLY, BUT EVENTUALLY IT WOULD TAKE LARGE SUMS. THE NEED WAS VERY URGENT. THOUGH THE RISKS OF SUCH UNDERTAKINGS MIGHT BE CONSIDERABLE, THE RISKS OF DOING NOTHING WOULD CERTAINLY BE GREATER. DR. SILKWORTH AND THE AA MEMBERS EXPRESSED THE SAME OPINION. MR. SCOTT, THE CHAIRMAN, POSED A QUESTION THAT IS STILL HEARD IN AA TO THIS DAY. "WON'T MONEY SPOIL THIS THING?" THEY BOMBARDED AA WITH QUESTIONS, "WON'T MONEY CREATE A PROFESSIONAL CLASS?" WOULD'T PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS SPOIL THE MAN TO MAN APPROACH THAT IS NOW SUCCESSFUL? WOULD'T THE

MANGEMENT OF A HOSPITAL CHAIN, WITH ALL THE PROPERTY AND MONEY, BE A FATAL DIVERSION? THESE QUESTIONS COMING FROM A UNBIASED FRIENDS, WERE GOOD QUESTIONS INDEED. THEY ANSWERED THAT THEY HAD PONDERED THESE PERILS, BUT HAD FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT TO DO NOTHING AT ALL WOULD BE EVEN MORE PERILIOUS. THESE NEW FOUND FRIENDS ADMITTED THAT THEY DID NEED MONEY, AT LEAST SOME MONEY.

MR. AMOS, A TRULY CLOSE FRIEND OF AA PROMISED TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION OF A FELLOWSHIP WHICH MIGHT BE THE BASIS FOR ASKING MR. ROCKEFELLER FOR SOME FUNDS. HIS INTEREST AND GENEROSITY WAS EVIDENCE.

THEY SUGGESTED THAT AMOS FIRST LOOK AT THE AKRON GROUP. AKRON WAS THE FIRST GROUP AND THE LARGEST. IF A HOSPITAL COULD BE PUT THERE, DR. BOB WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO SUPERINTEND IT. FOR FEAR OF EMBARRASSING DR. BOB; THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON THEY SUGGESTED AKRON, BUT THEY DID NOT MENTION. THOUGH MORE THAN TWO YEARS SOBER, HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REVIVE HIS PRACTICE. PEOPLE WERE GLAD FOR HIS SOBRIETY, BUT THEY FEARED THE KNIFE IN HIS HAND. THEY KNEW DR. BOB WAS FACING A MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ON HIS HOME.

MR. AMOS WENT TO AKRON AND CHECKED THE SITUATION THERE, HE ASKED THE COMMUNITY ABOUT DR. BOB. HE WENT TO MEETINGS AND TALKED WITH MEMBERS, HE ALSO LOOKED AT A LARGE VACANT RESIDENCE WHICH COULD BE CONVERTED INTO A HOSPITAL WHERE DR. BOB COULD WORK. AT THE CONCLUSION HE ASKED MR. ROCKEFELLER FOR \$50,000, JUST AS A STARTER. WITH THIS MONEY TWO OR THREE OF THE MEMBERS COULD BE SUBSIDIZED FOR MISSIONARY WORK, A DOWN PAYMENT ON THE HOSPITAL COULD BE MADE AND DR. BOB COULD PAY OFF HIS MORTGAGE.

MR. RICHARDSON QUICKLY MADE MR. AMOS' GLOWING REPORT TO MR. ROCKEFELLER, WHO FOR SURE, WOULD BE INTERESTED. HERE WAS MEDICINE, RELIGION AND A GREAT PROGRAM, ALL IN ONE PACKAGE. EVEN MR. RICHARDSON ADDED HIS OWN REMARKS OF WHAT HE HAD SEEN AND HEARD. MR. ROCKEFELLER LISTENED. HE WAS TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED AND SAID SO. HE HAS CONTINUED TO SAY HE THOUGHT AA WAS ONE OF THE FINEST AND MOST MOVING EXPERIENCE IN HIS LIFE.

NEVERTHELESS, MR. ROCKEFELLER FLATLY TURNED DOWN THE PLEAS FOR A LARGE SUM

OF MONEY. HE SAID, "MR. RICHARDSON, I AM AFRAID THAT MONEY WILL SPOIL THIS THING." HE GAVE HIS REASONS AND THEY WERE IDENTICAL TO THE MINORITY OF THE AKRON GROUP. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR., WAS GUIDED THEN AND THERE TO SAVE THE FELLOWSHIP FROM ITSELF AND FROM THE UNNECESSARY HAZARDS OF MONEY, PROPERTY, AND PROFESSIONALISM. THIS WAS A TURNING POINT IN AA HISTORY. HIS GREAT WEALTH COULD HAVE RUINED AA.

AT THIS POINT MR. RICHARDSON TOLD MR. ROCKEFELLER ABOUT THE DESPERATE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF DR. BOB AND BILL. ON HEARING THIS HE PLACED FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THEIR USE, IN THE TREASURY OF THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH, AND GAVE THEM PERMISSION TO DRAW UPON IT, AS THE NEED REQUIRED. THIS GAVE THESE TWO MEN, AA'S CO-FOUNDERS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE. IN MR. ROCKEFELLER'S OPINION, THE FELLOWSHIP OF AA SHOULD BE FULLY SELF SUPPORTING AND HE ADDED, "PLEASE DON'T EVER ASK ME FOR ANYMORE MONEY."

THIS WAS GOOD NEWS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP, BUT IT WAS ALSO BAD NEWS. BOB AND BILL WERE GLAD TO GET OFF THE HOOK, DR. BOB'S MORTGAGE WAS PAID AND BILL AND BOB STARTED DRAWING \$30.00 PER WEEK, FOR AS LONG AS THE MONEY LASTED.

THE PROSPECTS FOR MISSIONARIES, HOSPITAL, AND THE BOOK HAD GROWN DIM. ALL THEIR NEW-FOUND NON-ALCOHOLIC FRIENDS WERE DISAPPOINTED, MAYBE THEY KNEW OTHER MEN WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED. THE FOUR THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE, AND THEY HAD FREQUENT MEETINGS TO TALK ABOUT IT.

BY THE SPRING OF 1938 A PROGRAM OF ACTION WAS SET. THEY NEEDED A TAX FREE CHARITABLE TRUST OR FOUNDATION. WEALTHY CONTRIBUTORS THEN COULD DONATE AND DEDUCT THEIR GIFTS FROM THEIR INCOME TAX. THE FOUNDATION OF COURSE WOULD BE A RESPONSIBLE DEPOSITORY TO GUARANTEE THE WISE USE OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS WAS THE FIRST STEP TO FORM THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION, WHICH NOW IS WHAT WE KNOW AS THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS.

STILL SWAYED BY BIG IDEAS, THEY THOUGHT THE TRUSTEESHIP OUGHT TO BE CHARTERED TO DO JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING WITHIN THE FIELD OF ALCOHOL OR ALCOHOLISM EXCEPT LOBBY PROHIBITION. THEY WOULD RESEARCH, EDUCATE AND DO LOTS OF OTHER THINGS.

ATTENTION TO THE FELLOWSHIP WAS ONLY ONE OF THEIR MANY FUNCTIONS, THUS THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION GOT ITS NAME.

THEN THEY RAN INTO A LEGAL RIDDLE. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHOULD CONSIST OF ALCOHOLICS AND NON-ALCOHOLICS. THE LATER WOULD ALWAYS BE IN THE MAJORITY BY A MARGIN OF ONE. THIS WOULD ASSURE THEIR MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS THAT NON-ALCOHOLICS WOULD BE HOLDING THE MAJORITY. THE ATTY. MR. WOOD, ASK THEM TO DEFINE AN ALCOHOLIC AND AN NON-ALCOHOLIC. THEY CAME UP WITH A DEFINITION: THAT THE ALCOHOLIC WAS A SICK PERSON WHO COULD NOT DRINK AT ALL. THE NON-ALCOHOLIC, THEY SURMISED, WAS A PERFECTLY WELL MAN WHO COULD DRINK ALL HE WANTED TOO. THIS MADE NO LEGAL SENSE AT ALL, MR. WOOD FINALLY GAVE UP THE IDEA OF DEFINING AN ALCOHOLIC IN LEGAL TERMS. HE SOON FOUND A WAY OUT OF THE IMPASSE BY SUGGESTING THAT THEY WRITE A SIMPLE TRUST AGREEMENT AND SIGN IT. THIS WOULD AVOID THE WHOLE BUSINESS OF A FORMALIZED CHARTER. SOON THE DOCUMENT WAS COMPLETED AND THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION WAS IN BUSINESS.

THE FIRST BOARD CONSISTED OF FIVE MEMBERS, MR. WILLARD RICHARDSON, MR. FRANK AMOS, DR. STRONG, WERE THE NON-ALCOHOLICS. DR. BOB AND ONE AA FROM NEW YORK, WERE THE ALCOHOLICS. THE NEW YORK MEMBER GOT DRUNK, BUT THIS HAD BEEN FORESEEN. DRUNKNESS ON PART OF AA TRUSTEES MEANT IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION. ANOTHER AA WAS NAMED AND THEY PROCEEDED TO BUSINESS, MAY 1938.

OUR NON-ALCOHOLIC FRIENDS CAME UP WITH THE PROMISED LIST AND THEY BEGAN FOUNDED PAVEMENT, WITH NO SUCCESS. THEY THOUGHT MONEY PROBLEMS WOULD BE A PUSH OVER. MR. SHERWOOD, A SUCCESSFUL MONEY RAISER FOR CHARITIES, LENT A HAND, WITH NO SUCCESS. HE FOUND HE COULD DO LITTLE FOR AA, BECAUSE THE MEMBERS WERE TOO UNCERTAIN THEMSELVES. SO THE WHOLE BUSINESS BOGGED DOWN AND THE TREASURY REMAINED EMPTY. IT LOOKED LIKE THE END OF THE LINE.

QUESTIONS

1. DID YOU REALIZE THE VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AA CO-FOUNDERS, A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND A SUPER-CON ARTIST SALESMAN FROM WALL STREET?
2. DO YOU THINK THE AA PROGRAM WOULD HAVE BECOME GARBLED AND TWISTED WITHOUT THE BOOK ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS?
3. WERE OUR CO-FOUNDERS WEALTHY MEN?
4. ARE YOU GETTING A "FEELING" THAT CAN IDENTIFY WITH OUR CO-FOUNDERS?
5. IS THE "SPIRIT OF AA" IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE?
6. DID YOU NOTE BIBICAL ATTITUDES IN AA'S EARLY MEMBERS?
7. DO YOU RECALL THE STATEMENT "THE MINORITY SHOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN IN AA?" WHY IS THIS STATEMENT IMPORTANT?
8. WE HAVE DECLINED ALL OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS, DO YOU KNOW WHY?
9. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THE RICH HAD DONATED MONEY FREELY TO BILL W. AND THE AA MEMBERS?
10. DID YOU REALIZE THAT AA HAS ALWAYS GONE FIRST CLASS?
11. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT AA IS NOTHING MORE THAN FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIANITY?
12. DO YOU BELIEVE THE STATEMENT, "MONEY WILL SPOIL AA"?
13. WOULD MONEY SPOIL THE PERSONAL APPROACH: MAN TO MAN OR EYE BALL TO EYE BALL?
14. DO YOU BELIEVE THE STATEMENT, "MONEY WOULD CREATE A PROFESSIONAL CLASS"?
15. DO YOU BELIEVE MR. ROCKEFELLER SAVED THE AA FELLOWSHIP FROM IT'S GREATEST EMENY: MONEY, PROPERTY AND PROFESSIONALISM"?
16. WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STAND THE SHOCK OF THIS REFUSAL? WOULD YOU HAVE CARRIED ON IN SPIE OF IT?
17. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE NON-ALCOHOLICS HAD MUCH TO DO WITH KEEPING AA FROM FOLDING OR WITH THE ALCOHOLICS QUITING?
18. CAN YOU DEFINE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN NON-ALCOHOLIC AND A ALCOHOLIC?
19. WOULD YOU TRUST ALCOHOLICS WITH THE MONEY BUSINESS OF AA? DO YOU THINK THE NON-ALCOHOLICS ARE A SAFE GUARD?
20. PLEASE EXPLAIN TO THE GROUP THE TYPE OF MAN YOU NOW SEE BILL W., OUR CO-FOUNDER?

CHAPTER FIVE

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED THE START OF THE BOOK, ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AA PROGRAM THROUGH EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE TRYING TO HELP. AGAIN WE SHOULD REALIZE THE INFLUENCE THAT NON-ALCOHOLICS HAD IN AA HISTORY, THE INFLUENCE MONEY MIGHT HAVE HAD IN AA, AND MR. ROCKEFELLER'S REJECTION OF AA. WE ALSO STUDIED THE FORMING OF THE FIRST BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE FIRST AND LAST MONEY RAISING CAMPAIGN OF AA.

CHAPTER FIVE

SOMETIME IN MARCH OR APRIL 1938, BILL BEGAN WORKING ON THE BOOK, WHICH WAS TO BECOME ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS. BY THE TIME THE BIG MONEY PUSH GOT UNDERWAY HE HAD COMPLETED HIS STORY AND HAD ROUGHED OUT THE SECOND CHAPTER OF THE BOOK. MINOGRAPHED COPIES OF THESE TWO CHAPTERS WERE PART OF THE SALES TOOLS OF THE MONEY RAISING OPERATION, WHICH FIZZLED OUT.

THE TRUSTEES CONTINUED HAVING MONTHLY MEETING, FOR ENCOURAGEMENT MOSTLY AND TO LOOK AT A EMPTY TREASURY. EARLY FALL, 1938, FRANK AMOS POPPED UP WITH AN IDEA WHICH OPENED THE DOOR TO THE REAL FUTURE OF AA. FRANK SAID, "ONE OF MY FRIENDS, EUGENE EXMAN, IS RELIGIOUS EDITOR OF HARPER MAGAZINE, PERHAPS HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR NEW BOOK. WHY DON'T YOU GO SHOW HIM THE FEW CHAPTERS YOU HAVE DONE?"

SO DOWN BILL WENT TO SEE MR. EXMAN, ANOTHER WONDERFUL FRIEND OF AA. BILL RELATED THE TALE OF STRUGGLE AND HANDED OVER TO HIM HIS FIRST ATTEMPT AT BOOK WRITING. HE SCANNED THE TWO CHAPTERS AND THEN ASKED, "COULD YOU DO A WHOLE BOOK IN THIS STYLE?" "HOW MANY MONTHS WOULD IT TAKE YOU?" BILL WAS SHAKING, BUT HE ANSWERED IMMEDIATELY. "I BELIEVE I CAN DO IT IN NINE OR TEN MONTHS." THERE UPON MR. EXMAN MADE A PROPOSAL THAT WAS SUPRISING. "IF IT WOULD HELP THINGS ALONG," HE SAID, " HARPER MIGHT BE WILLING TO ADVANCE YOU FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS IN ROYALTIES. THIS AMOUNT WOULD BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR ACCOUNT WHEN THE BOOK IS FINISHED IN 1939."

AGAIN IN THE CLOUDS, BILL LEFT HARPER'S TO BREAK THE NEWS TO THE GANG. FIRST HE HEADED FOR FRANK AMOS. ON THE WAY HIS ELATION WAS DISTRUDED BY A THOUGHT, SUPPOSE THE BOOK WERE SOMEDAY TO BECOME THE BASIC TEXT FOR THE FELLOWSHIP, THEIR PRINCIPLE ASSET WOULD BE OWNED BY A PUBLISHER. BILL WONDERED IF THE FELLOWSHIP SHOULD OWN IT'S BOOK. THEN HE THOUGHT OF THE FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS, ADVANCED ROYALTIES, WHEN THE BOOK WAS DONE,

HE WOULD STILL OWE HARPER THAT SUM AND A GOOD MANY BOOKS WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLD JUST TO GET EVEN. SUPPOSE THAT WHEN THE BOOK WAS FINISHED AND AFTER HEAVY PUBLICITY, THOUSANDS OF CRIES FOR HELP CAME FROM ALCOHOLICS AND THEIR FRIENDS. THEY WOULD NOT HAVE MONEY TO COPE WITH THIS POSSIBLE SITUATION.

BILL KEPT THE MISGIVINGS TO HIMSELF, AND IT WAS GOOD TO SEE FRANK AMOS' FACE LIGHT UP WHEN HE HEARD THE GOOD NEWS. IN ANY CASE IT WAS FINE TO KNOW THAT MR. EXMAN, EDITOR OF HIS CALIBER, AND HARPER WANTED THE BOOK, AND THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD. THIS EXPERIENCE WAS A CONFIDENCE BUILDER THAT KEPT THE BOOK PROJECT ALIVE THROUGH THICK AND THIN.

THE TRUSTEES MET, AND THOUGHT THE HARPER PROJECT WAS THE ANSWER. BILL SHARED HIS DOUBT WITH THE TRUSTEES. THE NON-AA'S WERE NOT IMPRESSED BY BILL'S REASONS. THEY POINTED TO THE WELL-KNOWN-FACT THAT WRITERS SELDOM PUBLISH THEIR OWN BOOKS SUCCESSFULLY. THE MEETING ENDED ON A SOUR NOTE WITH NO CONCLUSIONS REACHED.

HERE IS WHERE THE ACTION STARTED. BILL IN HIS OWN WORDS SAID, "SOON AFTER THE HARPER PROJECT ONE OF THE MOST TERRIFIC POWER-DRIVER'S I HAVE EVER MET GOT INTO THE ACT." THIS WAS BILL'S FRIEND, HENRY P., SOME PEOPLE CALLED HIM 'HANK', A ONE TIME STANDARD OIL EXECUTIVE AND THE VERY FIRST ALCOHOLIC EVER TO STAY SOBER EVEN A LITTLE WHILE IN THE NEW YORK GROUP. HE HAD BEEN A PROTEGE OF DR. SILKWORTH AND A FREQUENT VISTOR TO TOWNS HOSPITAL. HE HAD BEEN SOBER FOR TWO YEARS. HENRY HAD RED HAIR, AT LEAST ONE NEW IDEA A MINUTE AND ENERGY TO BURN. HE WAS NOT A FOUNDATION TRUSTEE AND HE HAD NOT OFFICIAL SAY AT ALL, BUT THAT MATTERED NOT. HE WAS A HARD HITTING SALESMAN, AND HE SOLD HIS GOODS. HE SAID, "LOOK BILL, WHY DO WE BOTHER ANYMORE WITH THOSE TRUSTEES AND THAT FOUNDATION?" THOSE FOLKS HAVEN'T RAISED A CENT AND ARE NOT GOING TOO. WHY DON'T WE PUT THIS BOOK ON A BUSINESS BASIS AND FORM A STOCK COMPANY? LET'S SELL SHARED TO AA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS HERE IN NEW YORK. IF WE GIVE THEM A REAL ARGUMENT, I'LL GUARANTEE THEY WILL RAISE THE MONEY." BEING A NEW YORK STOCKBROKER, BILL HAD TOYED WITH THE IDEA, BUT

HENRY HAD BIGGER IDEAS AND HE BREATHED CONFIDENCE. THEY WOULD ORGANIZE THEIR OWN PUBLISHING COMPANY AND MAYBE THEY WOULD HAVE TO FORGET THE FOUNDATION. BILL TOLD HENRY THAT THE FOUNDATION WOULD NEVER AGREE TO THEIR SCHEME, BUT HENRY'S SKIN WAS THICKER THAN BILL'S. HE SAID THAT IT HAD TO BE DONE AND BILL FINALLY AGREED. HE SAID, "A SOCIETY LIKE AA SHOULD OWN AND CONTROL AND PUBLISH ITS OWN LITERATURE. " TELLING THE TRUSTEES WHAT MR. EXMAN SAID DID NOT REGISTER AT ALL WITH THEM, BUT IT DID GIVE BILL AND HENRY THE ENCOURGMENT THEY NEEDED SO MUCH.

HENRY WASTED NO TIME STARTING TO SELL THE PROPOSITION TO THE NEW YORK MEMBERS. HE BUTTON HOLDED THEM ONE BY ONE, PERSUADING, BROW BEATING, HYPNOTIZING. BILL TRAILED ALONG IN HIS WAKE, TRYING TO SMOOTH RUFFLES FEELINGS AND TRYING TO DISPELL SOME OF THE SUSPICIONS THAT HAD BEEN CREATED ABOUT THEIR MOTIVES. THEY RECEIVED LUKE WARM CONSENT FROM DR. BOB. HE DID THINK IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO LAY THE MATTER BEFORE THE AKRON GROUP. SOME PROMOTION MIGHT BE OK IN NEW YORK, BUT FEW AKRON MEMBERS WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE NECESSITY. HE FELT, TOO THAT THEY SHOULD TRY THE IDEA OUT ON THE TRUSTEES. THEY SURELY SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED.

IN THE MEANWHILE, HENRY AND BILL WERE PERFECTING THEIR PLAN. OF COURSE IT WOULD TAKE A PERSUASIVE PROSPECTUS TO INDUCE ALCOHOLICS TO PART WITH THEIR MONEY FOR STOCK IN A COMPANY THAT HAD NOT YET PRODUCED EVEN ONE BOOK. HOWEVER, THE MORE THEY INVESTIGATED, THE BETTER THE PROPOSITION LOOKED.

HENRY AND BILL WENT TO SEE THE CORNWALL PRESS, ONE OF THE LARGEST PRINTERS IN THE USA. THEY FOUND THAT THE PRINTING COST OF A BOOK IS ONLY TEN PERCENT OF ITS RETAIL PRICE. IF THEY WERE TO PRICE THE BOOK AT \$3.50, THIS WOULD PRACTICALLY BE ALL PROFIT. THERE WOULD BE NO OUTSIDE COMMISSIONS, NO ADVERTISING, NONE OF THE USUAL LOSSES THAT PUBLISHERS HAD TO TAKE ON BOOKS. OF COURSE, THIS BOOK WOULD SELL. THEY COULD NOT FAIL, IT LOOKED

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

THE RED HERRING PROSPECTUS SUGGESTED THAT A COMPANY BE FORMED WITH STOCK OF \$25.00 PAR VALUE. THE NEW YORK ALCOHOLICS AND THEIR FRIENDS COULD BUY ONE THIRD OF THESE SHARES FOR CASH. THE OTHER TWO THIRDS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN HENRY AND BILL FOR THEIR WORK. TO MOLLIFY THE TRUSTEES, ROYALTIES WOULD GO TO THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION. TO THE PROSPECTUS, HENRY ATTACHED A CHART, SHOWING ESTIMATED PROFIT ON 100,000, 500,000 AND ONE MILLION BOOKS. BILL SAID HE HAD FORGOTTEN WHAT HENRY'S HOPES WERE BUT THEY WERE FANTASTIC. BILL WAS NOT THAT OPTIMISTIC, BUT BILL WAS SURE IT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO OPEN AN OFFICE AND PAY THE EXPENSES. HE WAS ALSO CONVINCED THAT AA SHOULD OWN AND PUBLISH ITS OWN LITERATURE.

BILL AND HENRY REALIZED THEIR ENTERPRISE NEEDED TWO ESSENTIALS. IT WAS NOT INCORPORATED AND IT DID NOT HAVE A NAME. HENRY TOOK CARE OF THESE MATTERS. SINCE THE BOOK WAS THE FIRST VOLUME, AND MANY SUCH "WORKS" WERE TO COME LATER HE THOUGHT THE PUBLISHING COMPANY SHOULD BE CALLED "WORKS PUBLISHING, INC.". BILL DID COMPLAIN ABOUT NO INCORPORATION ON WHICH TO BASE SHARES, BUT TO INCORPORATE WOULD TAKE MONEY. THE NEXT DAY BILL FOUND OUT THAT HENRY HAD BOUGHT A PAD OF BLANK STOCK CERTIFICATES AND HAD PRINTED AT THE TOP "WORKS PUBLISHING, INC.", PAR VALUE \$25.00, AT THE BOTTOM THERE WAS A SIGNATURE: HENRY P., PRESIDENT. WHEN BILL PROTESTED THESE IRREGULARITIES, HENRY SAID THERE WAS NO TIME TO WASTE. WHY BE CONCERNED WITH SMALL DETAILS.

SO THE GREAT ENTERPRISE WAS LAUNCHED. HENRY KNEW EVERY TRICK OF BEING A SUPER-SALESMAN, AND HE WENT TO WORK. HENRY DECENDED LIKE A WHIRLWIND ON THE NEW YORK ALCOHOLICS AND SOME OF THEIR FRIENDS, SUGGESTION, DEMANDING THAT THEY TAKE STOCK IN THE NEW VENTURE. BILL WAS NO SECOND CLASS SALESMAN, AT THIS SORT OF THING AND HE FOLLOWED RIGHT ALONG.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, HENRY AND BILL DID NOT SELL EVEN ONE OF THEIR PROPOSED 600 SHARES OF "WORKS PUBLISHING, INC.", CHEAP AS THEY CLAIMED IT WAS. THE NEW

YORK ALCOHOLICS SAID, "FELLOWS, YOU CERTAINLY GOT A NERVE, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT WE WOULD BUY STOCK IN A BOOK NOT YET WRITTEN." HENRY WAS NOT DISCOURGED. HE STILL HAD IDEAS, "BILL," HE SAID, "YOU AND I KNOW THE BOOK IS GOING TO SELL, HARPER THINKS IT WILL SELL, BUT THESE NEW YORK DRUNKS DON'T BELIEVE IT. SOME TAKE IT AS A JOKE AND THE REST TALK HIGH AND HOLY ABOUT MIXING A SPIRITUAL ENTERPRISE WITH MONEY AND PROMOTION, BUT IF THEY THOUGHT THIS BOOK WOULD REALLY SELL, THEY WOULD BUY STOCK. SO, WHY DON'T YOU AND I GO UP AND SEE THE READERS DIGEST PEOPLE AND FIND OUT IF THEY WILL PRINT AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP AND THE BOOK? WE WILL SELL THOSE BOOKS BY THE CARLOADS. ANYBODY CAN SEE THAT, EVEN THOSE TIGHTWAD DRUNKS. SO WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, LET'S GO."

TWO DAYS LATER BILL AND HENRY WERE SETTING IN THE OFFICE OF MR. KENNETH PAYNE, THEN MANAGING EDITOR OF THE DIGEST. BILL AND HENRY DREW A GLOWING PICTURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP AND ITS BOOK TO BE. THEY MENTIONED THE INTEREST OF MR. ROCKEFELLER AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS. MR. PAYNE WAS INTERESTED. AFTER A WHILE HE SAID, "I AM SURE THE DIGEST WOULD LIKE TO HANDLE THE STORY, OF COURSE, I'LL HAVE TO CHECK WITH THE OTHER EDITORS. PERSONALLY I THINK IT IS JUST THE SORT OF THING THE READERS DIGEST IS LOOKING FOR. WHEN YOUR BOOK IS READY NEXT SPRING LET ME KNOW AND I THINK WE CAN PUT A FEATURE WRITER TO WORK. THIS SHOULD BE A GREAT STORY, OF COURSE, I MUST CHECK WITH THE OTHER STAFF MEMBERS; THAT YOU UNDERSTAND."

BILL AND HENRY REACHED FOR THEIR HATS AND SPEEDED TO NEW YORK. THEY HAD REAL AMMUNITION. THEY STARTED A FRESH SALES CAMPAIGN AND THE FORMER DOUBTERS BECAME BELIEVERS. NEARLY EVERYBODY WAS BROKE, SO THEY HAD TO MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM. THEY COULD BUY THEIR SHARES ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN, FIVE DOLLARS A MONTH FOR FIVE MONTHS, PER SHARE. WHEN THE TRUSTEES WERE BROUGHT UP TO DATE, THEIR LOYALTY PICKED UP TOO. SOME AA'S HAD FRIENDS WHO SIGNED UP FOR SMALL AMOUNTS. BILL'S WALL STREET CRONIES TOSSED IN A FEW DOLLARS.

PEOPLE LIKE DR. SILKWORTH AND DR. TIEBOUT LENT A HAND. SOON THEY HAD A SUBSCRIPTION OF 200 SHARES WHICH AMOUNTED TO \$5,000.00, AND A LITTLE MONEY BEGAN TO COME IN. AFTER RECEIVING ASSURANCE THAT THEY MIGHT GET THEIR MONEY BACK, THE SUBSCRIBERS REALLY GOT BEHIND THE BOOK.

QUESTIONS

1. BASED ON THE CONDITIONS OF THE FELLOWSHIP, WOULD YOU HAVE ACCEPTED MR. EXMAN'S OFFER OF THE \$1500.00 ADVANCEMENT?
2. WOULD YOU HAVE AGREED WITH HENRY P. KNOWING WHAT THE NON-ALCOHOLIC TRUSTEES HAD DONE FOR AA.
3. WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF BILL AND HENRY'S MOTIVES?
4. DID YOU NOTE THE CONSERVATIVE VIEW POINTS OF DR. BOB OUR CO-FOUNDER? (NO PROMOTION, ETC.)
5. WOULD YOU HAVE INVESTED YOUR MONEY IN THIS VENTURE?
6. DID YOU ADMIRE OR DID YOU FEEL CONTEMP FOR BILL AND HENRY'S DEALINGS?
7. DID IT APPEAR TO YOU THAT BILL AND HENRY MIGHT HAVE HAD IDEAS OTHER THAN HELPING ALCOHOLICS?
8. DID YOU THINK THAT BILL AND HENRY HAD "EGO"?
9. DO YOU BELIEVE THEY WOULD HAVE DONE MOST ANYTHING TO GET THE SHOW ON THE ROAD?
10. WOULD YOU HAVE ACCEPTED MR. PAYNE'S CONVERSATION AS A FACT, "THE READERS DIGEST WOULD PRINT THE STORY"?
11. WOULD YOU HAVE BOUGHT SHARES ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN?
12. DID YOU NOTE THAT ANYBODY AT THIS TIME COULD PUT THEIR MONEY IN AA, JUST AS LONG AS IT WAS THE "LONG GREEN"?

CHAPTER SIX

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIG BOOK WITH ALL OF ITS SET BACKS AND THE IDEAS FORMULATING THE AA PROGRAM. WE STUDIED HOW HUMAN THE EARLY MEMBERS WERE AND OF THEIR CONVICTION THAT THEY HAD SOMETHING TO HELP OTHER ALCHOLICS. AS THE STORY UNFOLDS IT APPEARS THAT GOD IS ON THEIR SIDE, BUT AT TIMES THEY DID NOT BELIEVE IT.

AT 17 WILLIAM STREET, NEW NEWARK, N. J., HENRY HAD AN OFFICE WHICH WAS HEADQUARTERS FOR A FAILING BUSINESS. HENRY HAD A SECRETARY NAMED RUTH HOCK, WHO WAS TO BECOME ONE OF AA'S REAL PIONEERS. THE OTHER ASSETS CONSISTED OF A HUGH DESK AND SOME PLUSH FURNITURE. EVERY MORNING BILL WOULD TRAVEL FROM BROOKLYN TO NEWARK, WHERE WHILE PACING UP AND DOWN THE OFFICE, HE WOULD DICTATE ROUGH DRAFTS OF THE CHAPTERS OF THE COMING BOOK. BILL WAS UNABLE TO COME UP WITH A GENUINE OUTLINE FOR THE PUBLICATION, HE WORKED FROM A HASTILY DRAWN UP LIST OF POSSIBLE CHAPTERS HEADINGS. WEEK AFTER WEEK HENRY RACED AROUND AMONG THE STOCK HOLDERS PRODDING THEM FOR THEIR INSTALLMENTS. IN ADDITION TO THIS MONEY, THEY WERE ABLE TO SECURE TWENTY_FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FROM MR. CHARLES B. TOWNS. MOST OF THESE FUNDS HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO OFFICE EXPENSES AND GROCERIES FOR HENRY, RUTH, LOIS, AND BILL. THEY KEPT GOING ON THIS BASIS UNTIL APRIL 1939, THE PUBLICATION DATE OF THE BOOK ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

AS THE CHAPTERS WERE SLOWLY ROUGHED OUT, BILL READ THEM TO THE NEW YORK GROUP AT IT'S WEEKLY MEETING IN BILL AND LOIS'S PARLOR AT CLINTON STREET, AND COPIES WERE SENT TO DR. BOB FOR CHECKING AND CRITICISM IN AKRON, WHERE THE BOOK HAD NOTHING BUT THE WARMEST SUPPORT. IN THE NEW YORK MEETING THE CHAPTERS GOT A REAL WORKING OVER.

BILL WOULD REDICTATE THE CHAPTERS AFTER A MEETING AND RUTH WOULD RETYPE. IN SPITE OF THE HEATED ARGUMENTS, THE NEW YORK GROUP'S CRITICISM DID HELP.

SO THE BOOK WENT UNTIL BILL REACHED CHAPTER FIVE. UP TO THIS TIME BILL HAD DONE HIS OWN STORY AND DRAFTED THREE MORE CHAPTERS WITH THE TITLES, "THERE IS A SOLUTION", "MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM", AND "WE AGNOSTICS". IT WAS NOW REALIZED THAT ENOUGH BACKGROUND AND WINDOW DRESSING MATERIAL HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN THESE CHAPTERS. NOW HE HAD TO TELL HOW THE PROGRAM OF RECOVERY FROM ALCOHOLISM REALLY WORKED. THE BACKBONE OF THE BOOK WOULD HAVE

TO BE FITTED IN HERE, CHAPTER FIVE.

THIS PROBLEM HAD SECRETLY WORRIED BILL, FOR HE HAD NEVER WRITTEN ANYTHING IN HIS LIFE, AND NEITHER HAD ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF AA IN NEW YORK. PROGRESS ON THE BOOK HAD BEEN SLOW, THE HASSLING OVER THE FOUR CHAPTERS ALREADY FINISHED HAD REALLY BEEN A STRUGGLE. BILL WAS EXHAUSTED. MANY DAYS, BILL FELT LIKE THROWING THE BOOK OUT OF THE WINDOW.

BILL WAS ANYTHING BUT IN A SPIRITUAL MOOD ON THE NIGHT WHEN THE TWELVE STEPS WERE WRITTEN. BILL LAY IN BED WITH PENCIL IN HAND AND WITH A SCRATCH PAD ON HIS KNEE, HE COULD NOT GET HIS MIND ON THE JOB MUCH LESS PUT HIS HEART INTO IT. SLOWLY HIS MIND CAME INTO SOME KIND OF FOCUS.

BILL STARTED THINKING OF EBBY'S VISIT IN THE FALL OF 1934, SINCE THAT TIME THE PROGRAM HAD EVOLVED TO WHAT THEY CALLED "THE WORD OF MOUTH PROGRAM." MOST OF THE BASIC IDEAS HAD COME FROM THE OXFORD GROUPS, WILLIAM JAMES AND DR. SILKWORTH. IT ALL BOILED DOWN TO A PRETTY CONSISTENT PROCEDURE WHICH COMPRISED OF SIX STEPS, AS FOLLOW:

- (1) WE ADMITTED THAT WE WERE LICKED, THAT WE WERE POWERLESS OVER ALCOHOL.
- (2) WE MADE A MORAL INVENTORY OF OUR DEFECTS OR SINS.
- (3) WE CONFESSED OR SHARED OUR SHORTCOMINGS WITH ANOTHER PERSON IN CONFIDENCE.
- (4) WE MADE RESTITUTION TO ALL THOSE WE HAD HARMED BY OUR DRINKING.
- (5) WE TRIED TO HELP OTHER ALCOHOLICS, WITH NO THOUGHT OF REWARD IN MONEY OR PRESTIGE.
- (6) WE PRAYED TO WHATEVER GOD WE THOUGHT THERE WAS FOR POWER TO PRACTICE THESE PRECEPTS.

THIS WAS THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT, BY THE FALL OF 1938, AA WAS TELLING NEWCOMERS. THE OXFORD GROUP'S OTHER IDEAS AND ATTITUDES HAD BEEN REJECTED, INCLUDING ANY WHICH COULD INVOLVE THEM IN A THEOLOGICAL CONTROVERSY. THERE WAS STILL CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NEW YORK AND AKRON VIEWPOINTS. AA PEOPLE IN AKRON WERE STILL ACTIVE OXFORD GROUP MEMBERS. WHILE NEW YORK HAD WITHDRAWN THE YEAR BEFORE. IN AKRON AND VICINITY THEY STILL TALKED ABOUT

THE OXFORD GROUP ABSOLUTES, ABSOLUTE HONEST, ABSOLUTE PURITY, ABSOLUTE UNSELFISHNESS AND ABSOLUTE LOVE. THIS DOSE WAS A LITTLE TOO RICH FOR THE NEW YORKERS, AND THEY ABANDONED THE EXPRESSIONS. EAST AND WEST PLACING EMPHASIS ON DR. SILKWORTH'S OBSESSION, PLUS ALLERGY. BY NOW THEY KNEW THAT NEW PROSPECTS HAD TO ACCEPT STEP ONE OR GET NO PLACE.

BILL'S MIND RAN OVER THESE DEVELOPMENTS, IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE PROGRAM WAS STILL NOT DEFINITE ENOUGH. IT MIGHT BE A LONG TIME BEFORE READERS OF THE BOOK IN DISTANT PLACES COULD BE PERSONALLY CONTACTED. THEREFORE, AA LITERATURE WOULD HAVE TO BE AS CLEAR AND COMPREHENSIVE AS POSSIBLE. THE STEPS WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE EXPLICIT. THERE MUST NOT BE A SINGLE LOOP HOLE THROUGH WHICH RATIONALIZING ALCOHOLICS COULD WIGGLE OUT. MAYBE THE SIX CRUCHES OF TRUTH SHOULD BE BROKEN UP INTO SMALLER PEECES. THUS THE PROGRAM COULD BETTER GET THE DISTANT READERS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION, AND AT THE SAME TIME BE ABLE TO BROADEN AND DEEPEN THE SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM.

BILL STARTED TO WRITE, HE SET DOWN THE SIX STEPS; RELAXED AND ASKED FOR GUIDANCE, WITH SPEED THAT IS ASTONISHING, BILL COMPLETED THE FIRST DRAFT. IT TOOK PERHAPS THIRTY MINUTES. WHEN BILL REACHED A STOPPING POINT, HE NUMBERED THE STEPS. THEY ADDED UP TO TWELVE, SOMEHOW THE NUMBER SEEMED SIGNIFICANT, WITHOUT ANY SPECIAL REASON BILL CONNECTED THEM WITH THE TWELVE APOSTLES.

ABOUT THE TIME BILL FINISHED THE STEPS, HE HAD TWO LATE CALLERS. ONE WAS HOWARD A., WITH HIS NEWCOMER, DRY BARELY THREE MONTHS. BILL READ THEM THE NEW VERSION OF THE PROGRAM, NOW THE TWELVE STEPS. HOWARD AND HIS FRIEND REACTED VIOLENTLY, WHY TWELVE STEPS, THEY DEMAND. 'YOU'RE GOT TO MUCH 'GOD' IN THESE STEPS, YOU WILL SCARE PEOPLE AWAY. WHAT DO YOU MEAN GETTING DRUNKS DOWN ON THEIR KNEES, WHEN THEY ASK TO HAVE ALL THEIR SHORTCOMINGS REMOVED. WHO WANTS ALL THEIR SHORTCOMING REMOVED? HOWARD SAW

BILL'S UNEASINESS, AND ADDED, "WELL SOME OF THIS STUFF DOES SOUND PRETTY GOOD AFTER ALL. BUT, BILL YOU HAVE TO TONE IT DOWN. IT'S TOO STIFF, THE AVERAGE ALCOHOLIC JUST WON'T BUY IT THE WAY IT STANDS."

BILL SPANG TO THE DEFENSE OF EVERY WORD IN HIS NEW CREATION. A TERRIFIC DISCUSSION DEVELOPED WHICH COOLED ONLY WHEN LOIS CAME HOME TWO HOURS LATER. SHE SAID, "LETS HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE AND FORGET ABOUT IT FOR AWHILE."

THE PEOPLE IN AKRON LIKED THE TWELVE STEPS VERY MUCH. AS THE REMAINDER OF THE TEXT DEVELOPED, BASED ON THE TWELVE STEPS, THEY CONTINUED TO REPORT THEIR APPROVAL. IN NEW YORK, THE HOT DEBATE OVER THE TWELVE STEPS AND THE BOOK'S CONTENTS WAS DOUBLED AND REDOUBLED. THERE WERE CONSERVATIVE, LIBERAL AND RADICAL VIEWPOINTS. FITZ M., THE EPISCOPAL MINISTER'S SON, MADE CONSTANT JOURNEYS FROM MARYLAND IN ORDER TO REINFORCE THE CONSERVATIVE POSITION. FITZ THOUGHT THAT THE BOOK OUGHT TO BE CHRISTAIN IN THE DOCTRINAL SENSE AND THAT IT SHOULD SAY SO. HE WAS IN FAVOR OF USING BIBLICAL TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS TO MAKE IT CLEAR. OTHERS ALSO AGREED.

THE LIBERALS WERE THE LARGEST GROUP AND THEY HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THE WORD "GOD", THROUGHOUT THE BOOK, BUT THEY WERE DEAD SET AGAINST ANY OTHER RELIGIOUS PROPOSITION. SPIRITUALITY YES, BUT RELIGION NO. MOST MEMBERS BELIEVED IN SOME SORT OF DEITY. BUT RELIGION, THEY COULD NOT POSSIBLY AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES, SO HOW COULD AA WRITE A BOOK THAT CONTAINED ANY SUCH MATTERS. ALCOHOLICS HAD TRIED THE MISSIONS, THEY REBELED ABOUT THIS VERY THING. THE LIBERALS SAID THEY DID NOT WANT TO BE CRITICIAL, JUST STATE HARD FACTS. THESE CONTENTIONS COULD NOT BE DENIED. THEY COULD NOT AGREE ON A RELIGIOUS BASIS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP.

THE RADICAL LEFT WINGERS, THE ATHLESTS, AND ANGOSTICS MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION, LEAD BY THE SUPER SALESMAN HENRY. AT FIRST THEY DEMANDED THE WORD "GOD" DELETED FROM THE BOOK ENTIRELY. HENRY HAD COME TO BELIEVE IN SOME KIND OF UNIVERSAL POWER. BUT HE HAD A FRIEND JIMMY B., WHO WAS

ALWAYS DENOUNCING GOD IN THE MEETINGS. SOME MEMBERS HAD BEEN SO ANGRY THEY WANTED TO THROW HIM OUT OF THE GROUP. BUT MOST OF THE GROUP THOUGHT BETTER TO LET HIM TALK ON, BELIEVING HE WOULD CHANGE HIS MIND, WHICH HE DID LATER. WHAT HENRY AND JIMMY AND COMPANY WANTED WAS A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOK WHICH WOULD LURE THE ALCOHOLIC IN. ONCE IN, THE PROSPECTS COULD TAKE GOD OR LEAVE HIM ALONE AS HE WISHED. THIS WAS A SHOCKING PROPOSAL. ACTUALLY THE GROUP CONSCIENCE WAS AT WORK TO CONSTRUCT THE MOST ACCEPTABLE AND EFFECTIVE BOOK POSSIBLE. EVERY VOICE IN IT WAS PLAYING ITS APPOINTED PART TO CREATED THE OUTCOME OF THIS BOOK.

BILL, WHO HAD TO DO THE WRITING, WAS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS ARGUING. THE LIBERALS WERE THE LARGER GROUP, BUT THEY BARELY OUT NUMBERED THE COMBINED CONSERVATIVES AND RADICALS, FOR A TIME IT APPEARED PERMANEDNT DISAGREEMENT WOULD PREVAIL.

BILL FINALLY ASKED THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FINAL JUDGE OF WHAT THE BOOK SAID. SEEING THAT THEY WOULD GET NOWHERE WITHOUT SUCH A POINT OF DECISION, MOST OF THE MEMBERS AGREED.

QUESTIONS

1. DID YOU REALIZE THAT BILL W. HAD NEVER WRITTEN A BOOK IN HIS LIFE?
2. DID YOU KNOW THAT BILL W. WROTE THE BIG BOOK ON SHEER GUTS AND FAITH HE ACQUIRED FROM HIS SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE?
3. ARE YOU BEGINNING TO REALIZE THE VAST DEBT OF GRATITUDE YOU OWE TO THE PEOPLE WHO CARRIED ON IN AA BEFORE YOU? WERE PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU, WITH THE SAME PROBLEMS YOU HAVE?
4. DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIG BOOK OF AA IS WRITTEN BACKWARDS, ACCORDING TO SOME EXPERTS?
5. DID YOU KNOW BILL W. DID NOT KNOW HOW TO PRESENT THE PROGRAM OF AA IN CHAPTER FIVE?
6. WHAT QUESTIONS, ARGUMENTS AND CRITICISM DISCOURAGED YOU TO THE POINT OF QUITTING?
7. DO YOU THINK WE WOULD HAVE HAD AA TODAY IF IT HAD BEEN HANDED DOWN BY WORD OF MOUTH?
8. WOULD THE OXFORD ABSOLUTES HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR YOU?
9. DO YOU ACCEPT DR. SILKWORTH'S DEFINITION OF ALCOHOLISM, "OBSESSION OF THE MIND, ALLERGY OF THE BODY"?
10. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT NEW MEMBERS MUST ACCEPT STEP ONE OR GET NO PLACE?
11. DO YOU FIND AA LITERATURE CLEAR AND COMPREHENSIVE?
12. DO YOU FIND THE TWELVE STEPS OF AA EXPLICIT ENOUGH?
13. HAVE YOU FOUND A LOOP HOLE BY WHICH YOU CAN WIGGLE OUT OF AA?
14. DO YOU REALIZE NOW HOW MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION DR. SILKWORTH HAD ON BILL W.?
15. DO YOU BELIEVE "WHEN THE PUPIL IS READY, THE TEACHER WILL APPEAR"? WAS BILL READY TO WRITE THE TWELVE STEPS? DID HE HAVE SPIRITUAL HELP?
16. DO YOU BELIEVE, "THERE MUST BE PRESSURE BROUGHT TO BEAR" TO TEST STRENGTH?
17. DO YOU THINK THE ORIGINAL TWELVE STEPS ARE TOO STIFF?
18. DO YOU THINK BILL IS SINGLE-MINDED? IS HE EASILY CHANGED? IS HE A MAN OF CONVICTIONS?
19. CAN YOU SEE THE BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AA MEMBERS OF NEW YORK AND THE MEMBERS OF AKRON? WHAT DIFFERENCES DO YOU SEE?
20. DO YOU BELIEVE THE TEMPERMENT OF THE AKRON AA MEMBERS WAS A RESULT OF DR. BOB'S TEMPERMENT?
21. DO YOU BELIEVE THE TEMPERMENT OF THE NEW YORK AA MEMBERS WAS A RESULT OF BILL'S TEMPERMENT?

22. WOULD YOU HAVE GONE ALONG WITH FRITZ M.'S THEORY: THE BOOK SHOULD BE CHRISTAIN IN DOCTRINAL SENSE AND USE BIBLICAL TERMS? WOULD THIS HAVE TURNED YOU ON OR OFF?
23. WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A CONSERVATIVE, LIBERAL OR RADICAL BY THE DEFINITION OF THE EARLY AA'S?
24. WOULD YOU HAVE GOTTEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ARGUMENT? WOULD YOU HAVE AGREED WITH BILL W. (BASED ON THIS STUDY) FINAL JUDGMENT?

Chapter Five

HOW IT WORKS

Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our directions. Those who do not recover are people who cannot or will not completely give themselves to this simple program, usually men and women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves. There are such unfortunates. They are not at fault; they seem to have been born that way. They are naturally incapable of grasping and developing a way of life which demands rigorous honesty. Their chances are less than average. There are those, too, who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders, but many of them do recover if they have the capacity to be honest.

Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it --then you are ready to follow directions.

At some of these you may balk. You may think you can find an easier, softer way. We doubt if you can. With all the earnestness at our command, we beg of you to be fearless and thorough from the very start. Some of us have tried to hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely.

Remember that you are dealing with alcohol -- cunning, baffling, powerful! Without help it is too much for you. But there is One who has all power --That One is God. You must find Him now!

Half measures will avail you nothing. You stand at the turning point. Throw yourself under His protection and care with complete abandon.

Now we think you can take it! Here are the steps we took, which are suggested as your Program of Recovery:

1. Admitted we were powerless over alcohol -- that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care and direction of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely willing that God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly, on our knees, asked Him to remove our shortcomings -- holding nothing back
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make complete amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual experience as the result of this course of action, we tried to carry this message to others, especially alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

You may exclaim, "What an order! I can't go through with it." Do not be discouraged. No one among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles. We are not saints. The point is, that we are willing to grow along spiritual lines. The principles we have set down are guides to progress. We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection.

Our description of the alcoholic, the chapter to the agnostic, and our personal adventures before and after, have been designed to sell you three pertinent ideas:

- (a) That you are alcoholic and cannot manage your own life.
- (b) That probably no human power can relieve your alcoholism.
- (c) That God can and will.

If you are not convinced on these vital issues, you ought to re-read the book to this point or else throw it away!

If you are convinced, you are now at step three, which is that you make a decision to turn your will and your life over to God as you understand Him. Just what do we mean by that, and just what do we do?

The first requirement is that you see that any life run on self-will can hardly be a success. On that basis we are almost always in collision with something or somebody, even though our motives may be good. Most people try to live by self-propulsion. Each person is like an actor who wants to run the whole show: is forever trying to arrange the lights, the ballet, the scenery and the rest of the players in his own way. If his arrangements would only stay put, if only people would do as he wishes, the show would be great. Everybody, including himself, would be pleased. Life would be wonderful. In trying to make these arrangements our actor may sometimes be quite virtuous. He may be kind, considerate, patient, generous; even modest and self-sacrificing. On the other hand, he may be mean, egotistical, selfish and dishonest. But, as with most humans, he is more likely to have varied traits.

What usually happens? The show doesn't come off very well. He begins to think life doesn't treat him right. He decides to exert himself some more. He becomes, on the next occasion, still more demanding or gracious, as the case may be. Still the play does not suit him. Admitting he may be somewhat at fault, he is sure that other people are more to blame. He becomes angry, indignant, self-pitying. What is his basic trouble? Is he not really a self-seeker even when trying to be kind? Is he not a victim of the delusion that he can wrest satisfaction and happiness out of this world if he only manages well? Is it not evident to all the rest of the players that these are the things he wants? And do not his actions make each of them wish to retaliate, snatching all they can get out of the show? Is he not, even in his best moments, a producer of confusion rather than harmony?

Our actor is self-centered -- ego-centric, as people like to call it nowadays. He is like the retired business man who lolls in the Florida sunshine in the winter

CHAPTER SEVEN

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED THE WRITING AND THE DISCUSSION OF THE MATERIAL BEING WRITTEN FOR THE BIG BOOK; ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES IN AA, THE CONSERVATIVE, THE LIBERAL, AND THE RADICAL. WE STUDIED BILL'S WRITING OF THE TWELVE STEPS AND THE REMARKS THEY CAUSED.

IN A SHORT TIME IT WAS FOUND THAT SOMETHING MORE WAS NEEDED IN THE BOOK. THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A STORY OR CASE HISTORY SECTION. THEY WOULD HAVE TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE IN THE FORM OF LIVING PROOF, WRITTEN TESTIMONIALS OF THE MEMBERSHIP. IT WAS ALSO FELT THAT THE STORY SECTION COULD IDENTIFY WITH THE DISTANT READERS IN A WAY THAT THE TEXT MAY NOT. THE AKRON GROUP WAS THE LARGER AND HAD MORE CASE HISTORY MATERIAL, AND THE MEANS OF PUTTING IT IN STORY FORM. TWO YEARS EARLIER A FORMER NEWS PAPERMAN, JIM S. HAD BEEN LIFTED FROM SKIDROW AND NURSED BACK TO HEALTH AND SOBRIETY. JIM AND DR. BOB WENT AFTER ALL MEMBERS IN AKRON WHO HAD SUBSTANTIAL SOBRIETY RECORDS FOR TESTIMONIAL MATERIAL. IN MOST CASES JIM INTERVIEWED AND WROTE STORIES FOR THEM. DR. BOB WROTE HIS OWN STORY. BY JANUARY THEY HAD PRODUCED EIGHTEEN STORIES. TWO OF THEM CAME FROM CLEVELAND.

NEW YORK PRODUCED TEN STORIES. THE STORY SECTION OF THE BOOK WAS COMPLETED IN THE LATER PART OF JANUARY, 1939. SO AT LAST THE TEXT WAS COMPLETED. THE END OF THEIR MONEY SUPPLY WAS DEFINITELY IN SIGHT AND THEY WERE PREPARING TO RUSH THE BOOK TO PRESS.

SOMEONE SOUNDED A NOTE OF CAUTION. HOW DO WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT THIS BOOK WILL BE WIDELY ACCEPTED BY EVERYONE? IT MAY HAVE MEDICAL ERRORS OR MATERIAL THAT WILL OFFEND OUR FRIENDS OF RELIGION. FOUR HUNDRED MIMEOGRAPHY COPIES OF THE BOOK WERE MADE AND SENT TO EVERYONE THEY COULD THINK OF WHO MIGHT BE CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM OF ALCOHOLISM. EACH COPY STAMPED "LOAN COPY" TO PROTECT THEIR FUTURE COPYRIGHTS.

WHILE THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE RETURNS TO COME IN, TWO HOT CONTROVERSIES GOT UNDER WAY. THOUGH BILL HAD LABELED THE MIMEOGRAPH ISSUE "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS", THIS TITLE WAS STILL UNACCEPTABLE TO A GREAT MANY PEOPLE.

THE AKRON AND NEW YORK GROUPS HAD BEEN VOTING FOR MONTHS ON A POSSIBLE TITLE. THE TITLE "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS" HAD APPEARED VERY EARLY, PROBABLY IN OCT., 1938. AFTER THE NEW YORK GROUP HAD LEFT THE OXFORD GROUPS IN 1937

THEY OFTEN DESCRIBED THEMSELVES AS A "NAMELESS BUNCH OF ALCOHOLICS". FROM THIS PHASE IT WAS ONLY A SMALL STEP TO THE IDEALS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

BILL LIKED THIS TITLE VERY MUCH, FROM THE START THE TITLE "THE WAY OUT" WAS POPULAR. IF THE BOOK HAD TAKEN THIS TITLE, BILL WOULD HAVE ADDED HIS SIGNATURE. HE BEGAN TO FORGET THAT THIS WAS EVERYONES BOOK. IN ONE OF HIS DARK MOMENTS HE EVEN CONSIDERED CALLING THE BOOK "THE B. W. MOVEMENT". A FEW FRIENDS PROMPTLY SLAPPED HIM DOWN. BILL SAID THE TEMPATION WAS "A SHAMELESS PIECE OF EGOTISM". AFTER THAT BILL VOTED FOR "ALCCHOLICS ANONYMOUS".

OVER A HUNDRED TITLES WERE CONSIDERED. IN NEW YORK "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS" WAS THE FAVORITE. IN AKRON THE MAJORITY WENT FOR "THE WAY OUT". THEY SENT FITZ, THE MINISTER'S SON FROM MARYLAND TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND FOUND THAT THERE WERE TWELVE BOOKS NAMED "THE WAY OUT" AND NOT ONE CALLED "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS". THEY WERE NOT ABOUT TO HAVE NUMBER THIRTEEN CALLED "THE WAY OUT". THEY LEFT THE NAME "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS" IN THE COPY AND SENT IT TO THE PRINTERS. THAT IS THE STORY OF THE TITLE OF THE BOOK AND HOW THE FELLOWSHIP GOT ITS NAME.

JUST BEFORE THE MANUSCRIPT WAS FINISHED AN EVENT OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TOOK PLACE. AT THE TIME IT LOOKED LIKE JUST ANOTHER BATTLE OVER THE BOOK. PRESENT IN HENRY'S OFFICE WERE HENRY, FITZ, RUTH AND BILL. THE ARGUMENT WAS ABOUT THE TWELVE STEPS. AT THIS TIME BILL REFUSED TO BUDGE ON THE STEPS. HE HAD CONSISTENLY USED THE WORD "GOD" AND IN THE SEVENTH STEP, THE EXPRESSION, "ON OUR KNEES". PRAYING TO GOD ON ONE'S KNEES WAS A BIG AFFRONT TO HENRY, THE SUPER SALESMAN. HE ARGUED, HE BEGGED, HE THREATENED. HE QUOTED HIS BUDDY JIMMY. HE WAS POSITIVE THIS WOULD RUN ALCOHOLICS OFF BY THE THOUSANDS, WHEN THEY READ THE TWELVE STEPS. LITTLE BY LITTLE RUTH AND FITZ CAME TO SEE THE MERIT IN HIS ARGUMENT. BILL WOULD NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT. FINALLY BILL AND HENRY GOT TO TALKING ABOUT A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE. WHO SUGGESTED THE WORDS, IT DOESN'T MATTER, BUT THE COMPROMISE DOES IN STEP

TWO DESCRIBE "GOD" AS "A POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES", IN THE THIRD AND ELEVENTH STEPS, "GOD AS WE UNDERSTAND HIM". AND IN STEP SEVEN "ON YOUR KNEES" WAS DELETED. AS A LEAD-IN SENTENCE IN CHAPTER FIVE TO ALL THE STEPS THEY WROTE THESE WORDS "HERE ARE THE STEPS WE TOOK, WHICH ARE SUGGESTED AS A PROGRAM OF RECOVERY". THIS CHANGE MADE THE ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS TWELVE STEPS SUGGESTIONS ONLY.

SUCH WERE THE FINAL CONCESSIONS. THE ATHEISTS AND THE AGNOSTICS WIDEN THE GATEWAY SO THAT ALL WHO SUFFER, MIGHT PASS THROUGH, REGARDLESS OF THEIR BELIEF OR LACK OF BELIEF. GOD WAS CERTAINLY THERE IN THE STEPS. HE (GOD) WAS NOW EXPRESSED IN TERMS THAT ANYBODY COULD ACCEPT AND TRY.

GREAT NUMBERS OF THE FOUR HUNDRED MINEOGRAPH COPIES WHICH HAD BEEN SENT OUT HAD BEEN RETURNED. THE TOTAL REACTION WAS GOOD. MANY HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS HAD BEEN MADE, AND TWO OF THESE WERE VERY IMPORTANT.

DR. HOWARD, A WELL-KNOWN PSYCHICTRIST OF MONTCLAIR, N. J., POINTED OUT THAT THE TEXT OF THE BOOK WAS TOO FULL OF THE WORDS "YOU AND MUST". HE SUGGESTED THEY SUBSTITUTE WHEREVER POSSIBLE SUCH EXPRESSIONS AS "WE OUGHT" OR "WE SHOULD". HIS IDEA WAS TO REMOVE ALL FORMS OF COERCION. TO PUT THE FELLOWSHIP ON A "WE OUGHT" BASIS INSTEAD OF A "YOU MUST BASIS". TO MAKE THE SHIFT WAS A BIG JOB.

THEY WERE WELL PLEASED WHEN THEY HEARD FROM THE NEW YORK CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE. THE ONLY CHANGE THEY SUGGESTED WAS IN BILL'S STORY, CHAPTER ONE, THAT SAID "WE HAVE FOUND HEAVEN RIGHT HERE ON THIS GOOD OLD EARTH". THEY SUGGESTED CHANGING THE WORD "HEAVEN" TO "UTOPIA" AND THAT WAS DONE.

NOTHING NOW REMAINED EXCEPT TO PREPARE THE PRINTER'S COPY OF THE BOOK. THEY SELECTED A MINEOGRAPH COPY, AND IN HENRY'S SUPER CLEAR HANDWRITING ALL THE CORRECTIONS WERE TRANSFERRED. HENRY AND BILL WENT TO NEW YORK AND SOON FOUND THEMSELVES FACE TO FACE WITH EDWARD BLACKWELL, PRESIDENT OF CORNWELL PRESS. IN HIGH SPIRITS THEY TOLD HIM, "WE ARE READY TO GO".

MR. BLACKWELL WANTED TO KNOW HOW MANY COPIES TO PRINT. WITH THE "READERS DIGEST" IN MIND, THEY WERE STILL THINKING OF CARLOADS. "THOUGH IMPRESSED". MR. BLACKWELL SUGGESTED FIVE THOUSAND COPIES FOR THE FIRST PRINTING. THEN HE ASKED WHAT FINANCIAL TERMS THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE. THEY CAUTIOUSLY LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEIR CASH WAS TEMPORPARILY LOW. POINTING OUT WHAT THE "READERS DIGEST ARTICLE" COULD AND WOULD DO FOR THE BOOK, HENRY MENTIONED A FIGURE OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST DOWN PAYMENT ON THE FIVE THOUSAND BOOKS. MR. BLACKWELL WAS STARTLED AND LOOKED IT. "WHAT ABOUT THAT ROCKEFELLER CONNECTION?" HE ASKED. THEY REPLIES THAT THEY HAD BETTER HOLD THAT IN RESERVE; AA WAS TRYING TO MANAGE THIS THING ON THEIR OWN. MR. BLACKWELL, HAVING ALREADY CAUGHT THE AA SPIRIT, SAID, WITH A TWINKLE IN HIS EYE, "WELL, I GUESS THAT WILL DO, I'M GLAD TO GIVE YOU A HAND." SO THE PRESSES WERE ABOUT TO ROLL AND AA HAD ANOTHER WONDERFUL FRIEND.

WHEN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH MR. BLACKWELL THE RETAIL PRICE OF \$3.50 WAS PLACED ON THE BOOK. THIS FIGURE WAS THE RESULT OF A LONG AND HEATED ARGUMENT. SOME OF THE MEMBERS INSISTED ON \$1.00, OTHERS WANTED \$2.50. THEY TURNED A DEAF EAR ON HENRY'S PLEA THAT THEY MUST MAKE PROFIT ON THE BOOK OR ELSE THEY COULD NEVER OPERATE A HEADQUARTERS OFFICE, MUCH LESS PAY THE STOCKHOLDERS. HENRY FINALLY WON THE \$3.50 CHARGE AND MR. BLACKWELL WAS DIRECTED TO DO THE JOB ON THE THICKEST PAPER IN HIS SHOP. THE ORIGINAL VOLUME PROVED TO BE SO BULKY THAT IT BECAME KNOWN AS THE "BIG BOOK". OF COURSE THE IDEA WAS TO CONVINCCE THE ALCOHOLIC PURCHASER THAT HE WAS INDEED GETTING HIS MONEY WORTH.

1. BY THIS STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF AA, DOES IT APPEAR TO YOU THAT "WHEN AA IS READY FOR SOMETHING, IT IS ALWAYS THERE?"
2. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS WOULD YOU HAVE VOTED FOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS?
3. DO YOU REALIZE BASED ON WHAT WE HAVE STUDIED ABOUT AA HISTORY THAT THE BIG BOOK INCLUDED JUST REFERENCE TO WHAT WE CALL "ANONYMITY"? WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO BILL THINKING ABOUT NAMING THE BOOK "THE BILL W. MOVEMENT", AND THE COMMENT, "A FEW FRIENDS PROMPTLY SLAPPED HIM DOWN "A SHAMELESS PIECE OF EGOTISM"?"
4. DO YOU SEE HOW SINGLE MINDED BILL WAS? DO YOU THINK THIS WAS AN ASSET FOR AA OR A LIABILITY?
5. DO YOU AGREE WITH HENRY?
6. DO YOU AGREE WITH BILL?
7. WOULD YOU HAVE COMPROMISED?
8. DO YOU THINK THE CHARACTERS DISCUSSED IN THE STUDY TO DATE WERE MEN AND WOMEN JUST LIKE YOU AND I?
9. DO YOU THINK THE STEPS ARE ONLY SUGGESTIONS OR ARE THEY A PART OF YOUR LIFE?
10. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FINAL CONCESSIONS?
11. DO YOU AGREE WITH DR. HOWARD'S SUGGESTIONS?
12. COULD YOU HAVE BLUFFED YOU WAY PAST MR. BLACKWELL, THE PRINTER WITH \$500.00, KNOWING WHAT BILL AND HENRY KNEW?
13. DO YOU THINK BILL AND HENRY CARRIED THEIR SUPER SALESMANSHIP TOO FAR WHEN THEY TOLD THE PRINTER THE BOOK ON THE HEAVEST PAPER HE HAD?

CHAPTER EIGHT

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED THE NEED FOR PERSONAL STORIES IN THE BIG BOOK AND ALSO FROM WHICH GROUPS THEY CAME FROM. WE STUDIED HOW THE FELLOWSHIP AND BOOK TITLE WERE DECIDED UPON. WE DISCUSSED THE COMPROMISE BETWEEN BILL AND HENRY ON THE TWELVE STEPS. WE ALSO STUDIES DR. HOWARD'S SUGGESTION ON THE MANTORY WRITING AND ABOUT BILL AND HENRY ONLY GIVING MR. BLACKWELL \$500.00 FOR THE PRINTING OF THE BOOK. WE ALSO DISCUSSED HOW THE BOOK OF AA IS CALLED THE BIG BOOK.

VERY SOON, AFTER CHECKING INTO THE HOTEL, AT CORNWALL, NEW YORK, HENRY, RUTH, DOROTHY S., CLEVELAND AND BILL WENT TO THE PRINTING PLANT, WITH THE PRECIOUS CORRECTED MANUSCRIPT OF THE BOOK OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. WHEN THE MANAGER SAW THE MESS THE BOOK'S MANUSCRIPT WAS IN, HE WAS SO DISMAYED THAT HE ALMOST SENT THEM BACK TO NEWARK TO RETYPE THE WHOLE MANUSCRIPT. SUPER SALESMAN HENRY PREVAILED UPON HIM TO TRY TO MAKE GALLEYS OFF THE COPY. THIS THEY DID, AND DAY AFTER DAY THEY CORRECTED THESE AS THE PROOF PLATES WERE ISSUED FROM THE SHOP.

ALL MONEY GONE. THE HOTEL CHARGES WERE TWICE AS MUCH AS THE CASH THEY HAD. HENRY, STATED CONFIDENTLY THAT "GOD" WOULD PROVIDE. HENRY HAD LATELY ADOPTED THE THEORY THAT IF GOD WANTED SOMETHING DONE, THEY ONLY HAD TO KEEP RUNNING UP BILL WHICH EVENTUALLY HE, (GOD) WOULD PAY. SO IT FELL ON BILL'S LOT TO GO TO NEW YORK AND PUT THE TOUCH ON MR. TOWNS. MR. TOWNS WAS NOT FAVORABLY IMPRESSED. HE CAME THROUGH WITH THE HOTEL BILL AND ABOUT ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS. SOON THE BOOK PLATES WOULD BE MADE, THE PRESSES WOULD ROLL AND FIVE THOUSAND BOOKS WOULD BE READY WHEN THE "READERS DIGEST" ARTICLE APPEARED. PROSPERITY WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

BILL AND HENRY WENT TO SEE MR. PAYNE, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE "READERS DIGEST", TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING STORY. HENRY REMARKED TO THE MANAGING EDITOR, "WE ARE READY TO SHOOT."

MR. PAYNE SAID IN A WEAK REPLY, "SHOOT WHAT?" HASTILY HE WAS BROUGHT UP TO DATE, AND HE SAID, "OF COURSE, OF COURSE, NOW I REMEMBER. YOU WANTED 'READERS DIGEST' TO PUBLISH AN ARTICLE ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY AND THE BOOK YOU ARE PREPARING. YOU REMEMBER I TOLD YOU THAT I HAD TO CHECK WITH THE REST OF THE STAFF. WELL I DID AND TO MY SURPRISE THEY DID NOT LIKE THE IDEA AT ALL. THEY DID NOT THINK THERE ~~WOULD~~ BE MUCH INTEREST IN A SOCIETY OF ALCOHOLICS. THEY ALSO THOUGHT THE WHOLE THING WOULD BE CONTROVERSIAL, MEDICALLY AND RELIGIOUSLY SPEAKING.

THIS WAS SHATTERING. EVEN HENRY WAS SUNK. THEY PROTESTED BUT TO NO AVAIL. THIS WAS IT. THE BOOK ENTERPRISE HAD COLLASPED.

RIDING HOME, HENRY AND BILL WERE IN A DAZE. WHAT WAS THE MEMBERSHIP, SHAREHOLDERS, TRUSTEES, CORNWALL PRINTING AND MR. TOWNS GOING TO SAY. MAYBE THE PRINTER WOULD TAKE THE BOOK TO PROTECT HIMSELF. WHAT WOULD THEY DO? HOW COULD THEY FACE UP TO THIS? THEY HAD NO IDEAS AT ALL.

THEIR HOMECOMING, PROVED LESS DESTRESSING THAN THEY EXPECTED. A FEW COMPLAINED AND A FEW "I TOLD YOU SO'S". MOST HAD A SPORTING ATTITUDE. AND KEPT SAYING "WHERE IS YOUR FAITH". THE TRUSTEES WERE NICE ABOUT IT TOO, THEY SUGGESTED WEEKLY MEETING TO CONSIDER WAYS AND MEANS TO GET THE BOOK IN TO CIRCULATION. MOST CHEERFUL OF ALL WAS MR. BLACKWELL OF CORNWALL PRINTERS, HE SAID HE HAD NO INTENTION OF TURNING

THE BOOK OVER TO AN OUTSIDE PUBLISHER. HE WOULD SEE THEM THROUGH. HE DID FOR A YEAR TO COME.

IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SOME PUBLICITY WAS REQUIRED TO MOVE BOOKS. MAGAZINE AFTER MAGAZINE WAS INTERVIEWED WITH NO POSITIVE RESULTS. IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS, CORNWALL PRESS INFORMED THEM THAT THE PRINTING WAS READY. IT WAS APRIL, 1939. HENRY ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT A PENNY, WAS TRYING TO GET WORK. RUTH THE SECRETARY WAS PAID IN WORTHLESS "WORK'S PUBLISHING" CERTIFICATES. ALL OF THEM WERE GOING INTO DEBT JUST FOR LIVING EXPENSES.

THE FIRST OF MAY, CLAMITY STRUCK BILL. THE BANK FORCED HE AND LOIS OUT OF THEIR HOME AT 182 CLINTON STREET. BILL DIDN'T EVEN HAVE MONEY TO MOVE HIS FURNITURE. THE WAREHOUSE HAD TO PAY THE MOVERS SO HIS FURNITURE WENT INTO HOCK, AND IT STAYED THAT WAS FOR TWO YEARS.

FRIENDS RALLIED AROUND LOIS AND BILL. A SMALL FUND, JUST ABOUT THE FIRST MONEY THE FOUNDATION EVER HAD, WAS SET UP AS THE LOIS W. REPLACEMENT FUND. AA'S STARTED MAKING SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND AND FROM IT THE TRUSTEES PAYED BILL AND LOIS FIFTY DOLLARS A MONTH. ANOTHER MEMBER LOANED THEM A OLD LINCOLN. HOWARD, THE FELLOW WHO HAD ARGUED SO HARD THE NIGHT THE TWELVE STEPS WERE WRITTEN, HAD A CABIN IN NEW JERSY. BILL AND LOIS STAYED THERE UNTIL NOVEMBER. THIS PRECIOUS TIME GAVE BILL THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIVE THE

BANKRUPT BOOK.

THERE WERE SEVERAL REVIEWS OF THE BOOK, CHIEFLY IN RELIGIOUS PERIODICALS WHICH HAD LITTLE OR NO INFLUENCE ON BOOK SALES. THE NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED A REVIEW, HOWEVER, NOTHING HAPPENED. NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS TO GET DIFFERENT MAGAZINES TO PRINT ARTICLES ABOUT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS FAILED.

ONE DAY A MEMBER NAMED MORGAN, SAID IN A BULL SESSION, "I ONCE SOLD RADIO ADVERTISING AND KNEW GABRIEL HEATER, I KNOW HIM VERY WELL, I AM SURE HE WOULD GIVE US A HAND." SO OFF HE WENT TO SEE MR. HEATTER. SOON HE RETURNED ALL SMILES AND SAID, "MR. HEATTER IS GOING TO GIVE US A BREAK." MR. HEATTER'S PROGRAM WAS A NATIONAL HOOK UP CALLED "WE THE PEOPLE", AND CONSISTED OF THREE MINUTE INTERVIEWS. THE AA STORY APPEALED TO HIM AT ONCE. HE PLANNED TO INTERVIEW MORGAN, SPECIFICALLY HIS RISE AND FALL, AND PRESENT SOME FACTS ABOUT AA. FINALLY HE WOULD PUT IN A PLUG FOR THE BOOK. THIS WAS SIMPLY GREAT, AA WITH NATIONAL COVERAGE.

HENRY'S (THE SUPER-SALESMAN) PROMOTIONAL INSTINCT WAS INSTANTLY REVIVED. HE WANTED TO SEND OUT POSTCARDS TO ALL THE PHYSICIANS EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. TWENTY THOUSAND OF THEM. THE CARD WOULD ASK PHYSICIANS TO LISTEN TO MR. HEATTER AND BUY THE BOOK. "A SURE CURE FOR ALCOHOLISM." ANOTHER WONDERFUL IDEA, ALL THEY NEEDED WAS MONEY. HENRY, TURNED TO THE NEWCOMERS TO BUY SHARES IN "WORK'S PUBLISHING INC.", BUT THEY REFUSED. HE DID SELL THEM ON THE IDEA OF

PROMISSORY NOTES ON THE COMPANY. HENRY EXTRACTED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FROM THEM. THE CARDS WERE MAILED AND THEY SAT BACK AGAIN WAITING FOR THE SALE OF AT LEAST A FEW THOUSAND BOOKS.

MR. HEATTER SET THE DATE FOR MORGAN'S APPEARANCE. SUDDENLY THEY REALIZED MORGAN HAD JUST BEEN RELEASED FROM AN ASYLUM. WHAT IF HE SHOULD BE DRUNK THE DAY OF THE BROADCAST. HOW COULD SUCH A CLAMITY BE AVERTED?

THEY SUGGESTED TO MORGAN THAT HE SHOULD BE LOCKED UP SOME PLACE UNTIL THE NIGHT OF THE BROADCAST. IT TOOK ALL OF SUPER SALESMAN HENRY'S WIT TO PUT THIS ONE OVER, BUT HE DID HOW AND WHERE COULD THEY LOCK HIM UP, WAS THE ONLY REMAINING QUESTION. HENRY WITH FULL FAITH RESTORED SOLEMNLY DECLARED "GOD WILL PROVIDE". HE RECALLED ONE OF THE NEWCOMERS HAD A MEMBERSHIP IN THE DOWNTOWN ATHLETIC CLUB, IT WAS THE PERFECT PLACE. FOR SEVERAL DAYS THEY TOOK TURNS STAYING WITH MORGAN, NIGHT AND DAY, NEVER LETTING HIM OUT OF THEIR SIGHT.

ONCE AGAIN TALK WAS HEARD OF BOOK SALES BY THE CARLOADS. THE APPOINTED EVENING THEY ALL LISTENED TO THE RADIO AT THE APPOINTED TIME. SIGHS OF RELIEF WERE HEARD WHEN MORGAN'S VOICE WAS HEARD. HE HAD MADE THE DEADLINE WITHOUT GETTING DRUNK. THE SHOW WAS GREAT, MR. HEATTER SAW TO THAT. THEY FIGURED THE IMPACT ON AMERICA WAS GOING TO BE SO GREAT, NOT TO MENTION THE TWENTY THOUSAND POSTCARDS, THAT WITHIN

THREE DAYS THEY WOULD BE FLOODED WITH PLEAS FOR HELP AND BOOK ORDERS.

THEY WAITED THREE DAYS AND MARCHED TO THE POST OFFICE, CARRYING TWO SUITCASES. THEY THEN WENT STRAIGHT OT THEIR BOX AND LOOKED IN THE GLASS AND WERE STUNNED TO SEE LESS THAN A HANDFUL PF POSTAL CARDS. HENRY RALLIED, "THINK NOTHING OF IT FOLKS, THEY JUST COULDN'T GET THEM IN THE BOX. " "I BET THEY HAVE A WHOLE BAG FULL OUT BACK." THE MAIL CLERK HANDED THEM EXACTLY TWELVE CARDS. HENRY SAID TO THE CLERK, "THERE MUST BE A LOT MORE." THE CLERK REPLIED. "THAT IS ALL." SICK CLEAR THROUGH THEY LOOKED AT THE TWELVE CARDS. SOME RIBBED THEM UNMERCIFULLY. THE WORST WAS THAT ONLY TWO WERE ORDERS FOR THE BOOK. FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS DOWN THE DRAIN.

THE LANDLORD IN NEWARK GOT TOUGH. THE SHERIFF APPEARED WITH AN EVICTION NOTICE. THEY WERE FORCED TO MOVE TO A SMALLER OFFICE, WONDERING HOW LONG IT WOULD BE UNTIL THE NEXT EVICTION NOTICE WAS SERVED.

SOMEHOW THE BOOK PROJECT HAD TO BE REVIVED. BILL HAD BEEN SOBER NEARLY FOUR YEARS WITH NO PROSPECTS OF ANY INCOME OR THE CERTAINLY OF A PLACE TO LIVE. BY JULY HENRY HAD FOUND ANOTHER JOB, SO THE BOOK PROMOTION WAS LEFT TO RUTH AND BILL. BILL RECEIVED FIFTY DOLLARS A MONTH AND RUTH BROUGHT IN TWENTY DOLLARS A WEEK, PLUS SOME STOCK CERTIFICATES.

IN JULY BILL WENT TO SEE MR. TOWNS WHO GREETED HIM WITH

A BROAD SMILE. HE HAD TRIED HARD TO GET PUBLICITY FOR AA AND HAD FINALLY SUCCEEDED. MR. MORRIS MARLKEY, A WELL KNOWN FEATURE WRITER, AND LONG TIME FRIEND OF MR. TOWNS HAD APPROACHED FULTON OURSLER, EDITOR OF LIBERTY MAGAZINE ABOUT AN ARTICLE ON AA. THIS FRIEND TO BE, INSTANTLY SAW THE POSSIBILITIES AND COMMISSIONED MR. MARKLY TO DO AN ARTICLE. INQUIRED MR. TOWNS, "WHEN CAN YOU GO TO WORK WITH MORRIS?"

MORRIS SOON FINISHED AN ARTICLE TITLED "ALCOHOLIC AND GOD". IT APPEARED IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF LIBERTY, 1939. THIS TIME THEY REALLY HOPED AND BELIEVED THAT THEY HAD TURNED THE CORNER AND INDEED THEY HAD.

THEY FOUND THEMSELVES WITH NO MONEY IN SEPTEMBER. THE RENT WAS DUE, MR. BLACKWELL, MR. TOWNS AND THE OTHER CREDITORS HAD TO BE PAID SOMETHING. IT WOULD BE OCTOBER BEFORE THE MONEY WOULD START COMING IN FROM THE LIBERTY ARTICLE. ONE OF THE NEW YORK MEMBERS, BERT T. , CALLED A CUSTOMER OF HIS, AND AFTER TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO GET A THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM HIM FOR SHARES IN WORKS PUBLISHING, INC.", FINALLY ASKED, "WOULD YOU LEND THEM ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS IF I ENDORSE THE NOTE?" THE MAN LET THEM HAVE THE MONEY, WHICH WAS INDEED GOD SENT AND PROBABLY SAVED THE BOOK AS WELL AS KEEPING AA GOING UNTIL LATE FALL, 1939.

IN SEPTEMBER THE LIBERTY MAGAZINE ARTICLE HIT THE NEWSTANDS. THE MAGAZINE RECEIVED EIGHT HUNDRED URGENT PLEAS FOR HELP. THESE WERE TURNED OVER TO BILL AND RUTH. RUTH

WROTE PERSONAL LETTERS OF EACH OF THEM ENCLOSING A LEAFLET DESCRIBING THE BOOK OF "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS". SEVERAL HUNDRED BOOKS WERE SOLD AT THE FULL PRICE OF \$3.50 AND CORRESPONDENCE WAS INITIATED WITH ALCOHOLICS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. SHORTLY AFTER THE LIBERTY ARTICLE THE "CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER" RAN A SERIES OF ARTICLES. THIS BROUGHT IN MORE NEW BOOK ORDERS. AA WAS FINALLY ON THE MARCH, OUT OF ITS INFANCEY TOWARD ADULTHOOD. LOIS AND BILL HAPPILY WATCHED AA BEGIN TO UNFOLD.

A SAD INCIDENT MARRED THE SPRING OF 1940. THE SMALL NUCLEUS NOT KNOWING WHERE ANY OF THEM WOULD BE LIVING AT ANY ONE POINT CHOOSE POSTOFFICE BOX 658, AT ONE OF NEW YORK'S DOWNTOWN POST OFFICES AS A CENTRAL POINT. IT ALSO SEEMED LOGICAL TO ESTABLISH A SMALL OFFICE NEAR THE BOX. HENRY, THE SUPER SALESMAN, WHO'S JOB WAS IN WESTERN NEW JERSEY, OBJECTED VIOLENTLY, HE WANTED THE BOOK AND RUTH WHEREVER HE WENT. HIS JOB WAS NOT GOING WELL, AND HE WAS ON WHAT WE CALL TODAY "A DRY DRUNK". THE MORE THEY INSISTED ON THE LOCATION OF THE OFFICE THE MORE VIOLENT HE BECAME. HE FINALLY BROKE DOWN COMPLETELY AND WENT ON A TERRIFIC DRUNK AFTER FOUR YEARS OF SOBRIETY. HE NEVER AGAIN SHOWED ANY REAL SIGN OF RECOVERY, AND THE FACT THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST AA MEMBERS IN NEW YORK, MADE THIS EVENT HARD TO TAKE. THE WHOLE GROUP SHIVERED AND ASKED THEMSELVES, IF A MEMBER AS LOYAL AS THIS CAN HAVE A RELAPSE, WHAT IS GOING TO BECOME OF THE REST OF US. ACTUALLY

THE EFFECTS TO MAKE EACH ONE OF THEM MORE VIGILANT.

QUESTIONS

1. HAVE YOU SEEN ANY CHANGE IN HENRY TOWARD "GOD"?
2. WHAT WOULD AA HAVE DONE WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE MR. TOWNS OF TOWNS HOSPITAL?
3. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ELATED, HIGH ON HOPE, FEELING PROSPERITY WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND FOUND YOU HAD COUNTED YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY HATCHED AND THEN _____?
4. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT MR. PAYNE TOLD BILL AND HENRY ABOUT GETTING APPROVAL FROM THE OTHER STAFF MEMBERS? ARE YOU AND I LIKE BILL AND HENRY OR DO WE LISTEN AND HEAR ONLY WHAT WE WANT TO HEAR?
5. HAVE YOU BECOME OPEN MINDED ABOUT NON-ALCOHOLICS BEING INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM? DO YOU THINK THEIR INFLUENCE STABILIZE THE FELLOWSHIP DURING THE EARLY YEARS?
6. IS THERE ANY DOUBT IN YOUR MIND THAT BILL W. WAS A CON MAN OR DO YOU BELIEVE HE HAD "DEPLETION AT DEPTH" AT THE TIME OF HIS SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE?
7. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT EVERY DARK CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING CALLED LAUGHTER, WAS THE MORGAN STORY ONE? CAN YOU IMAGINE THE LAUGHTER CREATED BY THAT EXPERIENCE IN THE FELLOWSHIP?
8. DO YOU BELIEVE THE CATASTROPHIC HAPPENINGS WOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOUR ENTHUSIASM IN THE PROMOTION OF THE BOOK?
9. DID YOU NOTE THE MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE EMPLOYED BY THE SECRETARY A NON-ALCOHOLIC? "WORKS PUBLISHING, INC." STOCK CERTIFICATES.
10. HAVE YOU CATALOGED IN YOUR MIND THE NON-ALCOHOLICS WHO HELPED AA JUST FOR THE ASKING?
11. AGAIN DO YOU REALIZE THAT ALL ACTIVITY WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE HEART OF A DEPRESSION?
12. ISN'T IT SAD THAT WE DEMPHASIZED "GOD" EARLY IN AA, AFRAID IT WOULD DISTRUB NEW MEMBERS, WHEN THE ARTICLE THAT GOT AA INTO BUSINESS WAS TITLED "ALCOHOLIC AND GOD"? ARE WE STILL MISSING THE BOAT TODAY?
13. HOW MANY TIMES DURING THE HISTORY OF AA HAVE THINGS LIKE

"HENRY'S STORY" OCCURED? DOES HIS STORY AND WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM INDICATE TO YOU HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO KEEP LIVING AA ONE DAY AT A TIME, CONTINUITY TAKING INVENTORY AND REVIEWING THE TWELVE STEPS BACK TO DRINKING? DOES AA ONLY GIVE US A DAILY MAINTINANCE PROGRAM?

14. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT "WE HAVE TO GROW OR ELSE 'DETORATE", THAT "THE STATUS QUO CAN ONLY BE FOR TODAY, NEVER TOMORROW, AND THAT CHANGE WE MUST, WE CANNOT STAND STILL."
15. DO YOU SOMETIMES BECOME DEPRESSED LIKE HENRY? WHAT EVENTS IN YOUR LIFE BRINGS THIS ON? DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS TO GETTING BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK. DO YOU AGREE THAT THE CONSTANT EFFORT IN PRACTICING ALL OF THE TWELVE STEPS COULD BE THE ANSWER?
16. WHEN EVENTS OCCUR TODAY, THAT HAPPENED IN HENRY'S CASE, DOES IT MAKE YOU MORE VIGILANT?

CHAPTER NINE

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED ABOUT PUTTING THE BOOK TO PRESS,
MR. TOWNS BAILING THEM OUT OF THE HOTEL, THE BIG DISAPPOINT-
MENT AT THE "READERS DIGEST". THE MEMBERS ATTITUDE ABOUT
THEIR FAILURE. ABOUT THEIR EFFORTS TO GET PUBLICIZED AND THE
MORGAN-HEATTER BROAD CAST, ABOUT THE LIBERTY ARTICILE AND
ABOUT HENRY'S SLIP.

EXPANSION HAD BEEN GREATLY ACCELERATED BY THE LIBERTY ARTICLE, THERE HAD BEEN TERRIFIC GROWTH IN CLEVELAND AND TINY BEGINNINGS HAD BEEN MADE IN MANY OTHER TOWNS AND CITIES. ALL THIS WAS RECORDED BY PLACING PINS IN A MAP IN THE OFFICE. BY EARLY 1940 THERE WERE ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED RECOVERING ALCOHOLICS, MEMBERS OF AA IN THE COUNTRY. THIS WAS A BIG JUMP FROM THE ONE HUNDRED WHEN THE BOOK WAS PUBLISHED IN APRIL, 1939. THE BOOK HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SOMEDAY AA TRAVELERS WOULD FIND A GROUP AT EVERY DESTINATION. THAT HOPE HAD BEGUN TO BECOME A REALITY, THRU THE GRACE OF GOD.

AA MEMBERS THEN WERE THE SAME AS AA MEMBERS ARE TODAY. THE NEW YORK GROUP WAS COMPLAINING THAT THEIR WEEKLY MEETINGS IN THE RENTED PARLOR AT STEINWAY HALL WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH. THEY NEEDED SOMETHING MORE HOME LIKE ON THE ORDER OF MAYBE A CLUB. THE IDEA CAUGHT ON AND TWO MEMBERS SPOTTED JUST THE THING AT 334 1/2 WEST 24TH STREET, AND THE FIRST AA CLUB WAS BORN.

OF COURSE THE CLUB PROMPTLY HAD ITS OWN PECULIAR TROUBLES JUST AS HUNDREDS OF OTHERS HAVE HAD SINCE. THE AA CLUB DID MORE GOOD THAN HARM, HOWEVER ESPECIALLY AFTER THE MEMBERS LEARNED THAT IT HAD TO BE A SIDELINE AND COULD NOT BE MANAGED BY THE AA GROUP AS SUCH.

A LOVELY LADY CALLED "SISTER FRANCIS", WHO HAD FALLEN ON HARD TIMES, OFFERED THE FULL USE OF A FARM IN THE HILLS OF CONNETICUT TO AA MEMBERS, IF THEY WOULD CREATE A BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO LOOK AFTER IT. THIS REST HAVEN CALLED "HIGH WATCH" OFFERED ACCOMMA -

DATIONS FOR MORE THAN TWENTY GUESTS. IT WAS A WONDERFUL SPOT TO SEND ANYONE WHO NEEDED EXTRA TIME TO RECUPERATE AFTER HOSPITALIZATION. MAY AA'S ALSO USED IT FOR VACATIONS. IT WAS A VITAL ASSET IN THE EARLY YEARS OF AA. OVER THE YEARS MANY ALCOHOLICS HAVE PASSED THRU ITS DOORS. LIKE MANY OTHER NON-ALCOHOLICS SISTER FRANCIS WAS INDEED A TRUE FRIEND OF AA.

AT THE FEBRUARY 1940 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, MR. RICHARD RICHARDSON, A FRIEND OF MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR., TURNED UP BEAMING. HE BROKE THE NEWS THAT MR. ROCKEFELLER HAD BEEN FOLLOWING AA'S PROGRESS WITH INTENSE INTEREST. MR. ROCKEFELLER HAD DECIDED THAT HE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING FOR AA. HE PROPOSED A DINNER MEETING TO WHICH HE WOULD INVITE SEVERAL HUNDRED OF HIS OWN FRIENDS AND AQUAINTANCES, TO OFFER THEM A CLIMPSE OF THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR REMARKABLE FELLOWSHIP. MR. RICHARDSON PROPOSED A LIST OF THE PEOPLE TO BE INVITED. IT CONTAINED 400 NAMES OF PROMINENT AND WEALTHY NEW YORKERS. ANYONE COULD EASILY SEE THE COMBINED WEALTH OF THE 400 WAS OVER A BILLION DOLLARS TO THE AA MEMBERS IT APPEARED THAT MR. ROCKEFELLER HAD AT LAST CHANGED HIS MIND AND MONEY TROUBLE WOULD SOON BE A THING OF THE PAST. MR. SHERWOOD WHO HAD WORKED ON THE FIRST DRIVE FOR MONEY WAS ALSO USING HIS INFLUENCE. THIS WAS THE START OF THE MOVEMENT OF AA DECLINING OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS BEGAN TAKING DEFINITE SHAPE AND FORM.

FEBRUARY 8, 1940, THE PARTY WAS HELD AT THE UNION CLUB IN NEW YORK CITY. SOME 75 OF THE FOUR HUNDRED INVITED TURNED UP. MOST

OF THEM WITH RATHER PUZZLED EXPRESSIONS. OBVIOUSLY THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT AA AND A FEW FEARED THAT AA WAS JUST ANOTHER WAY OR SCHEME TO DRY UP THE WORLD. TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS, A NEW YORK AA MEMBER WAS PLANTED AT EACH TABLE. DURING DINNER THIS THAWED THINGS OUT IN A HURRY. THERE WERE MANY QUESTIONS AND SOME OF THE ANSWERS AMAZED THE NOTABLES. MORGAN, MR. HEATTER'S FRIEND, SAT AT ONE OF THE TABLES AND A GRAY HAired BANKER INQUIRED ON HIM, "WHAT INSTITUTION ARE YOU WITH?" MORGAN GRINNED AND REPLIES, "WELL, SIR I AM NOT WITH ANY INSTITUTION AT THE MOMENT. NINE MONTHS AGO, HOWEVER, I WAS A PATIENT IN THE GREYSTONE ASYLUM." THE INTEREST AT THAT TABLE TOOK A SHARP UPTURN.

DR. BOB, CLARENCE S., FOUNDER OF THE CLEVELANG GROUP, AND ANOTHER MEMBER PAUL, WERE THERE FROM THE AKRON AREA. DR. RUSSELL BLAISDELL, WHO WAS KIND ENOUGH TO LET AA WORK WITH PATIENTS AT THE STATE ASYLUM AT ROCKLAND, NEW YORK, ALONG WITH DR. SILKWORTH WERE ALSO PRESENT.

BILL AND BOB WERE TO SPEAK. OTHER MEMBERS WERE TO HANDLE THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD. THE ENTIRE PROCEEDING WAS BACKED BY DR. HARRY FOSDICK, WHO WOULD SPEAK ON RELIGION AND DR. FOSTER KENNEDY WHO WOULD SPEAK ON MEDICINE. THESE TWO MEN WERE WONDERFUL FRIENDS TO AA. DR. FOSDICK WAS THE FIRST CLERGYMAN TO RECOGNIZE AA AND DR. KENNEDY WAS AMONG THE FIRST IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION TO DO LIKEWISE. THEY BOTH HAD GREAT FAITH IN AA.

MR. ROCKEFELLER HAD SUDDENLY TAKEN ILL AND HIS SON "NELSON"

ACTED AS CHAIRMAN. THE DINNER WAS SQUAB ON TOAST. FOR A BUNCH OF EX-DRUNKS THINGS WERE GOING REMARKABLY WELL. HOW COULD MR. ROCKEFELLER DARE TO GO SO FAR OUT ON A LIMB FOR A STRUGGLING FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS?

MR. NELSON ROCKEFELLER EXPRESSED HIS FATHERS INTEREST IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AND INTRODUCED DR. FOSDICK, WHO SPOKE ABOUT HIS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN AA'S FUTURE. MR. ROCKEFELLER ALSO INTRODUCED DR. KENNEDY, WHO IN TURNED WARNLY ENDORSED AA AND READ A LETTER OF PROTEST HE HAD WRITTEN TO THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION DEBUTTING A REVIEW OF THE BOOK OF "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS". THE FACES OF THE GUEST SHOWED SYMPATHETIC INTEREST. IT APPEARED THAT WEARINESS AND WORRY WERE TO BE THINGS OF THE PAST.

MR. ROCKERFELLER, ON BEHALF OF HIS FATHER, THANKED EVERY ONE FOR COMING. HE WAS SURE HIS FATHER WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO KNOW THAT SO MANY GUESTS HAD TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE BEGINNING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. BREATHLESSLY THE MEMBER'S OF AA WAITED FOR THE CLIMAX--THE MATTER OF MONEY. MR. ROCKEFELLER SOON OBLIGED THEM. CONTINUING HE SAID, "GENTLEMEN, YOU CAN ALL SEE THAT THIS IS A WORK OF GOOD WILL. ITS POWER LIES IN THE FACT THAT ONE MEMBER CARRIES THE GOOD MESSAGE TO THE NEXT, WITHOUT ANY THOUGHT OF FINANCIAL INCOME OR REWARD. THEREFORE, IT IS MY BELIEF THAT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SHOULD BE SELF-SUPPORTING AS FAR AS MONEY IS CONCERNED. IT REQUIRES ONLY OUR GOOD WILL." WHEREUPON THE 75 GUEATS CLAPPED LOUDLY AND

AFTER CORDIAL HAND SHAKES AND GOODBYS ALL AROUND, THE WHOLE BILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF THEM WALKED OUT THE DOOR.

THE MEMBERS WERE DAZED WHY OH WHY HAD MR. ROCKEFELLER GONE TO ALL THIS TROUBLE? A FEW DAYS LATER WE BEGAN TO SEE, AND A TIME PASSES AA SEES EVEN MORE CLEARLY WHAT HE MEANT AND WHAT HE SAID.

MR. RICHARDSON ASKED BILL TO EDIT HIS AND BOB'S TALKS FOR MR. ROCKEFELLER'S USE. ALSO HE BOUGHT FOUR HUNDRED BIG BOOKS OF AA FOR MR. ROCKEFELLER, AT A WOPPING DISCOUNT, "ONE DOLLAR EACH". MR. ROCKEFELLER THEN SENT EACH INVITED GUEST A BIG BOOK OF AA ALONG WITH A PAMPHET CONTAINING THE TALKS PRESENTED AT THE DINNER. TO THE PACKET HE ADDED A PERSONAL LETTER.

MR. ROCKEFELLER'S LETTER RETIRATED WHAT WAS SAID AT THE DINNER AND INCLUDED THAT HE WAS MAILING ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS A PERSONAL CHECK FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. THIS WAS A HINT THAT THEY MIGHT CONTRIBUTE MODESTLY IF THEY SO WISHED.

THE PRESS WAS NOT INVITED TO THE DINNER. MR. ROCKEFELLER'S PUBLICITY CONSULTANTS AND AA GOT TOGETHER AND DRAFTED A STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS. THE ENSUING PUBLICITY WAS WIDESPREAD AND FAVORABLE. MR. ROCKEFELLER'S DINNER MADE NEWS ALL OVER THE WORLD. ALL TO THE MAJOR PUBLICATIONS GAVE AA THE GLAD HAND. THIS ENCOURAGED A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO GO TO THEIR BOOKSTORES AND BUY THE AA BOOK, THUS EASING THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. HUNDREDS OF REQUEST POURED IN FROM FAMILIES AND AND ALCOHOLICS ALL OVER THE NATION. THE AWFUL LET DOWN FOLLOWING

THE DINNER WERE SOON FORGOTTEN.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DECIDED TO SOLICIT THE DINNER GUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS. MR. ROCKEFELLER CONSENTED AND THIS WAS DONE. A TOTAL OF TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS WAS ACCUMULATED IN ADDITION TO THE ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS MR. ROCKEFELLER HAD DONATED. THIS WAS THE FIRST MONEY THE FOUNDATION ACTUALLY RAISED.

FINANCIALLY, DR. BOB AND BILL WERE STILL IN A BAD WAY. THEY ALLOTTED THEMSELVES THIRTY DOLLARS A WEEK, AND ENOUGH WAS ON HAND TO KEEP THIS UP FOR A YEAR. THEREAFTER THE DINNER GUEST WERE SOLICITED ANNUALLY AND THE PROCEEDS WERE ALWAYS DIVIDED IN THE SAME WAY. FOUR YEARS LATER THEY WERE ABLE TO WRITE MR. ROCKEFELLER AND HIS FRIENDS TO REPORT THAT THEY NEEDED NO MORE FUNDS. BY THE TIME ROYALTIES FROM THE BOOK WERE GIVING DR. BOB AND BILL ALL THE HELP NEEDED. ALSO THE AA GROUPS HAD BEGUN TO PICK UP SOME OF THE LOAD OF SUPPORTING THE OFFICE. AT THIS POINT THE AA TRADITION OF "NO OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS" WENT INTO FULL FORCE AND EFFECT. MR. ROCKEFELLER AND HIS FRIENDS HAD GIVEN AA SOMETHING MORE VALUABLE THAN MONEY, THEY HAD PUT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS ON THE MAP.

NOW FOR A FLASH BACK TO THE SPRING OF 1940. REMEMBER HENRY THE SUPER SALESMAN, WELL OVER HIS STRONG OBJECTIONS, THE OFFICE HAD MOVED FROM MEWARK, NEW JERSEY TO 30 VESEY STREET, NEW YORK CITY, NEXT DOOR TO THE POSTOFFICE BOX. RUTH AND BILL ANSWERED ALL INQUIRES RESULTING FROM ALL THE PUBLICITY. MANY NEW GROUPS GOT STARTED AND THE STRUGGLES AT THESE DISTANT OUTPOST WERE

QUICKLY REFLECTED IN LETTERS ASKING FOR ADVICE AND EXPLORING ALL THEIR GROWING PAINS AND PROBLEMS. ALMOST WEEKLY NEW PINS WERE ADDED TO THE OFFICE WALL MAP TO MARK ADDITIONAL GROUPS.

THE SALES OF THE BOOK INCREASED, THEY WERE NOW MAKING ENOUGH ON THE BOOK TO PAY OFFICE EXPENSES AND BEST OF ALL TO PAY RUTH A FAIR SALARY. BILL AND LOIS WERE LIVING RENT FREE AT THE 24TH STREET CLUB HOUSE AND EVERYBODY BEGAN TO BREATHE EASIER.

QUESTIONS

1. DO YOU REALIZE THE IMPACT THE BIG BOOK OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HAS HAD ON THE GROWTH OF AA?
2. DO YOU NOW SEE WHAT DR. BOB AND BILL, OUR CO-FOUNDERS, MEANT IN 1937 WHEN THEY SAID, "WE HAVE TO PUT DOWN IN WRITING OUR PROGRAM, IF WE DON'T IT WILL BECOME SO GARBLED AND TWISTED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED AS A PROGRAM FOR ALCOHOLICS?"
3. DO YOU BELIEVE NOW THAT YOU WERE IN MANY, MANY WAYS THE EXACT DUPLICATE OF THE EARLY AA MEMBERS?
4. DO YOU KNOW THAT CLUB ROOMS ARE NOT PART OF AA, PER SAY?
5. YOU MIGHT BE TIRED OF ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON NON-ALCOHOLICS, BUT DO YOU STILL RECOGNIZE THEIR IMPORTANTS?
6. DO YOU NOTE THAT AA IS NOW BEING ACCEPTED IN A HOSPITAL IN CLEVELAND, A REST HOME IN CONN., AN STATE ASYLUM IN NEW YORK, AND IN SOME CHURCHES?
7. THE ROCKEFELLER DINNER WAS THE BEGINNING OF AA'S MOVEMENT DECLINING ALL OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS. COULD YOU HAVE GONE FOR THIS AT THIS TIME?
8. DO YOU FEEL GRATEFUL FOR OUR NON-ALCOHOLIC FRIENDS, LIKE MR. ROCKEFELLER?
9. DO YOU AGREE WITH "NO OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS"? IF YOU DO, ARE YOU AWARE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?
10. DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT THE BIG BOOK NOT ONLY HELPED AA PAY THE WAY, BUT KEPT THE PROGRAM FROM GETTING GARBLED AND TWISTED?

CHAPTER TEN

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED HOW AA STARTED TO REALLY GROW AFTER THE BIG BOOK WAS PUBLISHED; ABOUT THE FIRST CLUB ROOM; THE FIRST REST HOME FACILITY, HIGH WATCH; THE ROCKEFELLER DINNER; AND ABOUT THE SO CALL SUCCESS BROUGHT TO DR. BOB AND BILL.

THE "WORKS PUBLISHING, INC.", HOWEVER WAS STILL PRETTY SHAKEY, IT HAD NEVER BEEN INCORPORATED, AND THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF ITS EXISTENCE WERE THE STOCK CERTIFICATES THAT HENRY AND BILL HAD MANUFACTURED, THE BOOKS IN THE WAREHOUSE AND THE CANCELED CHECKS THAT PROVIDED A ROUGH IDEA OF HOW MUCH MONEY WAS SPENT. AS YOU RECALL BILL AND HENRY HAD TWO HUNDRED SHARES EACH FOR THE WORK THEY HAD DONE IN ORGANIZING THE COMPANY, HOWEVER, THESE SHARES HAD NEVER BEEN ISSUED AND COULD NOT BE , UNDER THE ORGINAL AGREEMENT, UNTIL THE CASH SUBSCRIBERS HAD RECEIVED ALL THEIR MONEY. WHEN THE CASH SUBSCRIBERS HEARD THAT THE BOOK WAS MAKING MONEY, SOME OF THEM, INCLUDING MR, TOWNS, BEGAN TO GET RESTLESS. THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHY ALL THE MONEY OR PROFITS FROM THE BOOK WERE BEING SPENT TO FINANCE A HEADQUARTERS FOR AA. THEY WERE INFORMED THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY AND THEY WERE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE ALL THE PLEAS FOR HELP BEING THROWN IN THE WASTE PAPER BASKET BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS. A FEW STILL INSISTED ON GETTING THEIR MONEY BACK, SO SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE.

BILL AND RUTH SET OUR TO MAKE THE FIRST REPORT TO THE STOCK-HOLDERS. THEY OUTLINED THE HISTORY OF THE BOOK PROJECT AND PAINTED A ROSY PICTURE FOR THE FUTURE. FROM THE CHECK STUBS, OLD BILLS AND ETC. THEY COME UP WITH A THREE THOUSAND DOLLAR PROFIT ON THE BOOK, WHICH HAD ALL BEEN SPENT ON THE OFFICE.

BILL AND RUTH AGAIN TURNED TO THEIR TRUSTY PAD OF BLANK STOCK CERTIFICATES, AND PRINTED, "WORKS PUBLISHING, INC.",

PREFERRED STOCK, PAR VALUE ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

BILL EQUIPPED WITH THE CERTIFICATES WENT TO WASHINGTON D. C., HE WENT TO SOME WELL-TO-DO MEMBERS AND THEY CHEERFULLY BROUGHT THESE STRANGE AND IRREGULAR STOCKS CERTIFICATES TO THE TUNE OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS. THUS GIVING THEM ENOUGH MONEY TO SATISFY THE GRUMBLING STOCK HOLDERS AND PAY MR. TOWNS ALL THE MONEY HE HAD ADVANCED TO MAKE THE BOOK PROJECT POSSIBLE.

AGAIN A NON-ALCOHOLIC FRIEND BY THE NAME OF MR. WEST, A PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT OFFERED HIS SERVICES. HE ORGANIZED A SET OF BOOKS, PLUS PROPERTY INCORPORATES FOR "WORKS PUBLISHING, INC.". RUTH NOW HAD LITTLE TIME TO KEEP BOOKS AND BILL DID NOT KNOW HOW. THE TIRELESS MR. WEST SPENT DAYS AND DAYS AT THE BOOKS, WITH OUT PAY. AFTER MR. WEST UNSCRAMBLED THE AFFAIRS OF AA AN AA MEMBER, WILBUR S., A. C. F. A., TOOK OVER AND DID THE BOOKS FOR A LONG TIME WITHOUT PAY.

BY 1940 A NUMBER OF MEMBERS BELIEVED THAT AA SHOULD SOLELY OWN ITS OWN BOOK. SHARES SHOULD NOT BE SCATTERED AMONG 49 STOCKHOLDERS OR SUBSCRIBERS, RUTH, HENRY, AND BILL. IF THE FOUNDATION COULD ACQUIRE THESE OUTSTANDING SHARES, THE BOOK COULD BE PLACED IN TRUST FOR AA AS A WHOLE. THE PROCEEDS OF THE BOOK WOULD BECOME TAX-FREE IF THE SHAREHOLDERS WERE PAID OFF, AND THEY COULD NO LONGER COMPLAIN ABOUT THE BOOK'S INCOME BEING USED TO RUN THE AA OFFICE.

ONE OF THE TRUSTEES, A. LEROY CHIPMAN, CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF BORROWING FROM HIS FRIEND MR. ROCKEFELLER, TWO OF HIS SONS, AND

THE OTHER DINNER GUEST ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY OFF THE SHAREHOLDERS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BILL AND HENRY. EVERYONE WAS HAPPY WITH THE OFFER SO AA BORROWED EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS AND BOUGHT THE OUTSTANDING SHARES. THE MONEY WAS TO BE PAID BACK WITH THE PROFITS OF THE BOOK AT SOME FUTURE DATE. THIS ACTION PLACED ONE THIRD OF THE SHARES OF "WORKS PUBLISHING, INC." IN THE HANDS OF THE FOUNDATION. A FEW OF THE SHAREHOLDERS DONATED THEIR SHARES OR A PART OF THEIR SHARES TO THE FOUNDATION.

THAT LEFT TWO-THIRDS INTEREST OF "WORKS PUBLISHING, INC." IN THE HANDS OF BILL AND HENRY. BILL AGREED TO TURN OVER HIS TWO HUNDRED SHARES TO THE FOUNDATION, HOWEVER, HENRY STILL DRINKING, WAS NOT EASILY CONVINCED TO DO THE SAME. FOR A LONG TIME HE RESISTED REPEATED PLEAS TO GIVE UP HIS STOCK. THEN ONE DAY COMPLETELY BROKE AND VERY SHAKEY, HE TURNED UP AT THE AA OFFICE. HE POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF THE OFFICE FURNITURE BELONGED TO HIM, PARTICULARLY THE HUGE DESK AND THE OVER STUFFED CHAIRS. THIS GAVE THEM AN IDEA. SUPPOSING, THEY SAID, THAT THE FOUNDATION WOULD BUY HIS FURNITURE FOR SAY TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS, WOULD HE THEN TURN OVER HIS "WORKS PUBLISHING" STOCK TO THE AA TRUSTEES. HENRY FINALLY CONSENTED AND SIGNED THE NECESSARY PAPERS PROMISING TO DO THIS. HENRY TURNED IN HIS STOCK, BILL TURNED IN HIS, AND THAT IS HOW AA, THROUGH THE TRUSTEES CAME TO OWN THE BIG BOOK.

DURING 1940 THERE WAS A SLOW BUT STEADY GROWTH OF AA. AS NEW GROUPS WERE STARTED, LOCAL NEWSPAPERS BEGAN PRINTING ARTICLES

ABOUT THIS STRANGE FELLOWSHIP. GROUPS STARTED IN MOST ALL THE MAJOR CITIES AND IN MANY SMALLER TOWNS. ALSO DURING THIS TIME DR. BOB DEVELOPED HIS WONDERFUL FRIENDSHIP WITH SISTER IGNATIAS AT ST. THOMAS HOSPITAL. ALL IN ALL BY THE SPRING OF 1941, AA COULD COUNT TWO THOUSAND MEMBERS. THEY THOUGHT THIS WAS GREAT, BUT IT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE EXPLOSION TO COME.

CURTIS BOOKS ASSIGNED MR. JACK ALEXANDER, A STAR FEATURE WRITER FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, TO DO AN ARTICLE ON AA. THIS EFFORT WAS THE RESULT OF ONE OF AA'S GREAT FRIENDS DR. WIESE HAMMER WHO BROUGHT THE ORGANIZATION TO ALEXANDER'S ATTENTION. MR. ALEXANDER AT FIRST WAS NOT OVERLY INTERESED IN THE AA PROJECT. HE HAD JUST COMPLETED A SERIES ON THE PACKETS IN NEW JERSEY AND THE SMELL AND TASTE OF THAT ASSIGNMENT STILL LINGERED IN HIS MIND. REALIZING THIS, BILL GAVE HIM THE MOST EXHAUSTIVE BRIEFING ON AA ANY WRITER HAS EVER HAD. BILL TOWED HIM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

FINALLY MR. ALEXANDER HAD HAD ENOUGH AND HE WROTE THE STORY, BUT HE ALSO WANTED TO INCLUDE PICTURES. IN FACE HE CONSIDERED IT A "MUST" TO HAVE PICTURES. AA OBJECTED FEELING THAT THIS MIGHT KEEP SOME PEOPLE AWAY, BUT ALEXANDER HAD TO HAVE PICTURES AND SOME HAD TO BE ON THE SENSATIONAL SIDE. FINALLY OVER CONTINUED OBJECTIONS THE FOST SAID, "NO PICUTRES, NO STORY". THE CHOICE WAS UP TO AA. OVER MANY PROTESTS THE FOST WAS TOLD TO GO AHEAD. IT WAS A CRUCIAL DECISION WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE THE RIGHT ONE, THAT IS, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST.

THE STORY APPEARED IN THE MARCH 1, 1941 ISSUE. MR. ALEXANDER'S EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION AND HIS REMARKABLE CAPACITY FOR SYMPATHY AND RAPPORT WITH AA PRODUCED A STORY WHICH HAD IMMENSE IMPACT. BY MAIL AND TELEGRAM, A DELUGE OF PLEAS FOR HELP AND ORDERS FOR THE BOOK FILED IN. FIRST BY THE HUNDREDS AND THEN BY THE THOUSANDS. THE LETTERS CONTAINED HEART BREAKING APPEALS, AA MEMBERS FOUND THEMSELVES CRYING. WHAT ON EARTH COULD THEY DO FOR THEM? THEY WERE REALLY SWAMPED.

THEY NEEDED HELP, BILL AND RUTH COULD NOT ANSWER ALL THE INQUIRES, SO THEY OPENED AN EMERGENCY HEADQUARTERS AT THE 24TH STREET CLUB. FOR DAYS RUTH AND THE VOLUNTEERS, MADE UP OF AA MEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSES TRIED TO ANSWERE THE EVER INCREASING MAIL. A WARM PERSONAL COMMUNICATION WAS SENT TO EVERY PROSPECT AND HIS OR HER FAMILY. THE PEAK OF THE FLOOD PASSED, BUT REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE TRAFFIC REMAINED SO GREAT THEY HAD TO GET MORE PERMANENT FAID HELP. VOLUNTEERS COULD NOT HANDLE THE SITUATION.

SO FOR THE FIRST TIME THE OFFICE CALLED UPON AA GROUPS FOR HELP. THEY ASKED ALL GROUPS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SPECIAL FUND IN THE FOUNDATION WHICH WOULD BE EARMARKED FOR AA OFFICE EXPENSE ONLY. THE MEASURING STICK FOR THE GROUP WAS ONE DOLLAR PER MEMBER PER YEAR, AND SHORTLY GROUP FUNDS BEGAN TO TRICKLE IN. THE AA TRADITION OF SELF-SUPPORT BEGAN TO BE A REALITY. WHENEVER GROUPS FAILED TO MEET OFFICE EXPENSES A RESERVE FUND WAS ESTABLISHED FROM THE BOOK PROFITS. WAS USED TO FILL THE GAP AND IT FREQUENTLY DID FOR MANY YEARS. THE BOOK OF AA WAS NOT

HELPING TO SAVE ALCOHOLICS: IT BECAME THE FINANCIAL CORNERSTONE OF THE HEADQUARTERS AND THE GUARANTEE OF AA'S SOLVENCY.

BY THE END OF 1941, MEMBERSHIP HAD JUMPED TO EIGHT THOUSAND, AN INCREASE OF SIX THOUSAND SINCE 1940. AA BY THIS TIME WAS REACHING CANADA AND OTHER FOREIGN LANDS. THE YEAR 1941 WAS PROBABLY THE MOST EXCITING YEAR IN AA HISTORY. LITTLE ATTENTION WAS BEING PAID TO THE LOW FLYING CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON WHICH WOULD SOON INVOLVE AA IN A SERIES OF STORMS. AA WAS JUST ENTERING ITS FEARFUL AND WONDERFUL PERIOD OF ADOLESCENCE, A PHASE WHICH WAS TO LAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

THE WALL MAP SHOWED SCORES OF NEW GROUPS SPRINGING UP EACH WEEK. MOST OF THESE GROUPS HAD NO EXPERIENCED GUIDANCE WHATSOEVER, EXCEPT FOR THE AA BOOK, AN OCCASIONAL TRAVELER, AND CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE GSO OFFICE. THEIR WORRIES AND PROBLEMS SEEMED ENDLESS. COMMITTEES QUARRELED, NEW CLUBS HAD UNHEARD OF HEADACHES, ORATORS HELD FORTH, GROUPS SPLIT WIDE OPEN, AND SOME MEMBERS TURNED PROFESSIONAL, SELLING AA THERAPY TO NEW PROSPECTS. SOMETIMES WHOLE GROUPS GOT DRUNK, AND LOCAL PUBLIC RELATIONS WENT HAYWIRE. SUCH WERE THE BEGINNINGS OF A TRULY FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE THAT LASTED A LONG TIME.

IN ONE OF THE LARGEST AA CENTERS A DISTURBING STORY GOT AROUND THAT THE FOUNDATION, THE NEW YORK OFFICE AND THE BOOK "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS" WERE NOTHING BUT A HUGE RACKET WHICH MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER HAD FOOLISHLY FALLEN FOR. AT THE HEIGHT OF THIS COMMOTION A FEW AA MEMBERS SET UP A DINNER IN THE CITY WHERE THESE RUMORS HAD THE LARGEST CURRENCY. DR. BOB AND BILL

WERE ASKED TO SPEAK. THE DINNER WAS NOT WELL ATTENDED AND THE USUAL GOOD CHEER SEEMED LACKING. WHEN THE DINNER WAS OVER, THE CHAIRMAN OF ALL THE GROUPS IN TOWN CONDUCTED DR. BOB AND BILL TO A HOTEL PARLOR. THEN THEY PRODUCED AN ATTORNEY AND A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT. THEY HAD BEEN HEARING AWFUL STORIES ABOUT THE FOUNDATION. THEY HAD HEARD THAT THE BOOK WAS MAKING VAST SUMS OF MONEY AND THAT DR. BOB AND BILL HAD SHARED PROFITS OF \$64,000.00 THE YEAR BEFORE. THEY BELIEVED THAT BILL, THE WALL STREET PROMOTER, HAD BACKED HIS TRUCKS RIGHT UP TO MR. ROCKEFELLER'S STRONG BOX AND HAD PERSUADED HIM TO FILL THEM WITH COIN FOR HIMSELF AND HIS FRIENDS. THE INTERROGATING COMMITTEE LET BOB AND BILL KNOW THAT A MEMBER FROM THEIR CITY HAD NET ONE OF THE AA TRUSTEES IN NEW YORK WHO WAS SAID TO HAVE CONFIRMED THESE APPALLING REPORTS. THIS INCREDIBLE HALF-BELIEVED FANTASY HIT BOB AND BILL QUITE HARD. BILL HAPPENED TO HAVE WITH HIM A CERTIFIED AUDIT OF ALL AA AFFAIRS FROM THE BEGINNING. THIS SHOWED THAT DR. BOB, THOUGH HE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED A ROYALTY, HAD NEVER RECEIVED ANY BECAUSE HIS MONEY WAS NEEDED FOR THE AA OFFICE WORK. HE WAS STILL ON A \$30.00 A WEEK PAY CHECK FROM THE ROCKEFELLER DINNER. LIKE DR. BOB, BILL RECEIVED \$30.00 A WEEK FROM THE DINNER GUEST, AND SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE POST ARTICLE HAD BEEN DRAWING \$25.00 A WEEK FROM THE PUBLISHING CO., WHICH WAS JUSTIFIED FROM BOOK SALES. BILL'S TOTAL INCOME WAS \$55.00 A WEEK. THE FOUNDATION ITSELF STILL HAD PRACTICALLY NO CASH BALANCE, THE GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS COMING IN WERE PROMPTLY SPENT

ON THE OFFICE IN ORDER TO CARRY ON.

THE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE CPA READ THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND TESTIFIED TO ITS CORRECTNESS. THE COMMITTEE WAS CRESTFALLEN AND DR. BOB AND BILL RECEIVED APOLOGIES. THE RECORD WAS SET STRAIGHT. THE COMMITTEE TRIED TO STOP THE SPREADING OF THESE TALES, BUT NEVER QUITE SUCCEEDED. THE RACKET TALK WENT ON FOR YEARS IN THAT REGION.

QUESTIONS

1. DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS ALWAYS A PENALTY TO PAY WHEN PEOPLE THINK YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL? IN TIME MANY OF YOU IN THIS ROOM WILL BE ACCUSED OF FALSE GOSSIP IN AA. BEWARE THAT YOU DO NOT BECOME A PART OF THE GOSSIP MILL.
2. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ALWAYS A PAY DAY?
3. DO YOU KEEP YOUR PERSONAL RECORDS LIKE BILL DID IN THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF AA?
4. WOULD YOU CONSIDER BILL'S LIFE AN "UNMANGEABLE LIFE" IN FINANCIAL MATTERS?
5. DO YOU REALIZE THAT AA'S THEN ARE JUST LIKE AA'S TODAY? SOME WILL GO TO ANY LENGTH TO PAY BACK THEIR DEBT TO AA. YET OTHERS DO NO FEEL AA HAS GIVEN THEM ANYTHING. DID YOU COME TO AA TO GET AND ARE STAYING IN TO GIVE?
6. DO YOU FEEL HENRY P. SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN MORE RECOGNITION IN AA, OR DO YOU FEEL THAT HE DISQUALIFIED HIMSELF BY TAKING A DRINK?
7. DID THE EXPERIENCE OF THE GSO IN MR. ALEXANDER'S ARTICLE CAUSE YOU TO FEEL THAT VOLUNTEERS CAN'T HANDLE THE BUSINESS OF AA?
8. DO YOU THINK THAT MR. ALEXANDER COULD HAVE WRITTEN HIS ARTICLE IF BILL HAD NOT TOURED THE COUNTRY WITH HIM? DOES THAT EXPERIENCE CAUSE YOU TO REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THE GSO OFFICE WAS TO ALL THEN AND IS TODAY?

9. WOULD YOU MIND TODAY IF YOUR GROUP SOLICITED FROM YOU ONE PENNY A DAY OR \$3.65 PER YEAR FOR YOUR SHARE OF GSO OPERATIONAL COST?
10. DID YOU NOTE THAT NEW MEMBERS IN THE EARLY YEARS HAD NO EXPERIENCED GUIDANCE WHAT SO EVER, EXCEPT FOR THE BIG BOOK; AND OCCASSIONAL TRAVLER AND THE GSO OFFICE?
11. CAN YOU VISUALIZE THE CONDITION OF THE GROUPS IN THOSE DAYS WITH NO GUIDLINES OR TRADITIONS TO GIVE THEM THE RIGHT ANSWERS? THEY JUST HAD WORRIES AND PROBLEMS, COMPOUNDED BY QUARRELING COMMITTEES. NEW CLUBS WERE DOMINATED BY THE BEST ORATORS WHO OFTEN CAUSED GROUPS TO SPLIT WIDE OPEN. SOME MEMBERS EVEN TURNED PROFESSIONAL, SELLING AA THERAPY TO NEW PROSPECTS.
12. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHOLE GROUPS GETTING DRUNK TOGETHER?
13. CAN YOU SEE BY BILL AND BOB'S EXPERIENCE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO KEEP A GOOD SET OF RECORDS? NOT ONLY AT GSO LEVEL BUT AT EVERY LEVEL.
14. COMMON GOSSIP IS FATAL IN AA, ARE YOU CAPABLE OF CASTING THE FIRST STONE?
15. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE A LIE, FASTER THAN THEY WILL BELIEVE THE TRUTH?
16. ARE YOU BEGINNING TO SEE THAT THERE IS MORE TO AA THAN THE TWELVE STEPS OF RECOVERY?

CHAPTER ELEVEN

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED ABOUT AA GETTING IT'S RECORDS IN ORDER;
ABOUT THEIR BORROWING \$8000.00 FROM MR. ROCKEFELLER AND PUR-
CHASING 1/3 OF THE SHARES IN "WORKS PUBLISHING, INC." FROM THE
SHAREHOLDERS;. WE LEARNED THAT BILL AND HENRY SIGNED THEIR
SHARES OVER TO THE AA TRUSTEES: THE SATURDAY EVENING POST
STORY BY MR. ALEXANDER; THE SUDDEN GROWTH AFTER THE ARTICLE;
AND THE ACCUSING OF DR. BOB AND BILL.

THIS EPISODE PROVED TO BE A VERY GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR DR. BOB AND BILL. IT OBLIGED THEM TO CAREFULLY RE-EXAMINE THEIR STATUS AND SEEK THE COUNCIL OF FRIENDS. THIS WAS ONE OF THE TEST CASES OUT OF WHICH AA'S TRADITIONS RESPECTING PROFESSIONALISM AND PAID WORKER EVOLVED. IT WAS CERTAIN THAT BILL COULD NO LONGER CONTINUE FULL TIME OR THAT BOB COULD DEVOTE MORE THAN HALF TIME TO AA, UNLESS THEY BOTH HAD SOME DEFINITE SOURCE OF STEADY INCOME. THEY COULD NOT EXPECT THE DINNER GUEST TO SUPPORT THEM FOREVER. ANYWAY THAT WAS CONTRARY TO THE THEN FORMING TRADITION OF NO CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD. GROUP FUNDS WERE ALSO OUT, FOR THEY WERE FOR ONLY OPERATION OF THE OFFICE. PROFITS ON THE BOOK WERE GOING INTO THE FOUNDATION RESERVE FUND AND THEY HAD NO BUSINESS TOUCHING THEM. EITHER. THEREFORE ROYALTIES ON THE BOOK, PROVIDED THE SALES EVER GOT LARGE ENOUGH, SEEMED TO BE THE ONLY ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM. IN THIS WAY THEY MIGHT BE RECOMPENSED FOR THE BOOKS AUTHORSHIP AND PUTTING THE PUBLISHING COMPANY TOGETHER. BUT WOULD THIS CONSTITUTE PROFESSIONALISM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR GROWING TRADITION. SOME MEMBERS SAID YES TO THE QUESTION. MEMBERS SHOULD NOT MAKE MONEY OUT OF AA, HOWEVER, OUR EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE HAD BEGUN TO INDICATE THAT WAS NOT NECESSARILY THE CASE. CLUBS WERE PAYING CARETAKERS, MOST OF WHICH WERE AA MEMBERS. THEY WERE NOT PAID FOR TWELVE STEP WORK BUT AS JANITORS AND COOKS. OUR GSO OFFICE HAD JUST ENGAGED AN ALCOHOLIC STAFF MEMBER, FULL TIME. WAS SHE A "PROFESSIONAL AA"? OBVIOUSLY NOT. SHE WAS BEING

PAID FOR SPECIAL SERVICES, AS A SECRETARY.

THIS MEANT THAT DR, BOB AND BILL MUST CERTAINLY NEVER ACCEPT MONEY FOR TWELVE STEP WORK BUT THAT THEY COULD BE RECOMPENSED FOR SPECIAL SERVICES. THEY BOTH ACCEPTED THIS DOWN THE MIDDLE ADVICE AND STUCK BY IT EVER SINCE. "THIS TRADITION WAS ACCEPTED AS CORRECT IN PRINCIPLE BY OUR ENTIRE FELLOWSHIP."

RUTH HOCKS LEFT THE NEW YORK OFFICE EARLY IN 1942 TO BE MARRIED. BEFORE SHE LEFT, SHE CLIPPED AN OBITUARY NOTICE THAT WAS CALLED TO OUR ATTENTION BY A NEW YORK MEMBER. THE CONTENT OF THIS NOTICE, UNDERNEATH A ROUTINE ACCOUNT OF ONE WHO HAD DIED SOON BECAME FAMOUS. THESE SIMPLE WORDS WERE: "GOD GRANT US THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THE THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE, THE COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS WE CAN, AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE." NEVER HAD THEY SEEN SO MUCH AA IN SO FEW WORDS. WHILE RUTH AND BILL WERE ADMIRING THE PRAYER, AND WONDERING HOW TO USE IT, A FRIEND HOWARD WALKED IN THE OFFICE. CONFIRMING THEIR OWN IDEA HE EXPLAINED, "WE OUGHT TO PRINT THIS PRAYER ON CARDS AND DROP ONE INTO EVERY PEICE OF MAIL THAT GOES OUT OF HERE. I'LL PAY FOR THE PRINTING." THIS WAS DONE, AND THE SERENITY PRAYER CAME INTO GENERAL USE AND TOOK ITS PLACE ALONGSIDE THE LORD'S PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS. NO ONE CAN TELL FOR SURE WHO WROTE THE SERENITY PRAYER. SOME SAY IT CAME FROM THE EARLY GREEKS, OTHERS THINK AN ANONYMOUS ENGLISH POET WROTE IT, SOME CLAIM IT WAS A NAVAL OFFICER, AND SOME SAY REV. REINHOLD NIEBUHR WAS THE AUTHOR. WHOEVER IT WAS, AA COUNTS THE WRITER

AMONG ITS GREAT BENEFACTORS.

AA'S PHENOMENAL EXPANSION BROUGHT IT FACE TO FACE WITH A VERY IMPORTANT PROBLEM IN PUBLIC RELATIONS. THE SOFT LIGHT WAS ON, AA WAS NOW DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC ON A LARGE SCALE. PUBLIC ILL-WILL COULD STUNT AA'S GROWTH OR EVEN BRING IT TO A STANDSTILL. PUBLIC CONFIDENCE COULD SWELL AA RANKS TO NUMBERS WHICH HAD ONLY BEEN DREAMED BEFORE. PUBLIC RELATIONS WERE NOT ONLY A BIG PROBLEM BUT A VERY DELICATE ONE. ANY BLUNDERS COULD AROUSE GENERAL PREJUDICE AND MIGHT PROLONG THE SUFFERING OF MANY, MAYBE EVEN COST THE LIVES OF SOME. A CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT PUBLIC RELATION POLICY HAD TO BE FORMED AND PUT INTO OPERATION.

PRIME CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO AA'S RELATIONS WITH MEDICINE AND RELIGION. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WAS AA TO GET INTO COMPETITION WITH EITHER. IF AA APPEARED TO BE A RELIGIOUS SECT, IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE IN TROUBLE. SO THE ORGANIZATION BEGAN TO EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT AA WAS A WAY OF LIFE THAT CONFLICTED WITH NO ONE'S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. AA ALSO LET DOCTORS KNOW HOW MUCH IT NEEDED HOSPITALIZATION, AND SUGGESTED TO PHYSICIANS AND DRYING OUT PLACES THE ADVANTAGES OF CO-OPERATING WITH AA. AT ALL TIMES, RELIGION WAS TO BE THE PROVINCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE CLERGYMAN, AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE WAS TO BE FOR AA'S FRIENDS THE DOCTORS. AS ALCOHOLIC LAYMEN, AA'S WERE SIMPLY SUPPLYING THE MUCH NEEDED AND LONG LOST MISSING LINKS. THIS REASONING AND ATTITUDE TOWARD RELIGION AND MEDICINE BROUGHT HEART WARMING RESULTS. TODAY

AA HAS THE UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT OF BOTH.

MEDICINE AND RELIGION PROVED TO BE ONLY A FRACTION OF AA'S TOTAL PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS. IT ALSO HAD TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE PRESS, RADIO, MOTION PICTURES, AND TELEVISION. ADDITIONALLY IT HAD TO COPE WITH HOW TO DEAL WITH EMPLOYERS WHO WANTED SPECIAL HELP. WHAT WOULD BE THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FIELD OF ALCOHOL EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND REHABILITATION, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC? WHAT WOULD AA SAY TO PRISONS AND HOSPITALS WHO WANTED AA GROUPS WITHIN THEIR WALLS? WHAT WOULD THE POLICY BE FOR AA'S WHO WENT INTO SOME OF THESE FIELDS AND WHO WERE TEMPTED TO CAPITALIZE PUBLICITY ON THE AA NAME FOR ADVERTISING OR FUND RAISING? WHAT WOULD AA SAY OR DO IF AA'S WERE EVER EXPLOITED, DEFAME, OR ATTACKED BY OUTSIDERS? WORKABLE SOLUTIONS TO ALL THESE AND MANY MORE SUCH PROBLEMS HAD TO BE WORKED OUT OR AA MIGHT SUFFER SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. FINDING ANSWERS TO THESE PUBLIC RELATIONS PUZZLERS INVOLVED A LONG PROCESS. AFTER MUCH TRIAL AND ERROR, SOMETIMES PUNCTUATED BY PAINFUL MISTAKES, THE ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES THAT WOULD WORK BEST FOR AA EMERGED. THE BASIC ONES CAN BE SEEN TODAY IN THE AA TRADITIONS: 100 PERCENT ANONYMITY AT THE PUBLIC LEVER; NO USE OF AN AA'S NAME FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHER CAUSES, HOWEVER WORTH, NO ENDORSEMENTS OR ALLIANCES; THE CARRYING OF THE MESSAGE AS THE SINGLE PURPOSE FOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS; NO PROFESSIONALISM; PUBLIC RELATIONS BY THE PRINCIPLE OF ATTRACTION RATHER THAN

PROMOTION--THESE WERE SOME OF THE HARD LESSONS LEARNED. PROBLEMS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION POURED IN UPON THE NEW YORK OFFICE, HOWEVER BY 1945 A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF ORDER HAD COME OUT OF WHAT HAD BEEN A CHAOTIC SITUATION.

THE GROWTH OF AA CONTINUED AT A PACE WHICH WAS STAGGERING. AA NO LONGER COUNTED BY THOUSANDS BUT BY TENS OF THOUSANDS. THE EARLY AA'S WERE MEN AND WOMEN WHO REALLY HIT BOTTOM. ALCOHOLICS WHO REALLY WENT ALL THE WAY. THE CHARACTER OF AA WAS CHANGING. AA WAS BEGINNING TO HAVE SUCCESS WITH Milder ALCOHOLICS. YOUNGER FOLKS BEGAN TO APPEAR. LOTS OF PEOPLE SHOWED UP WHO STILL HAD JOBS AND HOMES AND HEALTH, AND EVEN GOOD SOCIAL STANDING. THESE IN TURN WERE ABLE TO PERSUADE OTHERS LIKE THEMSELVES OF THE NEED FOR AA. THE EARLY AA MEMBERS FOUND OUT THAT ALCOHOLICS DID NOT HAVE TO HIT EVERY POSSIBLE BOTTOM IN ORDER TO ADMIT THAT THEY WERE LICKED. AA BEGAN TO DEVELOP A CONSCIOUS TECHNIQUE OF "RAISING THE BOTTOM". THE LANGUAGE CHANGED AND MILD CASES ARRIVED AT THE CONVICTION THAT THEY HAD ALREADY EXPERIENCED THE PRINCIPAL SYMPTOMS OF ALCOHOLISM. HE OR SHE "HIT BOTTOM" THEN AND THERE AND SO WERE SPARED YEARS OF ANGUISH.

IN SOMEWHAT THE SAME FASHION THIS IDEA BEGAN TO WORK OUT WITH OTHER KINDS OF PROSPECTS. IN THE BEGINNING AA'S COULD NOT SOBER UP WOMEN. THEY WERE DIFFERENT, THEY SAID. BUT WHEN THEY SAW OTHER WOMEN GET WELL, THEY SOLOWLY FOLLOWED SUIT. THE DERELICT, THE RICH MAN, THE SOCIALITE, ALL ONCE THOUGHT AA WAS NOT FOR THEM..

PEOPLE OF OTHER RACES, TONGUES, AND CREEDS FELT THE SAME, HOWEVER, WHEN THEY CLEARLY SAW THE ALCOHOLIC TRAGEDY THEY WERE HEADED FOR THEY FORGOT THEIR DIFFERENCES AND JOINED AA. AS THESE NEW TRENDS CAME INTO FULL VIEW, AA WAS OVERJOYED. TODAY MORE THAN ONE-HALF OF AA'S MEMBERSHIP CONSISTS OF MILD CASES AND THOSE WHO ONCE THOUGHT THEY WERE "DIFFERENT".

THEN AA SPREAD TO FOREIGN LANDS. THIS DEVELOPMENT BROUGHT AA A WHOLE NEW SET OF PROBLEMS TO SOLVE. SOON AA'S WERE RUNNING INTO LANGUAGE BARRIERS AND MORE AND MORE PAMPHLET LITERATURE HAD TO BE TRANSLATED INTO OTHER TONGUES. DOUBT SURROUNDED GROWTH IN OTHER COUNTRIES. SINCE THEIR COUNTRIES WERE SO DIFFERENT, MAYBE THEIR ALCOHOLICS WERE DIFFERENT TOO. "WILL AA WORK IN OUR CULTURES?", THEY ASKED. AA GRADUALLY MADE SOME HEADWAY. AA CONTINUOUSLY SEARCHED OUT AND BRIEFED ALL AA TRAVELERS GOING ABROAD. IT WAS A LONG TIME BEFORE AA KNEW FOR SURE THAT IT COULD CROSS THE BARRIERS OF DISTANCE, RACE, CREED AND LANGUAGE. TODAY AA IS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

QUESTIONS

1. CAN YOU BEGIN TO SEE THAT AA IS NO LONGER A FELLOWSHIP THAT CAN BE RUN ON A PART TIME BASIS AS IT WAS BY OUR CO-FOUNDERS?
2. CAN YOU BEGIN TO SEE WHY OUR CO-FOUNDERS HAD TO START MAKING A LIVING FOR THEIR FAMILIES?
3. DO YOU THINK IT WAS FAIR FOR OUR CO-FOUNDERS TO GET ROYALTIES FROM THE BIG BOOK OF AA?
4. DO YOU KNOW THAT "NO ONE ACCEPTS PAY FOR TWELVE STEP WORK IN AA"? EVER.
5. DO YOU THINK AA SECRETARIES, COOKS, OR ETC. SHOULD ACCEPT MONEY WHEN THEY RENDER THE SERVICES OF THEIR VOCATION TO AA?
6. WILL YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER WHERE THE AA SERENITY PRAYER WAS FOUND?
7. WILL YOU REMEMBER HOW THE PRAYER WAS SPREAD?
8. ARE YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL, LIVING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SOBER ? IS THIS PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR AA? ARE YOU WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SAME POLICIES OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AS AA, CO -OPERATION WITHOUT AFFILIATION?
9. ARE YOU WILLING TO USE 100 PERCENT ANONYMITY IN YOUR LIFE? TO ILLIMINATE SELF-IMPORTANCE IN YOUR LIFE?
10. DO YOU THINK EACH ALCOHOLIC "KNOWS HIS OR HER OWN BOTTOM"? AND IS THE AA PROGRAM FOR THE DERELICT OR THE MILD CASES?
11. ARE YOU WILLING TO HAVE EVERYONE DISCLOSE HIS OR HER ALCOHOLISM?
12. DO YOU REALIZE AA IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART?

CHAPTER TWELVE

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED ABOUT THE GROWTH OF AA WHICH WAS GETTING TO BIG FOR THE CO-FOUNDERS TO RUN; NO ONE ACCEPTS PAY FOR TWELVE STEP WORK. HOW THE SERENITY PRAYER OF AA WAS FOUND AND HOW IT WAS SPREAD THOUGH THE GROUPS: PUBLIC RELATIONS, ANONYMITY AND AA AS THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART.

SINCE AA WAS GROWING SO FAST, THE HEADQUARTERS HAD TO GROW, TOO. THOUSANDS OF GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS AND INCREASING LITERATURE SALES SOON DEMANDED A FULL TIME BOOKEEPER. FORTUNATELY THE OFFICE IN NEW YORK CITY DID NOT GROW AS FAST AS AA DID. AA WAS GETTING SO BIG THAT LOCAL GROUPS HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE DID. MANY GROUPS, PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN AFFAIRS, FAILED TO HELP AA'S GENERAL SERVICE AT ALL. LESS THAN HALF OF THE GROUPS CONTRIBUTED ANYTHING. THE OFFICE WAS PLAGUED BY CONSTANT DEFICITS WHICH WERE PLUGGED UP BY THE SALES OF THE BIG BOOK AND THE GROWING PAMPHLET LITERATURE. WITHOUT THE BOOK INCOME AA WOULD HAVE FOLDED UP ENTIRELY.

IN 1944, THE AA GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE BEGAN TO ISSUE A MONTHLY PUBLICATION WHICH CAUGHT ON NATIONALLY. AFTER A FEW MONTHS AA FOUND OUT THAT THE FBI HAD A MONTHLY ISSUE CALLED THE GRAPEVINE, WHICH KEPT AGENTS INFORMED ON WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THEIR SERVICE. AA SOLVED THIS PROBLEM BY CALLING THEIR MAGAZINE "THE AA GRAPEVINE". TODAY THE GRAPEVINE IS ONE OF AA'S GREATEST ASSETS IN KEEPING ITS MEMBERSHIP INFORMED.

IN 1945, IN KEEPING WITH THE NEW TRADITIONS AA WROTE MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER AND THE 1940 DINNER GUESTS INFORMING THEM THAT AA WOULD NO LONGER NEED THEIR FINANCIAL HELP. THE BOOK ROYALTIES COULD NOW PROVIDE FOR DR. BOB AND BILL. THE GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS COULD PAY THE GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES. THIS MEANT THAT AA HAD FINALLY DECLARED ITSELF TO BE SELF-SUPPORTING. SINCE THAT TIME AA HAS STEADFASTLY REFUSED OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS.

IN 1944 THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK INVITED BILL TO READ A PAPER AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING. AFTER READING THE PAPER THREE OF THE PHYSICIANS PRESENT STOOD UP AND GAVE AA THE FIRMEST KIND OF ENDORSEMENT. THE SOCIETY PUBLISHED THE PAPER IN ITS JOURNAL AND PERMITTED AA TO MAKE REPRINTS. THIS GAVE AA THEIR ENDORSEMENT AND THE ASSURANCE TO DOCTORS EVERYWHERE THAT AA WAS MEDICALLY SOUND. IN 1949 THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION DID EXACTLY THE SAME THING. THIS GENEROUS RESPONSE WAS EVIDENCE THAT OUR FRIENDS THE DOCTORS OF MEDICINE AND PSYCHIATRISTS WERE BEING MUCH MORE TOLERANT OF US THAN AA HAD BEEN OF THEM. IF THE AA MEMBERSHIP COULD BECOME MORE OPEN-MINDED THEN FAR GREATER COOPERATION WITH THESE PROFESSIONS WOULD BE ASSURED.

MANY HOSPITALS HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO TAKE ALCOHOLICS AT ALL. THESE CONDITIONS WERE RAPIDLY CHANGING FOR THE BETTER. TWO AMERICAN HOSPITALS WERE FINE EXAMPLES OF THIS COOPERATION. AT ST. THOMAS HOSPITAL AT AKRON, OHIO, DR. BOB AND THE WONDERFUL SISTER IGNATIA PRESIDED OVER AN ALCOHOLIC WARD THAT TREATED SEVERAL THOUSAND ALCOHOLICS. IN 1945, THE KNICKERBACKER HOSPITAL OF NEW YORK ALSO OPENED A WARD FOR TREATMENT UNDER THE CARE OF AA'S FIRST FRIEND OF MEDICINE, DR. WILLIAM D. SILKWORTH AND HIS SKILLED NURSE TEDDY. BY 1954, TEN THOUSAND ALCOHOLICS HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THIS HOSPITAL BY THE NEW YORK INTER GROUP OFFICE. GSO CONTINUED PASSING ON THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM THIS EARLY EXPERIENCE TO AA GROUPS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

MEANWHILE A GREAT TIDE OF PUBLIC APPROVAL ENSUED, STIMULATED BY AA'S FRIENDS IN THE PRESS, RADIO, AND MORE RECENTLY TV, THIS APPROVAL HAS NEVER CEASED. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL THIS ACTIVITY WAS CONSTANTLY INCREASING AT THE GSO. HOW MANY LIVES HAVE BEEN SAVED, HOW MANY YEARS OF MISERY HAVE BEEN AVERTED, ONLY GOD KNOWS.

THE PERIOD, 1945 to 1950, WAS ONE OF IMMENSE STRAIN AND TEST. AA WAS AFRONTED BY THREE BRAVE ISSUES. THE FIRST HAD TO DO WITH MONEY, SECOND WITH ANONYMITY, AND MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL, THE THIRD WAS THE QUESTION OF WHAT WAS TO BECOME OF AA WHEN THE OLD-TIMERS AND FOUNDERS HAD GONE.?

LOOKING AT WHAT CONFRONTED AA. THE FOUNDERS AND GSO REALIZED THAT AA SOLVED PROBLEMS BY PAST EXPERIENCES.

AS AA GREW, GROUP PROBLEMS CAME POURING INTO THE OFFICE. IT SEEMED AS IF EVERY CONTESTANT IN EVERY GROUP ARGUMENT WROTE THE OFFICE DURING THIS CONFUSED AND EXCITING PERIOD. THE BASIC IDEAS FOR THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF AA COME DIRECTLY OUT OF THIS VAST CORRESPONDENCE. IN LATE 1945 A GOOD AA FRIEND SUGGESTED THAT ALL OF THIS MASS OF EXPERIENCE MIGHT BE CODIFIED INTO A SET OF PRINCIPLES WHICH COULD OFFER TESTED SOLUTIONS TO ALL OF AA'S PROBLEMS PARTICULARLY THOSE OF LIVING AND WORKING TOGETHER AND RELATING THE SOCIETY OF AA TO THE WORLD OUTSIDE. IF AA HAD BECOME SURE ENOUGH OF WHERE IT REALLY STOOD ON SUCH MATTERS AS MEMBERSHIP, GROUP AUTONOMY, SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE, NON-ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER ENTERPRISES, PROFESSIONALISM, PUBLIC

CONTROVERSY, AND ANONYMITY IN ITS SEVERAL ASPECTS, THEN SUCH
A SET OF PRINCIPLES COULD BE WRITTEN.

QUESTIONS

1. THIS IS A REPEAT QUESTION: DO YOU BELIEVE AA COULD HAVE SURVIVED IF THE BOOK OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HAD NOT BEEN WRITTEN?
2. DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO THE GRAPEVINE?
3. DO YOU NOW UNDERSTAND WHY AA DECLINES ALL OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTION?
4. IF YOU WERE TO FIND OUT YOUR AA GROUP OR A MEMBER OF AA WAS TAKING OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
5. IF YOU WERE ATTENDED BY A PHYSICIAN BEFORE AA FOR YOUR ALCOHOLISM, WOULD YOU HAVE RETURNED TO HIM AND TOLD HIM OF YOUR NEW WAY OF LIFE?
6. DO YOU BELIEVE AA MEMBERS SHOULD BE MORE OPEN-MINDED TOWARD THE MEDICAL PROFESSION?
7. DID YOU KNOW AA HAS A HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTION DIRECTORY THAT IS UPDATED EVERY YEAR?
8. HOW DOES AA FIND THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS?
9. WHERE DID THE BASIC IDEAS COME FROM FOR THE TWELVE TRADITIONS?
10. DO YOU THINK FROM WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM PAST AA HISTORY, THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO START DEVELOPING THE PRINCIPLES OF UNITY?
11. HOW DO YOU STAND ON MEMBERSHIP, AUTONOMY, SINGLENES OF PURPOSE, NON-ENDORSEMENT, PROFESSIONALISM, PUBLIC CONTROVERS ANONYMITY IS SEVERAL ASPECTS? DO YOU NEED MORE HELP NOW IN THOSE DEPARTMENT OF YOUR LIFE?
12. DOES YOUR GROUP AS A WHOLE NEED TO ADHEARE TO THE PRINCIPLES MORE?
13. DO YOU THINK OF THESE PRINCIPLES AS RULES OR LAWS FOR AA OR DO YOU CONSIDER THEM GUIDES?
14. HAVE YOU READ BOTH THE SHORT FORM AND THE LONG FORM OF THE TRADITIONS?
15. WHICH DO YOU LIKE THE BEST? WHEN WERE THE FIRST TRADITIONS WRITTEN AND HOW WERE THEY INTRODUCED TO AA.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TWELVE TRADITIONS TO THE AA MEMBERSHIP AND HOW THEY WERE RECEIVED. WE ASKED QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF THE TRADITIONS AT THE GROUP LEVEL AND THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL. NOW WE START THE INTERREPTION OF THE TWELVE TRADITIONS.

TRADITION ONE

THE LONG FORM: EACH MEMBER OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS BUT A SMALL PART OF A GREAT WHOLE. AA MUST CONTINUE TO LIVE OR MOST OF US WILL SURELY DIE. HENCE OUR COMMON WELFARE COMES FIRST. BUT INDIVIDUAL WELFARE FOLLOWS CLOSE AFTERWARD.

THE SHORT FORM: OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS UPON A. A. UNITY.

GROUP LEVEL: OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST, PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS ON AA UNITY.

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL: MY COMMON WELFARE COMES FIRST, MY PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS ON AA UNITY.

AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF AA'S COMMON WELFARE IS TO STAY SOBER. WITHOUT HIM BEING SOBER HE HAS NO WELFARE. THE COMMON WELFARE OF A GROUP IS NOT TO LET ANYTHING DONE BY THE INDIVIDUALS EFFECT THE GROUP, WHICH IS ITS COMMON WELFARE: FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THE MEMBERS IS SLIPING: AS A GROUP WE MUST TAKE THAT IN OUR STRIDE. ALCOHOL ALWAYS THREATENS THE INDIVIDUAL, BUT WE KNOW THAT IT CANNOT DESTROY THE COMMON WELFARE OF THE GROUP. ANOTHER EXAMPLE: OUT-OF-BOUNDS ROMANCE, THE WELL-TRIANGLE. MOST MEMBERS COME TO AA AFTER THEIR FAMILY RELATION HAS BEEN DESTROYE DRINKING HAS TURNED THE HUSBAND INTO THE HOUSEHOLD BAD BOY AND THE WIFE INTO HIS PROTECTIVE AND POSSESSIVE MOTHER. WHEN THIS RELATION PERSISTS, THE HUSBANDS SOMETIMES GET WANDERING EYES WITHIN AA. ALCOHOLIC WOMEN WHOSE HUSBANDS HAVE LONG SINCE CAST THEM OFF PUT IN AN APPERARANCE AT MEETINGS. HERE AND THERE WE BEGAN TO WITNESS EXPLOSIONS GATHERING AROUND THESE SITUATIONS. PEOPLE VIOLENTLY TAKE SIDES AND THE WHOLE GROUP GETS INTO AN UPROAR AND A NUMBER OF PEOPLE GET DRUNK. THERE IS ALWAYS SOME ROCK THROWING AT THE SINNERS AND WE TREMBLE FOR AA'S REPUTATION AND FOR ITS SURVIVAL. HOWEVER, BY LOOKING AT THESE RELATIONS WITH AN OPEN MIND, WE SEE THAT WE'RE NOT HAVING ANYMORE DIFFICULTIES THAN ANY OTHER SOCIETY WITH SEX AND POSSIBLY LESS. WE HAVE FOUND THAT THESE SITUATIONS WILL OFTEN RIGHT THEMSELVES IF TREATED WITH PATIENCE AND KINDNESS. THE SINNERS AND THE SELF RIGHTEOUS EVENTFULLY SEE THE FOLLY OF THEIR WAYS. MOST ALCOHOLICS WHOSE WIVES HAVE SEEN THEM THROUGH THEIR TERRIBLE DAYS WILL RETURN

TO THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW. AL-NON HAS DONE WONDERS FOR AA'S DOMESTIC RELATIONS. OVER THE YEARS IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SEXES WAS NOT GOING TO DO AA IN AFTER AA. OUR COMMON WELFARE WAS TO COME FIRST, AND IN THIS SITUATION OUR COMMON WELFARE WAS TO NOT THROW STONES. "LET HE WHO HAS NOT SINNED, CAST THE FIRST STONE."

THE SECOND PART OF THE FIRST TRADITION IS THAT "PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS UPON AA UNITY." IT IS EACH MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LIVE IN UNITY WITH HIS FELLOW MEMBERS. REGARDLESS OF WHAT HIS FELLOW MEMBER THINK OF HIM. THAT HE LOVE HIS FELLOW MEMBER WHETHER HIS FELLOW MEMBER LOVES HIM OR NOT. HE HAS TO ACCEPT HIS FELLOW MEMBER JUST AS HE OR SHE ARE, NOT THE WAY HE WANTS THEM. THIS DETERMINES WHETHER OR NOT WE OBTAIN PERSONAL RECOVER

AA FOUND OUT THAT WITHIN THE GROUPS THERE WERE FORCES THAT COULD THREATEN US IN WAYS THAT ALCOHOL AND SEX COULD NOT. THESE WERE THE DESIRE FOR POWER, FOR DOMINATION, FOR GLORY, AND FOR MONEY. THEY WERE ALL MORE DANGEROUS BECAUSE THEY WERE INVARIABLY POWERED BY SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS, SELF JUSTIFICATION, AND THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF ANGER, USUALLY MASQUERADING AS RIGHTEOUS INDIGATION. PRIDE, FEAR, AND ANGER ARE THE PRIME ENEMIES OF OUT COMMON WELFARE. TRUE BROTHERHOOD, HARMONY, AND LOVE, FORTIFIED BY CLEAR INSIGHTS AND RIGHT PRACTICES, ARE THE ONLY ANSWERS. THE PURPOSE OF AA'S TRADITIONAL PRINCIPLES, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND AT GROUP LEVEL IS TO BRING THESE FORCES TO THE TOP AND KEEP THEM THERE. ONLY THEN CAN OUR COMMON WELFARE

BE SERVED, ONLY THEN CAN AA'S UNITY BECOME PERMAMENT.

QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS YOUR COMMON WELFARE?
2. CAN YOU GO ALONG WITHOUT CASTING STONES?
3. DO YOU MAKE STAYING SOBER YOUR BIGGEST BUSINESS AND COULD YOU ADD TO THIS QUESTION "STAYING SOBER AND LIVING IN UNITY IS MY BIGGEST BUSINESS EACH DAY?"
4. DO YOU LOVE YOUR FELLOWMAN AND DO YOU HAVE A DESIRE TO LIVE IN UNITY WITH HIM?
5. CAN YOU ACCEPT A HUMAN JUST THE WAY HE OR SHE IS AND LOVE HIM OR HER IN SPITE?
6. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS HAS A DIRECT BEARING OR WHETHER OR NOT WE ARE HAPPY IN OUR SOBRIETY?
7. WHAT ARE THE PRIME ENEMIES OF OUR WELFARE?
8. WHAT ARE THE ONLY ANSWERS?
9. WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY?

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

TRADITION TWO

THE LONG FORM: FOR OUR GROUP PURPOSE THERE IS BUT ONE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY--A LOVING GOD AS HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN OUR GROUP CONSCIENCE.

THE SHORT FORM: FOR OUR GROUP PURPOSE THERE IS BUT ONE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY--A LOVING GOD AS HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN OUR GROUP CONSCIENCE. OUR LEADERS ARE BUT TRUSTED SERVANTS; THEY DO NOT GOVERN.

GROUP LEVEL: FOR OUR GROUP PURPOSE THERE IS BUT ONE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY--A LOVING GOD AS HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN OUR GROUP CONSCIENCE. OUR LEADERS ARE BUT TRUSTED SERVANTS, THEY DO NOT GOVERN.

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL: I HAVE BUT ONE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY-- A LOVING GOD AS HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN MY CONSCIENCE. I AM BUT A TRUSTED SERVANT, I DO NOT GOVERN.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF AA HAS LEARNED THIS PRINCIPLE THE HARD WAY. FEW OBSTACLES HAVE BEEN TOUGHER TO REMOVE THAN THOSE WHICH BLOCKED THE WAY TO THE REALIZATION THAT AA'S GROUP CONSCIENCE CAN BE THE ONLY ULTIMATE AUTHORITY IN OUR AFFAIRS. MANY OLD TIMERS IN AA STILL DO NOT BELIEVE THIS PROPOSITION. THEY FEEL THAT THEY ARE OLDER AND MORE EXPERIENCED THAN RECENT GENERATIONS OF AA'S AND THAT IT WAS THEIR GUIDANCE AND LEADERSHIP THAT BOUGHT THEM INTO THE NEW LIFE. THE OLDSTERS OFTEN VISUALIZING THEIR LONGER EXPERIENCE AS A SORT OF VESTED RIGHT. EVEN AN UNLIMITED LICENSE, TO RUN AA INDEFINITELY. WHENEVER WE GET SICK, TIRED, AND OLD, WE NATURALLY THINK OURSELVES ENTITLED TO HAND-PICK OUR OWN SUCCESSORS. WHO COULD KNOW BETTER THAN WE?

WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME MOST OF US COME UP AGAINST SOME HARD FACTS OF AA LIFE. WE RUEFULLY DISCOVER THAT THE GROUPS, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY HAVE LIKED AND RESPECTED US, SIMPLY DO NOT WANT US TO BE THE SELF-APPOINTED MANAGERS OF THEIR SERVICE AND POLICY AFFAIRS FOREVER. NEITHER WILL THEY LET US PICK OUR OWN SUCCESSORS TO DO THE JOB FOR THEM. THEY WANT TO NAME THEIR OWN SERVICE COMMITTEES. AGAIN AND AGAIN THE GROUPS HAVE SHOWED US THAT THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY MUST SPEAK THROUGH THE GROUPS. FOR SOME THIS WAS TOUGH TO TAKE.

HARDER STILL TO ACCEPT WAS THE NOW PROVEN FACT THAT THE CONSCIENCE OF THE GROUP, WHEN PROPERLY INFORMED ON THE FACTS, ISSUES, AND PRINCIPLES INVOLVED, WAS OFTEN WISER THAN ANY LEADER, SELF-APPOINTED OR NOT. WE HAVE SLOWLY REALIZED THAT THE OLD

TIMERS FREQUENTLY FAULTY JUDGEMENT WAS BECAUSE IN HIS POSITION OF ASSUMED AUTHORITY, HE WAS TOO OFTEN INFLUENCED BY PERSONAL PREJUDICES AND INTEREST. WITH ALL HIS EXPERIENCE AND GOOD WORKS, THERE WAS STILL NOTHING INFALLIBLE ABOUT HIM.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT AS OLD TIMERS OUR USEFULNESS IS OVER? NO! ONCE WE HAVE SURRENDERED TO THE GROUP CONSCIENCE WE ARE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THE GROUPS, WHEN IN DEEP DIFFICULTY, WILL TURN TO US FOR THE KIND OF GUIDANCE THAT ONLY OUR LONGER EXPERIENCE CAN OFFER.

THIS IS TO REMIND EACH OF US THAT THERE ARE NO BIGGIES IN AA. ALL MEMBERS ARE SERVANTS. WE ALL OPERATE AS THE GROUP CONSCIENCE TELLS US TO OPERATE. EVEN BILL W. OUR CO-FOUNDER WAS ONCE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING ALL ALCOHOLICS TO A CERTAIN HOSPITAL. THE PROPOSITION SOUNDED ETHICAL, BUT WHEN THE GROUP WAS APPROACHED THE GROUP CONSCIENCE TOLD BILL "NO". A MEMBER OF AA "NEVER AS A MEMBER OF AA BECOME A PROFESSIONAL". AA WILL NOT RUN ON ETHICS ONLY, IT HAS TO BE BETTER. AA, CANNOT HAVE A CLASS OF PROFESSIONAL THERAPISTS. AND "GOD" SPEAKING IN THE SAME GROUP CONSCIENCE, IS TO BE OUR FINAL AUTHORITY. "OUR LEADERS ARE BUT TRUSTED SERVANTS; THEY DO NOT GOVERN."

AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL, TAKE HEED TO WHAT HAS BEEN SAID. WE CANNOT GOVERN AND BE A SERVANT AT THE SAME TIME. WE MUST REALIZE THAT THE TWELVE STEPS ARE IN THE "WE", MEANING THAT WE WORK TOGETHER IN AA. WE AS INDIVIDUALS SHOULD SERVE AA IN ANY CAPACITY THAT IT ASKS US TOO. IF WE FEEL OUR INDIVIDUAL WAY IS THE WAY TO

DO SOMETHING FOR THE GROUP AND THE GROUP SAYS "NO". WE YIELD TO THE GROUP AS OUR ULTIMATE AUTHORITY.

QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS OUR ULTIMATE AUTHORITY?
2. DOES THIS TRADITION RELATE TO YOU IN THE THIRD STEP?
3. DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE A B C'S IN AA?
4. IS THERE ANY SUCH THING AS A SELF-APPOINTED MANAGER IN AA?
5. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE GROUP CONSCIENCE?
6. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE MEMBERS USE PERSONAL PREJUDICES AND INTEREST.
7. DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS AN INFALLIBLE AA MEMBER?
8. WHO WOULD YOU TURN TO IN CASE OF DEEP DIFFICULTY?
9. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANY BIGGIES IN AA?
10. CAN AA HAVE PROFESSIONAL THERAPISTS AND "GOD" SPEAKING IN THE GROUP CONSCIENCE?
11. WHAT ARE THE LEADERS OF AA CALLED?
12. AS A SERVANT OF AA, CAN WE AS INDIVIDUALS GOVERN?
13. DO YOU GO ALONG WITH THE GROUP IF THE GROUP CONSCIENCE IS OPPOSITE FROM YOUR OPINION?

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

TRADITION THREE

THE LONG FORM: OUR MEMBERSHIP OUGHT TO INCLUDE ALL WHO SUFFER FROM ALCOHOLISM. HENCE WE MAY REFUSE NONE WHO WISH TO RECOVER. NOR OUGHT A. A. MEMBERSHIP EVER DEPEND UPON MONEY OR CONFROMITY. ANY TWO OR THREE ALCOHOLICS GATHERED TOGETHER FOR SOBRIETY MAY CALL THEMSELVES AN A. A. GROUP, PROVIDED THAT, AS A GROUP, THEY HAVE NO OTHER AFFILIATION.

THE SHORT FORM: THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR A. A. MEMBERSHIP IS A DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING.

GROUP LEVEL: THE ONLY REQUIRMENT FOR AA MEMBERSHIP IS A DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING.

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL: MY ONLY REQUIRMENT FOR AA MEMBERSHIP IS A DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING.

THE GROUP SHOULD NEVER WORRY ABOUT MEMBERSHIP. ALCOHOL REA LY MIXES PEOPLE UP. AA HAS ALL TYPES OF CHARACTERS TO INCLUDE PROFESSIONS AND ETC. ALCOHOL IS A RESPECTOR OF NONE. THERE ARE STRANGE PEOPLE, CRIMINALS AND IN THE MIND OF SOME MEMBERS SOCIAL UNDESIRABLES. WITH THESE ARE MIXED A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE SOBBISH AND SMUG, WHICH REPRESENTS NO MORE THAN DOWN RIGHT FEAR. WE SHOULD NOT CARE WHAT OR WHO TURNS UP IN AA. LITERALLY ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY INTO AA.

IT TOOK A LONG LONG TIME FOR AA TO BECOME DEMOCRATIC. THERE WERE MEMBERSHIP RULES OUT AMONG THE GROUPS THAT IF ENFORCED ALL AT ONCE, NOBODY--ACTUALLY NOBODY--COULD HAVE JOINED AA. BUT AS AA'S FEARS SUBSIDED THEY FINALLY REALIZED WHO ARE WE TO KEEP ANYBODY OUT? TO MANY A DESPERATE DRUNK AA IS THE COURSE OF HIS LAST APPEAR. HOW CAN AA SLAM THE DOOR ON ANYONE WHO STANDS OUTSIDE. NO, AA MUST EVER DO THAT. AA MUST ALWAYS TAKE THE RISK, NO MATTER WHO COME IN. MAYBE AA'S PUBLIC RELATIONS WILL BE DAMAGED BECAUSE A FEW STRANGE CHARACTERS ARE AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP. NATURALLY PUBLIC RELATIONS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT ISN'T THE REAL CHARACTER OF THIS SOCIETY MORE IMPORTANT? WHO OF US CAN DARE TO DAY "NO, YOU CAN'T COME IN." THEREBY SETTING HIMSELF OR HERSELF UP AS JUDGE, JURY, AND PERHAPS EXECUTIONER OF HIS BROTHER ALCOHOLIC. SO THE EXPERIENCES OF THE YEARS, NOW DISTILLED IN A TRADITION SAYS "YOU ARE AN AA MEMBER IF YOU SAY SO. NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND STILL WILL DO, YOU ARE AN AA

MEMBER IF YOU SAY SO."

AS TO THE INDIVIDUAL YOU ARE AN AA MEMBER IF YOU SAY SO. NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST. IT IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP. THEREFORE, YOU INSURE THAT ALL OF YOU ALCOHOLIC BROTHERS HAVE THE SAME CHANCE WITHOUT RIDICULE. IF SOME MEMBERS PICK AND CHOOSE WHO NEW MEMBERS WILL BE, IT CAN CAUSE ILL FEELING WITHIN YOUR GROUP. ALWAYS REMEMBER: OUR MEMBERSHIP OUGHT TO INCLUDE ALL WHO SUFFER FROM ALCOHOLISM, HENCE, WE MAY REFUSE NONE WHO WISH TO RECOVER.

QUESTIONS

1. WHO DOES ALCOHOL RESPECT?
2. WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE FIND THEIR WAY TO AA?
3. WOULD YOU CALL AA A DEMOCRATIC FELLOWSHIP?
4. WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN AA?
5. DO YOU THINK ANYONE CAN BE DENIED THE RIGHT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF AA?
6. ARE YOU GUILTY OF SETTING YOURSELF UP AS A JUDGE, JURY, AND EXECUTIONER OF YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER ALCOHOLIC?
7. WHEN DO YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF AA?
8. WHO SHOULD OUR FELLOWSHIP INCLUDE?

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

TRADITION FOUR

THE LONG FORM: WITH RESPECT TO ITS OWN AFFAIRS, EACH A. A. GROUP SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO NO OTHER AUTHORITY THAN ITS OWN CONSCIENCE. BUT WHEN ITS PLANS CONCERN THE WELFARE OF NEIGHBORING GROUPS ALSO, THOSE GROUPS OUGHT TO BE CONSULTED. AND NO GROUP, REGIONAL COMMITTEE, OR INDIVIDUAL SHOULD EVER TAKE ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT GREATLY AFFECT A. A. AS A WHOLE WITHOUT CONFERRING WITH THE TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD. ON SUCH ISSUES OUR COMMON WELFARE IS PARAMOUNT.

THE SHORT FORM: EACH GROUP SHOULD BE AUTONOMOUS EXCEPT IN MATTERS AFFECTING OTHER GROUPS OR A. A. AS A WHOLE.

THE GROUP LEVEL: EACH GROUP SHOULD BE AUTONOMOUS, EXCEPT IN MATTERS AFFECTING OTHER GROUPS OR AA'S AS A WHOLE.

THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL: I SHOULD BE AUTONOMOUS, EXCEPT IN MATTERS AFFECTING OTHER MEMBERS OR GROUPS OF AA AS A WHOLE.

FOR A LONG TIME THE PEOPLE AT THE GSO THOUGHT THAT THEY COULD MANAGE AA FROM THEIR OFFICE. THEY FOUND OUT THAT THEY COULD NOT. GROUPS SAID TO THEM: "WE LIKE WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND SOMETIMES YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND ADVICE ARE GOOD, BUT WHETHER WE TAKE YOU OR LEAVE YOU ALONE IS GOING TO BE OUR DECISION. OUT IN THE GROUPS, WE ARE RUNNING THE SHOW. WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE GOVERNED FROM NEW YORK, OR ANYWHERE ELSE. SERVICE 'YES', BUT GOVERNMENT 'NO'," HENCE, AA'S TRADITION OF GROUP AUTONOMY. IT DID NOT TAKE LONG TO FORMULATE THIS TRADITION. THE GROUPS TOLD THE GSO WHAT THEY WANTED WHICH INCLUDED THE RIGHT TO BE WRONG.

TO ILLUSTRATE: YEARS AGO, IN A CERTAIN TOWN, A SUPER PROMOTER GOT SOBERED UP AND JOINED AA. AT ONCE HE GOT BIG IDEAS, FOR THE GOOD OF ALL AA. AS HE SAW IT, THE RIGHT SET INCLUDED A LARGE BUILDING WHICH WOULD TAKE AN AWFUL LOT OF MONEY. ON FLOOR ONE THERE SHOULD BE A CLUB, ON THE SECOND FLOOR SHOULD BE THE MEETING ROOMS AND ON THE THIRD FLOOR, A CLINIC AND REHABILITATION CENTER. ALSO ON ONE FLOOR SHOULD BE A LOAN AGENCY WHERE THE ALCOHOLIC COULD BORROW A LITTLE SPARE CASH. SUCH WAS HIS VISION OF THE NEW AA CENTER: HE WAS A GREAT PROMOTER AND SOLD THE TOWNSPEOPLE ON HIS IDEA. HE, NATURALLY, WAS TO BECOME THE GENERAL MANAGER. HIS BLUEPRINT INVOLVED THREE DIFFERENT CORPORATIONS, ONE FOR THE CLUB, ONE FOR THE CLINIC AND ONE FOR THE LOAN DEPT. ALTOGETHER, HE WROTE SIXTY-ONE RULES, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS TO CAUSE THESE CORPORATIONS TO FUNCTION. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW DIE HARDS, HIS FELLOW AA'S WERE SOLD. HE WAS THE MAN OF THE HOUR. HE

APPLIES TO THE GSO IN NEW YORK FOR A CHARTER. HEARING ABOUT THIS, SOME OF THE DISSENTERS WROTE TO THE GSO. THE GSO HAD TO TELL THEM THAT EACH AA GROUP COULD MANAGE ITS OWN AFFAIRS AS IT LIKED, PROVIDED IT DID NOT HARM SURROUNDING GROUPS. BUT AS STRONGLY AS THE GSO DARED, THEY POINTED OUT THAT EVEN LESS GRANDISE SCHEMES OF A LIKE CHARACTER HAD FAILED BEFORE. AS IT HAD A RIGHT TO DO THIS VERY AUTONOMOUS GROUP IGNORED THE WARNINGS.

YOU PROBABLY CAN GUESS WHAT HAPPENED. AFTER MANY RUMBLINGS, THE CRASH CAME. IT WAS LIKE A BOILER EXPLOSION IN A CLAPBOARD FACTORY. THE THUMP OF COLLIDING EGOS COULD BE HEARD AND FELT FOR MILES.

WHEN THINGS QUIETED DOWN, THE GSO HEARD FROM THE PROMOTER. HE WROTE, "YOU TOLD US THAT OUTSIDE ENTERPRISES CAN BE FINE AND VERY HELPFUL AND YOU ALSO SAID THEY WOULD NOT MIX WITH AA. I FIGURED THAT THEY COULD BE, AND SHOULD BE. YOU FOLKS AT GSO WERE RIGHT AND I WAS WRONG."

THUS UNDER TRADITION FOUR, AN AA GROUP HAD EXERCISED ITS RIGHT TO BE WRONG. MORE OVER, IT HAS PERFORMED A GREAT SERVICE TO AA, BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN HUMBLY WILLING TO APPLY THE LESSONS IT HAD LEARNED. IT HAD PICKED ITSELF UP WITH A LAUGH AND HAD GONE ON TO BETTER THINGS. EVEN THE CHIEF ARCHITECT, STANDING IN THE RUINS OF HIS DREAM COULD LAUGH AT HIMSELF--AND THAT IS THE ACME OF HUMILITY.

SOME MAY THINK THAT AA HAS CARRIED THE PRINCIPLE OF GROUP AUTONOMY TO EXTREMES. FOR EXAMPLE: IN ITS ORIGINAL LONG FORM,

TRADITION FOUR DECLARED THAT " ANY TWO OR THREE GATHERED TOGETHER FOR SOBRIETY MAY CALL THEMSELVES AN AA GROUP, PROVIDED THAT THEY HAVE NO OTHER AFFILIATION." THIS MEANT THAT THESE TWO OR THREE ALCOHOLICS COULD TRY SOBRIETY IN ANY WAY THEY LIKED. THEY COULD DISAGREE WITH ANY OR ALL OF AA'S PRINCIPLES AND STILL CALL THEMSELVES AN AA GROUP.

THE SUPER PROMOTER RULE NUMBER SIXTY-TWO, "DON'T TAKE YOURSELF TO DAMNED SERIOUSLY."

BUT THIS ULTRA-LIBERY IS NOT AS RISKY AS IT APPEARS. IN THE END THE INNOVATORS WOULD HAVE TO ADOPT THE AA PRINCIPLES--AT LEAST SOME OF THEM--IN ORDER TO REMAIN SOBRIETY AT ALL. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY FOUND SOMETHING BETTER THAN AA, OR IF THEY WERE ABLE TO IMPROVE ON AA METHODS, THEN IN ALL PROBABILITY AA WOULD ADOPT WHAT THEY DISCOVERED FOR THE GENERAL USE EVERYWHERE. THIS SORT OF LIBERTY ALSO PREVENTS AA FROM BECOMING A FROZEN SET OF DOGMATIC PRINCIPLES THAT COULD NOT BE CHANGED EVEN WHEN OBVIOUSLY WRONG. HEALTHY TRAIL AND ERROR ALWAYS HAVE THEIR DAY AND PLACE IN AA. OF COURSE ANY DISSENTENT GROUP IS URGED--THOUGH NEVER COMMANDED--NOT TO MAKE OTHER AFFILIATIONS. OBVIOUSLY AA COULD NOT HAVE CATHOLIC AA GROUPS, PROTESTANT AA GROUPS, REPUBLICAN AA GROUPS, DEMOCRATIC AA GROUPS, OR COMMUNIST AA GROUPS. NOR SHOULD AN AA GROUP ALLY ITSELF WITH A PARTICULAR BRAND OF MEDICAL OR PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENTS. MEMBER CAN COOPERATE WITH ANYONE, BUT THE NAME "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS" MUST BE RESERVED FOR AA ONLY.

MANY PEOPLE WONDER HOW AA CAN FUNCTION UNDER SUCH SEEMING ANARCHY. OTHER SOCIETIES MUST HAVE LAWS, FORCE, SANCTION AND PUNISHMENT. ADMINISTERED BY AUTHORIZED PEOPLE. HAPPILY FOR AA, IT HAS FOUND THAT IT NEEDS NO HUMAN AUTHORITY WHATEVER. AA HAS TWO AUTHORITIES WHICH ARE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE. ONE IS DENIGH AND THE OTHER MALIGN. THERE IS GOD, OUR FATHER, WHO VERY SIMPLY SAYS, "I AM WAITING FOR YOU TO DO MY WILL." THE OTHER AUTHORITY IS NAMED JOHN BARLEYCORN AND HE SAYS, "YOU HAD BETTER DO GOD'S WILL OR I WILL KILL YOU." AND SOMETIMES HE DOES KILL. SO, WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN WE CONFORM TO GOD'S WILL OR PERISH. AT THIS LEVEL, THE DEATH SENTENCE ALWAYS HANGS OVER THE AA MEMBER, HIS GROUP AND AA AS A WHOLE. THEREFORE WE HAVE THE FULL BENEFIT OF THE MURDEROUS POLITICAL DICTATORSHIPS OF TODAY BUT NONE OF THEIR LIABILITIES. SO HERE IS AUTHORITY ENOUGH, LOVE ENOUGH AND PUNISHMENT ENOUGH, ALL WITHOUT A HUMAN BEING CLUTCHING THE HANDLE OF POWER. SUCH IS AA'S BACKSTOP AGAINST DISSOLUTION, AND ITS FINAL GUARANTEE OF SURVIVAL UNDER ALL CONDITIONS. FOR US, IT IS DO OR DIE.

THIS IS NOT THE WHOLE STORY. AS INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP DEVELOPMENT PROGRESSES, WE BEGIN TO CONFORM TO THE AA TRADITIONS FOR OTHER REASONS.

WE BEGIN TO OBEY THEM BECAUSE WE SIMPLY THINK THEY ARE RIGHT FOR US. WE OBEY THE PRINCIPLES BECAUSE WE THINK THEY ARE GOOD PRINCIPLES EVEN THOUGH WE MAY STILL RESIST SOMEWHAT. THEN COMES THE FINAL LEVEL OF OBEDIENCE AND THE BEST OF ALL. WE

OBEY AA'S STEPS AND TRADITIONS BECAUSE WE REALLY WANT THEM FOR OURSELVES. IT IS NO LONGER A QUESTION OF GOOD OR EVIL; WE CONFORM BECAUSE WE GENUINELY WANT TO CONFORM. SUCH IS OUR PROCESS OF GROWTH IN UNITY AND IN FUNCTION. SUCH IS THE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE AMONG US.

NOW FOR THE INDIVIDUAL; AS A MEMBER OF AA, THIS TRADITION TEACHES US TO BE AUTONOMOUS OR SELF GOVERNED EXCEPT WHEN IT AFFECTS GROUPS OR MEMBERS OF AA AS A WHOLE.

TO BE SELF GOVERNED IS A VERY IMPORTANT STATE OF MIND, WE WANT TO STAY SOBER. REMEMBER THE PROMISE IN AA, "AS GOD'S PEOPLE WE STAND ON OUR FEET; WE DO NOT CRAWL BEFORE ANYONE". FOR EXAMPLE: FOR YEARS IN MY LIFE I THOUGHT SOCIAL POSTION WAS IMPORTANT AND WOULD GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO KEEP IT. MANY TIMES I WOULD GO ALONG WITH THE CROWD JUST TO MAINTAIN MY POSITION, KNOWING IT WAS WRONG. THE FOURTH TRADITION TELLS ME THAT I DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT, IT BACKS UP THE TWELVE STEPS AND TELLS ME THAT I AM A FREE MAN AND CAN MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS. IT TELLS ME THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN DECISIONS, THEREFORE I HAD BETTER BE AUTONOMOUS. I LIKE MOST ALCOHOLICS HAVE A DOCTORS DEGREE IN NEGATIVE THINKING, THEREFORE, THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR ME TO DO SOMETHING THAT I KNOW IS WRONG.

TH OLD SAYING IS SO TRUE "ANYTHING JUST ABOUT RIGHT, IS WRONG." BE AUTONOMOUS, STAND TALL ON YOU OWN TWO FEET IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY. IN DOING THIS ALSO, LET OTHERS HAVE THEIR OWN AUTONOMY. SUCH OPEN-MINDNESS ON YOUR PART IS GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE IN YOU,

IT IS NOT BEING SELF-CENTERED.

QUESTIONS

1. WHAT DOES THE WORD "AUTONOMOUS" MEAN?
2. DO WE IN AA "HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE WRONG"?
3. DO YOU SOMETIMES DAY DREAM ABOUT A BIG BIG FACILITY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?
4. ARE YOU GOING TO BE THE GENERAL MANAGER OR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD?
5. HOW MANY RULES, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS HAVE YOU GOT FOR THE OPERATION?
6. WHO MANAGES THE AFFAIRS OF THE GROUP?
7. ARE YOU WILLING TO APPLY THE LESSONS YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM THE FAILURES YOU HAVE HAD?
8. ARE YOU ABLE TO LAUGH AT YOURSELF?
9. DO YOU THINK AA GIVES ITS MEMBERSHIP TOO MUCH LIBERTY?
10. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORD "AFFILIATION"?
11. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORD "CO-OPERATE"?
12. DO WE NEED IN AA "HUMAN AUTHORITY"?
13. WHO ARE THE TWO AUTHORITIES OF AA?
14. DO YOU UNDERSTAND AA'S BACKSTOP AGAINST DISSOLUTION? (THE RIGHT TO BE WRONG)
15. CAN YOU SAY "THAT THE TRADITIONS ARE RIGHT FOR YOU"?
16. DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD REALLY WANT TO PRACTICE THE TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE?

17. DO YOU SEE THE EVIDENCE OF GOD' GRACE AND LOVE AMONG AA'S?
18. WOULD YOU GO TO ANY LENGTH TO KEEP YOU SOCIAL STANDING?
19. DO YOU THINK THE FOURTH TRADITION TEACHES US TO HAVE RESPECT FOR OUR OPINIONS AND OUR FELLOW MAN'S OPINION?

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

TRADITION FIVE

THE LONG FORM: EACH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GROUP OUGHT TO BE A SPIRITUAL ENTITY HAVING BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE--THAT OF CARRYING ITS MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.

THE SHORT FORM: EACH GROUP HAS BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE-- TO CARRY ITS MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.

THE GROUP LEVEL: EACH GROUP HAS BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE-- TO CARRY THE MESSAGE OF AA TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.

THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL: I HAVE BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE--TO CARRY THE MESSAGE OF AA TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.

AA THINKS THAT MEMBERS SHOULD DO ONE THING WELL RATHER THAN MANY THINGS TO WHICH WE WERE NOT CALLED. THAT IS THE CENTRAL IDEA OF THIS TRADITION. OUR SOCIETY GATHERS IN UNITY AROUND THIS CONCEPT. THE VERY LIFE OF AA'S FELLOWSHIP REQUIRES ITS PRESERVATION. "SHOEMAKER, STICK TO THY LAST" IS NO DULL CHICHE FOR AA. TOGETHER WE HAVE FOUND A SUBSTANTIAL REMEDY FOR A TERRIBLE DISEASE. OF COURSE, WE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND THE LIKE AND AS A SOCIETY SHOULD WE? OUR EXPERIENCE SAYS THAT WE DEFINITELY SHOULD NOT. WE CAN, AND WE DO HELP, AS INDIVIDUALS IN THOSE FIELDS. THAT IS GOOD. BUT AS A FELLOWSHIP, WE KNOW THAT WE MUST NOW BE DIVERTED. IT IS OUR EXPERIENCE AS ALCOHOLICS THAT MAKES US OF UNIQUE VALUE TO OUR SECTOR OF THE TOTAL ALCOHOLIC FRONT. WE CAN APPROACH SUFFERERS AS NO ONE ELSE CAN. THEREFORE, THE STRONGEST KIND OF MORAL AND ETHICAL COMPULSION IS UPON US TO DO THIS AND NOTHING MORE. IF WE HAD DISCOVERED A WIDELY APPLICABLE CANCER CURE, WE WOULD BE BEGGED TO ATTEND TO THAT AND ONLY THAT. WE WOULD NOT TRY TO LOOK AFTER ALL TUMORS AND BRANCH OUT INTO TUBERCULOSIS AND TAPEWORMS BESIDES. IN SUCH A CASE WE WOULD CERTAINLY STICK TO CANCER. THOUGH AA IS OBLIGATED TO BOTH MEDICINE AND RELIGION, WE CANNOT BECOME EXPERTS IN EITHER. WE KNOW THAT THEOLOGY IS FOR CLERGYMEN AND THAT THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND PSYCHIATRY IS FOR DOCTORS. CERTAIN THAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER WHAT WE CANNOT DO SEPERATELY, WE SHOULD ALWAYS CO-OPERATE BUT NEVER COMPETE. WE SHOULD DIRECT OUR ENERGIES WHERE THEY COUNT MOST.

MOST EMPHATICALLY AA HAS BUT ONE PURPOSE; TO CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS. IT IS OUR BASIC OBJECTIVE, OUR REAL REASON FOR EXISTENCE.

TRADITION FIVE AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL IS THAT I HAVE BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE--TO CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS. TIME IS NOTHING IN AA, QUALITY OF SOBRIETY IS WHAT COUNTS. THE DISEASE OF ALCOHOLISM CANNOT BE CURED. IF THIS IS TRUE IT CAN BE SAID THAT AN INDIVIDUAL SUFFERS FROM ALCOHOLISM REGARDLESS OF HIS LENGTH OF SOBRIETY. THEREFORE, AS A MEMBER OF AA I AS AN INDIVIDUAL NEED THE MEMBERS OF AA TO COMTINUE CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO ME REGARDLESS OF MY TIME IN AA. EACH MEMBER IS THE SAME. THEREFORE THIS TRADITION TELLS ME TO TWELVE STEP EVERYBODY IN AA AS WELL AS NEWCOMERS. THIS IS THE ATTRACTION OF AA. SUCH IS THE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE AMONG US.

QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS THE CENTRAL IDEA OF THIS TRADITION?
2. SHOULD AA BE INTERESTED IN WHAT SOCIETY IS DOING IN THE FIELD OF ALCOHOLISM ETC. ?
3. CAN INDIVIDUALS BE INTERESTED?
4. WHAT ARE WE AIMING FOR?
5. IS AA SINGLE MINDED?
6. CAN YOU BE OBLIGATED TO SOMETHING AND AT THE SAME TIME LEAVE IT ALONE?
7. WHAT IS AA'S REAL REASON FOR EXISTENCE?
8. CAN ALCOHOLISM BE CURED?
9. HOW LONG DOES A ALCOHOLIC SUFFER FROM ALCOHOLISM?
10. DO YOU STILL NEED TO BE TWELVE STEPPED?
11. DO YOU THINK ALL ALCOHOLICS, REGARDLESS OF TIME IN AA, NEED TO BE TWELVE STEPPED?
12. DO YOU BELIEVE ONE AA MEMBER LOVING ANOTHER AA MEMBER IS AN ATTRACTION TO THE WORLD? (PREFERENCE POSITIVE LOVE)

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

TRADITION SIX

THE LONG FORM: PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY, AND AUTHORITY MAY EASILY DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY SPIRITUAL AIM. WE THINK, THEREFORE, THAT ANY CONSIDERABLE PROPERTY OF GENUINE USE TO A. A. SHOULD BE SPARATELY INCORPORATED AND MANAGED, THUS DIVIDING THE MATERIAL FROM THE SPIRITUAL. AN A. A. GROUP, AS SUCH, SHOULD NEVER GO INTO BUSINESS. SECONDARY AIDS TO A. A. , SUCH AS CLUBS OR HOSPITALS WHICH REQUIRE MUCH PROPERTY OR ADMINISTRATION, OUGHT TO BE INCORPORATED AND SO SET APART THAT, IF NECESSARY , THEY CAN BE FREELY DISCARDED BY THE GROUPS. HENCE SUCH FACILITIES OUGHT NOT TO USE THE A. A. NAME. THEIR MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THEM. FOR CLUBS, A. A. MANAGERS ARE USUALLY PREFERRED. BUT HOSPITALS, AS WELL AS OTHER PLACES OF RECUPERATION, OUGHT TO BE WELL OUTSIDE A. A. --AND MEDICALLY SUPERVISED. WHILE AN A. A. GROUP MAY COOPERATE WITH ANYONE, SUCH COOPERATION OUGHT NEVER GO SO FAR AS AFFILIATION OR ENDORSEMENT, ACTUAL OR IMPLIED. AN A. A. GROUP CAN BIND ITSELF TO NO ONE.

THE SHORT FORM: AN A. A. GROUP OUGHT NEVER ENDORSE, FINANCE OR LEND THE A. A. NAME TO ANY RELATED FACILITY OR OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE, LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY AND PRESTIGE DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE.

THE GROUP LEVEL: AN A. A. GROUP OUGHT NEVER ENDORSE, FINANCE OR LEND THE A. A. NAME TO ANY RELATED FACILITY OR OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE, LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY AND PRESTIGE DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE.

THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL: AN INDIVIDUAL OUGHT NEVER ENDORSE, FINANCE OR LEND THE A. A. NAME TO ANY RELATED FACILITY OR OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE, LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY AND PRESTIGE DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE.

THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF AA WAS ORGINALLY CHARTERED TO DO EVERYTHING BUT LOBBY FOR PROHIBITION. IT WAS CHARTERED FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN THAT AA COULD DO MOST ANYTHING. AA THOUGHT IT NEEDED A LOT OF MONEY TO DO MANY THINGS. OUT IN THE GROUPS THE SAME IDEAS OFTEN PREVAILED.

DURING THE EARLY YEARS HOSPITALS DID NOT WANT ALCOHOLICS SO AA THOUGHT IT SHOULD BUILD AND OPERATE ITS OWN. PEOPLE NEEDED TO BE TOLD WHAT ALCOHOLISM WAS, SO AA THOUGHT IT WOULD EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, PERHAPS EVEN REWRITE SCHOOL AND MEDICAL TEXT BOOKS. AA'S THOUGHT THEY WOULD REVISE THE LAWS OF THE LAND AND GENERATE A DECLARATION THAT ALCOLOLICS WERE SICK PEOPLE. AA WOULD CARRY ITS MESSAGE INTO THE DARK REGIONS OF DOPE ADDICTION AND

CRIMINALITY AND WOULD FORM GROUPS FOR DEPRESSIVE AND PARANOID FOLKS. THE DEEPER THE NEUROSIS THE BETTER AA WOULD LIKE IT. IF ALCOHOLISM COULD BE LICKED, SO COULD ANY PROBLEMS! AA'S UNCOMPROMISING HONESTLY MIGHT ALSO SOON CLEAN UP POLITICS. IN THE FACTORIES IT COULD CAUSE LABORERS AND CAPITALISTS TO LOVE EACH OTHER. HAVING LEARNED TO LIVE SO HAPPILY, AA MEMBERS WOULD SHOW EVERYBODY ELSE HOW. AA THOUGHT THE SOCIETY MIGHT PROVE TO BE THE SPEARHEAD FOR A NEW SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION. OUR PRINCIPLES MIGHT TRANSFORM THE WORLD! YES, AA DREAMED THOSE DREAMS. HOW NATURAL IT WAS, SINCE MOST ALCOHOLICS ARE BANKRUPT IDEALISTS. NEARLY EVERY AA MEMBER WANTED TO PERFORM GREAT GOOD AND GREAT DEEDS THAT EMBODIED GREAT IDEALS. THEY WERE PERFECTIONISTS, WHO FAILING TO OBTAIN PERFECTION, HAD GONE TO THE OTHER EXTREME AND SETTLED FOR THE BOTTLE AND THE BLACKOUT. PROVIDENCE THROUGH AA HAD BROUGHT US WITHIN REACH OF OUR HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS. SO WHY SHOULDN'T WE SHARE OUR LIVES WITH EVERYONE?

AA TRIED HOSPITALS, AND THEY ALL BOGGED DOWN BECAUSE YOU CANNOT PUT AA GROUPS INTO BUSINESS; TOO MANY BUSYBODY COOKS ALWAYS SPOIL THE BROTH. AA GROUPS HAD THEIR FLING AT EDUCATION AND WHEN THEY BEGAN PUBLIC TO WHOOP UP THE MERITS OF THIS OR THAT BRAND OF EDUCATION, PEOPLE BECAME CONFUSED. DID AA FIX ALCOHOLICS OR WAS IT AN EDUCATIONAL PROJECT? WAS AA SPIRITUAL OR WAS IT MEDICAL? WAS IT A REFORM MOVEMENT? IN CONSTERNATION, AA SAW IT SELF GETTING MARRIED TO ALL KINDS OF ENTERPRISED, SOME GOOD AND SOME NOT SO GOOD.

WHEN AA SAW ALCOHOLICS ADMITTED TO PRISONS AND ASYI UMS, IT BEGAN TO SAY, "THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW." IN FULL PUBLIC VIEW, SOME AA'S COMMENCED TO THUMP TABLES IN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOMS AND TO AGITATE FOR LEGAL REFORM. THAT MADE GOOD NEWSPAPER COPY BUT LITTLE ELSE. AA'S SAW THAT THEY WOULD SOON BE MIRED UP IN POLITICS. AA FOUND IT IMPERATIVE EVEN INSIDE ITS OWN FELLOWSHIP TO REMOVE THE AA NAME FROM CLUBS AND TWELVE STEP HOUSES. THESE STRENUOUS ADVENTURES IMPLANTED THE DEEP ROOTED CONVICTION THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COULD AA ENDORSE AND RELATED ENTERPRISE, NO MATTER HOW GOOD. MEMBERS OF AA COULD NOT BE ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN, AND MEMBERS SHOULD NOT TRY TO BE. THE MOMENT MEMBERS LENT THE AA NAME TO ANY OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE, IT GOT INTO TROUBLE, SOMETIMES VERY SERIOUS TROUBLE.

AT ONE TIME AA NEARLY GOT EMBROILED IN THE WET-DRY CONTROVERSY. A LIQUOR TRADE ASSOCIATION WANTED TO HIRE AN AA MEMBER AS AN EDUCATOR. ITS MEMBERS WANTED TO TEACH THAT TOO MUCH GROG IS BAD FOR EVERYBODY AND THAT ALCOHOLICS CANNOT DRINK IT AT ALL, SO FAR, SO GOOD. BUT IT FURTHER APPEARED THAT IN ALL THEIR PUBLICITY, THEY WISH TO STRESS THE FACT THAT THEIR EDUCATOR, MR. X, WAS A MEMBER OF AA. THAT WAS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN. THE PUBLIC WOULD AT ONCE THINK THAT AA HAD GONE INTO THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, VIA THE LIQUOR INDUSTRY. IF THAT HAPPENED THE "DRYS" WOULD INSTANTLY HIRE ANOTHER AA MEMBER FOR "EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES". THIS WOULD LAND US, OF COURSE, SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF ENDLESS CONTROVERSY. AA SIMPLY COULD NOT TAKE SIDES IN

THE FIGHT AND DO BUSINESS WITH SICK ALCOHOLICS TOO.

THE WOULD BE EDUCATOR SHOWED UP AT THE GSO OFFICE, ASKING ADVICE. OF COURSE GSO TOLD HIM THAT AA THOUGHT FACTUAL EDUCATION WAS A VERY GOOD THING AND THAT A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPERT CERTAINLY HAD A PERFECT RIGHT TO TAKE THE JOB. BUT DID HE THINK THAT HE SHOULD ADVERTISE HIS AA MEMBERSHIP AT THAT TIME?

THE MEMBER GOT THE POINT AND SAID, "AA SAVED MY LIFE. IT COMES FIRST. I CERTAINLY WON'T BE THE GUY TO LAND AA IN BIG-TIME TROUBLE, AND THIS REALLY MIGHT DO IT." OUR MEMBER, AND FRIEND HAD SUMMED UP THE WHOLE ENDORSEMENT PROBLEM. AA SAW THEN AS NEVER BEFORE THAT IT COULD NOT LEND ITS NAME TO ANY CAUSE OTHER THAN ITS OWN.

LONG AFTERWARD AA OBSERVED SOMETHING ELSE. THAT THE MORE IT MINDED ITS OWN BUSINESS THE GREATER ITS GENERAL INFLUENCE BECAME. MEDICINE, RELIGION AND PSYCHIATRY BEGAN TO BORROW SOME OF OUR IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE. SO DID RESEARCH REHABILITATION, AND EDUCATION. SUDDENLY ALL SORTS OF THERAPEUTIC GROUPS BEGAN TO SPRING UP. THEY DEALT WITH GAMBLING, DIVORCE, DELINQUENCY, DOPE ADDICTION, MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE LIKE. THEY TOO BORROWED FROM AA, BUT THEY MADE THEIR OWN ADAPTATIONS. THEY WORKED THEIR OWN FIELDS, AND DID NOT HAVE TO BE ENDORSED BY AA NOR DID AA TELL THEM HOW TO LIVE.

TODAY WE UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THIS PARADOX: THE MORE AA STICKS TO ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE, THE GREATER WILL BE ITS HELPFUL INFLUENCE EVERYWHERE.

SO IT ALSO APPLIES WITH AN INDIVIDUAL. THE MORE A MEMBER

STICKS TO WHAT SAVED HIS OR HER LIFE AND FORGETS ABOUT ALL OTHER ACTIVITY PERTAINING TO THEIR NEW WAY OF LIFE, THE HAPPIER HE OR SHE WILL BE. AA IN OUR LIVES IS ONLY FOR ONE THING. "TO LEARN TO LIVE WITHOUT ALCOHOL AND BE HAPPY."

QUESTIONS

1. DO YOU SEE IN AA TODAY THE TREND TO GET AWAY FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE?
2. WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE EARLY MEMBERS WERE SOMETHING LIKE A LOT OF THE MEMBERS TODAY? (DRIFTING FROM THE PRIMARY PURPOSE)
3. ARE YOU HERE ; TONIGHT TRYING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM? AND YOURSELF, SO THAT YOU MIGHT INCREASE YOUR HAPPINESS SOBER?
4. DO YOU ENJOY BEING CALLED "BANKRUPT IDEALIST"?
5. WOULD YOU CALL YOURSELF A "PERFECTIONIST"?
6. IS AA BRINGING YOU TOWARD YOUR "HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS"?
7. CAN AA OR ITS MEMBERS "BE EVERYTHING TO EVERYTHING"?
8. WHAT DOES AA ENDORSE?
9. DOES AA TAKE SIDES ON ISSUES?
10. WHO DOES AA LEND IT'S NAME?
11. WHY ARE WE IN AA?
12. CAN YOU PICTURE IN YOUR MIND HOW THE AA PROGRAM, THE TWELVE TRADITIONS AND THE TWELVE STEPS ARE CHIPPING AWAY AT SELFISHNESS AND SELF CENTEREDNESS?

CHAPTER NINETEEN

TRADITION SEVEN

THE LONG FORM: THE A. A. GROUPS THEMSELVES OUGHT TO BE FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THEIR OWN MEMBERS. WE THINK THAT EACH GROUP SHOULD SOON ACHIEVE THIS IDEAL; THAT ANY PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF FUNDS USING THE NAME OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS, WHETHER BY GROUPS, CLUBS, HOSPITALS, OR OTHER OUTSIDE AGENCIES; THAT ACCEPTANCE OF LARGE GIFTS FROM ANY SOURCE, OR OF CONTRIBUTIONS CARRYING ANY OBLIGATION WHATEVER, IS UNWISE. THEN TOO, WE VIEW WITH MUCH CONCERN THOSE A. A. TREASURIES WHICH CONTINUE, BEYOND PRUDENT RESERVES, TO ACCUMULATE FUNDS FOR NO STATED A. A. PURPOSE. EXPERIENCE HAS OFTEN WARNED US THAT NOTHING CAN SO SURELY DESTROY OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE AS FUTILE DISPUTES OVER PROPERTY, MONEY, AND AUTHORITY.

THE SHORT FORM: EVERY A. A. GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING, DECLINING OUTSIDE CONTRUBUTIONS.

THE GROUP LEVEL: EVERY A. A. GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING, DECLINING OUTSIDE CONRRIBUTION.

THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL: AS AN AA MEMBER, AA IS FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING AND AS A MEMBER I CONTRIBUTE FOR IT DECLINES OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS.

WHAT ABOUT MONEY AND AA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD IT? ESPECIALLY IN AMERICA BECAUSE MONEY IS THE SYMBOL OF PRESTIGE, POWER AND COMFORT. MONEY CAN DO A LOT OF GOOD, YET THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO EVIL WHICH IT CANNOT AROUSE. WOULD AA'S BRAND OF SPIRITUALITY MIX WITH MONEY AT ALL? OR, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD AA HAVE LOTS OF MONEY, TO BETTER DO GOOD WORK. THAT WAS THE AGE-OLD DILEMMA AND THE TEMPTATION THAT FACED US.

THE CONSERVATIVES SAID, "WHY TEMPT OURSELVES WITH MONEY? WE DON'T NEED IT. WE CAN MEET IN HOMES AND NO GROUP WILL HAVE TO HAVE A TREASURY. WHY DO WE NEED BOOKS AND OFFICES AND WORLD SERVICES? ONE ALCOHOLIC CARRIES THE MESSAGE TO ANOTHER." LETS KEEP IT SIMPLE AND STAY OUT OF MONEY TROUBLE." THE RADICALS THOUGHT OTHERWISE: NOT ONLY DO WE NEED ESSENTIAL SERVICES, WE NEED PLENTY MORE. WE NEED HOSPITALS, PAID THERAPTISTS, TRAVELING LECTURES, REHABILITATION CENTER, AND HEAVEN KNOW WHAT ELSE. IT IS GOING TO TAKE MILLIONS AND WHERE WILL WE GET ALL THIS MONEY? WELL, WE WILL GET IT FROM THE PUBLIC, JUST AS MOST GOOD WORKERS DO."

AFTER A WHILE AA AWOKE TO THE PLEASANT FACT THAT IT WAS NOT GOING TO REQUIRE MUCH MORE MONEY AFTER ALL. WHEN IT GOT

RID OF ITS GRANDIOSE IDEAS ABOUT HOSPITALS, RESEARCH, REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION, NOT MUCH OF A BILL WAS LEFT TO PAY. OTHER ENTERPRISES NEEDED LARGE SUMS, BUT AA DID NOT. IT COULD BE SPARED THAT HEADACHE.

A BIG FACTOR IN AA THINKING DURING THE EARLY YEARS WAS THE PHILOSOPHY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISE, WHICH ALSO BEGAN A LAY MOVEMENT, ONE MAN CARRYING THE GOOD NEWS TO THE NEXT. IN ST. FRANCIS' DAY IT WAS COMMON ENOUGH FOR INDIVIDUALS TO PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO POVERTY. BUT IT WAS UNUSUAL, IF NOT UNIQUE, FOR A WHOLE ORGANIZATION OR FELLOWSHIP TO DO THE SAME THING. FOR THE PURPOSES OF HIS SOCIETY FRANCIS THOUGHT CORPORATE PROVERTY TO BE FUNDAMENTAL. THE LESS MONEY AND PROPERTY THEY HAD TO QUARREL ABOUT, THE LESS DIVERSION THERE WOULD BE FROM THEIR PRIMARY PURPOSE. JUST LIKE AA TODAY, HIS OUTFIT DID NOT NEED MUCH MONEY TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR MISSION. WHY BE TEMPTED AND DIVERTED WHEN THERE WAS NO NEED FOR IT?

AA ADOPTED THE WISDOM OF FRANCIS AS IT OWN. NOT ONLY WOULD WE HAVE THE LEAST POSSIBLE SERVICE ORGANIZATION; WE WOULD USE THE LEAST POSSIBLE MONEY. FOR US THIS DOES NOT MEAN NO MONEY AT ALL, HOWEVER, IT DOES MEAN THE LEAST POSSIBLE MONEY TO DO THE JOB WELL. IT IS IN THIS SENSE THAT AA DECLARED FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF CORPORATE POVERTY. IT IS A CHIEF SAFEGUARD OF AA'S FUTURE.

DESPITE AA'S EARLY TRADITION OF KEEPING POOR FOR ITS OWN SAFETY,

IT WAS STILL TO HAVE TEMPATATIONS. THERE WERE THREE OF THEM.

THE FIRST CAME WHEN AA MET WITH MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR., AND HIS FRIENDS IN THE FALL OF 1937. AT THAT TIME THE POSSIBILITY OF UNLIMITED FINANCIAL BACKING PRETTY MUCH DIMMED AA'S SHARING OF THE VISION OF ST. FRANCIS. DR. BOB AND BILL, AND INDEED MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF AA, WERE AWFULLY BROKE. IDEAS OF COMFORTABLE AND WELL-PAID JOBS, CHAINS OF AA HOSPITALS, AND TONS OF LITERATURE FOR SUFFERING ALKIES SEIZED THEIR IMAGINATION. BUT MR. ROCKEFELLER HAD OTHER IDEAS. HE SAID, "I THINK MONEY WILL SPOIL THIS." HE ACTED ACCORDINGLY, AND AA STAYED POOR. ST. FRANCIS HAD GIVEN AA THE IDEA, BUT JOHN D. WISLEY FORCED AA TO LIVE UP TO IT. THIS ODDLY ASSORTED PAIR WERE REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR AA'S TRADITION ON MONEY. THANK GOD FOR THEM BOTH. THE SECOND TEMPTATION VEERED TO THE OTHER EXTREME. AA GOT SO SCARED OF MONEY THAT THE MEMBERS WENT TIGHTWAD, HALF-REFUSING TO SUPPORT AA'S SIMPLE BUT ESSENTIAL AREA AND OVER-ALL-SERVICES WITHOUT WHICH IT WOULD FAIL TO FUNCTION AND GROW. EVEN NOW AA'S HAVE NOT QUITE SURMOUNTED THIS ONE. AA MEMBERS STILL DRAG THEIR HEELS WHEN THE BASKET IS PASSED TO SUPPORT THE EXPENSE OF THE GROUP, INTER GROUP OFFICE AND GSO OFFICE. THIS HOLDING BACK IS NOT FOR LACK OF FOLDING MONEY EITHER. THE COLLECTIVE INCOME OF AA MEMBERSHIP--THE SUM OF THEIR WAGES, SALARIES, AND OTHER INCOMES--PRESENTLY REACHES A TOTAL OF OVER A BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY. WHEN SOBER AND WORKING

FEW ALCOHOLICS HAVE MONEY TROUBLES. THEIR EARNING POWER AS INDIVIDUALS MAY ACTUALLY BE DOUBLE THE AVERAGE. THE MATERIAL PAY OFF AS WELL AS THE SPIRITUAL PAY OFF, OF AA'S WAY OF LIFE IS DOWNRIGHT INCREDIBLE. NEVERTHELESS, AA'S STILL BALK A BIT WHEN IT COMES TO PAYING AA'S VERY REASONABLE SERVICE BILLS. SOMETIMES THIS MAY BE ALL TO THE GOOD. THERE IS NOT THE SLIGHTEST DANGER THAT AA IS EVER GOING TO GET TOO RICH FROM THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS OWN MEMBERSHIP.

THERE IS A FUNNY BUT REVELING STORY ABOUT THIS. THE JOKE IS ON BILL W., IT WAS IN 1941, JUST AFTER THE SATURDAY EVENING POST STORY BROKE. WHEN INCOME FROM THE AA BOOK WOULD NOT PAY FOR ANSWERING THE THOUSANDS OF INQUIRIES, AND AA SET UP A DOLLAR-A-YEAR PER MEMBER AS THE MEASURING STICK FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MIGHT MEET THE BILLS. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE AA GSO HAD ASKED GROUPS FOR ANY HELP.

AT THE TIME, LOIS AND BILL WERE RECEIVING THIRTY DOLLARS A WEEK DUE TO THE RESULTS OF MR. ROCKEFELLER'S DINNER. THEY WERE LIVING IN A LITTLE ROOM IN THE 24TH STREET CLUB. THERE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE WAS STILL IN STORAGE AND THEY WERE MIGHTY HARD UP. ONE MORNING A BLEARY-EYED FRIEND JUST OFF A BENDER STUCK HIS HEAD INTO THE VESEY STREET OFFICE. BILL WAS PACING UP AND DOWN, CURSING OUT THE DRUNKS FOR BEING SO SLOW IN SENDING IN THEIR BUCKS. BILL WAS IN A REALLY MEAN MOOD, SO HE GAVE HIS BLEARY-EYED FRIEND A BIG GRIPE ON HOW STINGY DRUNKS WERE.

NATURALLY, HE AGREED. JUST TO PROVE HIMSELF GENEROUS, BILL PULLED OUT A FIVE DOLLAR BILL AND HANDED IT TO THE FRIEND. IT WAS MONEY LOIS NEEDED FOR GROCERIES, AND BILL KNEW VERY WELL THAT HE WOULD GO OUT AND DRINK IT UP. BUT THIS GRADIOSE ACT MADE BILL FEEL GOOD. BILL, POOR BILL, COULD GIVE FIVE DOLLARS WHEN THOSE GUYS OUT THERE COULDN'T EVEN SEND IN ONE DOLLAR.

SATISFIED, BILL WENT TO THE MEETING THAT NIGHT AT THE CLUB. THE CLUB WAS BEHIND ON THE RENT. IN THOSE DAYS, YOU COULD NOT MIX THE SPIRITUAL WITH THE MATERIAL AT ALL. MONEY WAS A SUBJECT YOU COULD HARDLY MENTION. BUT THE LANDLORD WAS NOT GETTING HIS MONEY, SO IT HAD TO BE MENTIONED. AT INTERMISSION, THE CHAIRMAN TIMELY SAID, "NOW, FOLKS CAN'T YOU GO A LITTLE HEAVY ON THE HAT TONIGHT?" "WE ARE BEHIND WITH THE RENT." SUCH WAS HIS APOLEGETIC ANNOUNCEMENT. BILL WAS SITTING ON THE STAIRS WITH SOME NEW CONVERTS, NEVERTHELESS HE HEARD HIM. FINALLY THE HAT CAME UP THE STAIRS WHERE BILL WAS, AND HE REACHED IN HIS POCKET AND GOT A COIN. WHEN HE FISHED IT OUT, IT WAS A HALF DOLLAR. SCARCELY THINKING, BILL DROPPED THE COIN BACK IN HIS POCKET AND PRODUCED A DIME THAT CLINKED THINLY IN THE HAT. A MINUTE LATER BILL WOKE UP. HE, WHO HAD BOASTED OF HIS GENEROSITY THAT MORNING WAS TREATING HIS GROUP OR CLUB WORSE THAN THE ALCOHOLICS. WHO HAD FORGOTTEN TO SEND THE GSO THEIR BUCKS. BILL REALIZED THAT HIS FIVE DOLLAR GIFT TO THE

BACKSLIDER WAS AN EGO FEEDING ACT, BAD FOR HIM AND BAD FOR BILL. THERE WAS A PLACE IN AA WHERE SPIRITUALITY AND MONEY WOULD MIX, AND THAT WAS IN THE HAT. BILL NEVER AGAIN CRITICIZED ANYBODY FOR FAILING TO SEND A DOLLAR OR SO TO THE GSO.

OUR THIRD MONEY ENDEAVOR WAS THE GREATEST PERIL OF ALL THESE.

THE TRUSTEES WERE HAVING THEIR QUARTERLY MEETING AND THE AGENDA INCLUDED A CURICAL QUESTION: A CERTAIN LADY HAD DIED, AND WHEN HER BILL WAS READ, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT SHE HAD LEFT TO AA, IN TRUST WITH THE TRUSTEES, A SUM OF \$10,000.00. THE QUESTION WAS, SHOULD AA TAKE THE GIFT?

WHAT A DEBATE THE TRUSTEES HAD ON THIS ONE! THE GSO WAS REALLY HARD UP JUST THEN BECAUSE THE GROUPS WERE NOT SENDING IN ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE OFFICE. EVEN AFTER THEY HAD TOSSED IN ALL THE BOOK'S INCOME, THAT HAD NOT BEEN ENOUGH THE RESERVE FUND WAS MELTING LIKE SNOW IN THE SPRINGTIME. THEY BADLY NEEDED THAT \$10,000.00. MAYBE, SOME SAID, "THE GROUPS WILL NEVER SUPPORT THE OFFICE AND WE CAN'T CLOSE IT DOWN, IT IS FAR TO VITAL. YES, LETS' TAKE THE MONEY. LETS' TAKE ALL SUCH DONATIONS IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE GOING TO NEED THEM."

THEN CAME THE OPPOSITION. THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE TRUSTEES ALREADY KNEW OF A TOTAL OF HALF MILLION DOLLARS SET ASIDE FOR AA IN THE WILLS OF PEOPLE STILL ALIVE, HEAVEN KNOWS HOW MUCH THEY HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT. IF OUTSIDE DONATIONS WERE NOT

DECLINED, NOT ABSOLUTELY CUT OFF, THE FOUNDATION WOULD ONE DAY BE RICH. MOREOVER, AT THE SLIGHTEST INTIMATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC FROM AA'S TRUSTEES THAT MONEY WAS NEEDED, IT COULD BECOME IMMENSELY RICH. COMPARED TO THIS PROSPECT THE \$10,000.00 UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS NOT MUCH, BUT LIKE THE ALCOHOLIC'S FIRST DRINK, IF TAKEN, INEVITABILITY IT WOULD SET UP A DISASTROUS CHAIN REACTION. WHERE WOULD THAT LAND AA? WHO EVER PAYS THE PIPER IS APT TO CALL THE TUNE, AND IF THE AA FOUNDATION OBTAINED MONEY FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES, ITS TRUSTEES MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO RUN THINGS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE WISHES OF AA AS A WHOLE. EVERY ALCOHOLIC FEELING RELIEVED OF RESPONSIBILITY, WOULD SHRUG AND SAY, "OH, THE FOUNDATION IS WEALTHY!" "WHY SHOULD I BOTHER?" THE PRESSURE OF THAT FAT TREASURY WOULD SURELY TEMPT THE TRUSTEES TO INVENT ALL KINDS OF SCHEMES TO DO GOOD WITH SUCH FUNDS, AND SO DIVERT AA FROM ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE. THE MOMENT THAT HAPPENED, OUR FELLOWSHIPS' CONFIDENCE WOULD BE SHAKEN. THE TRUSTEES MIGHT BE ISOLATED AND FALL UNDER HEAVY ATTACK AND CRITICISM FROM BOTH AA AND THE PUBLIC. THESE WERE THE POSSIBILITIES PRO AND CON.

THEN THE AA TRUSTEES WROTE A BRIGHT PAGE OF AA HISTORY. THEY DECLARED FOR THE PRINCIPLE THAT AA MUST ALWAYS REMAIN POOR. REASONABLE RUNNING "EXPENSES PLUS A PRUDENT RESERVE WOULD HENCEFORTH BE THE FOUNDATION OF AA'S FINANCIAL POLICY. DISREGARDING THE CURRENT NEEDS, THE TRUSTEES OFFICALLY

DECLINED THE \$10,000 AND ADOPTED A FORMAL AIRTIGHT RESOLUTION THAT ALL SUCH FUTURE GIFTS WOULD BE SIMILARLY DECLINED. AT THAT MOMENT, THE PRINCIPLE OF CORPORATE POVERTY WAS FIRMLY AND FINALLY EMBEDDED IN AA TRADITIONS.

WHEN NEWSPAPERS GOT HOLD OF THESE FACTS THERE WAS A PROFOUND REACTION. TO PEOPLE FAMILIAR WITH ENDLESS DRIVES FOR CHARITABLE FUNDS, AA PRESENTED A STRANGE AND REFRESHING SPECTACLE. APPROVING EDITORIALS HERE AND ABROAD GENERATED A GREAT NEW WAVE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE INTEGRITY OF AA. THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE IRRESPOSSIBLE HAD BECOME RESPONSIBLE, AND THAT BY MAKING FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE PART OF ITS TRADITION, AA HAD REVIVED A IDEA THAT HAD ALMOST BEEN FORGOTTEN. THIS IS WHY THE AA TRADITION READS: EVERY AA GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING, DECLINING OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS.

FOR THE INDIVIDUAL THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TRADITION THAT REACHES EACH MEMBER THAT HE HAS A RESPONSIBLITIY TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS THAT RESPONSIBLITY IS TO GIVE YOUR JUST SHARE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE SERVICES SHARED BY EACH AA MEMBER. THE PRIME REASON WE ARE MEMBERS OF AA IS TO FIND A NEW WAY OF LIFE. TO LIVE SOBER AND BE HAPPY WITHOUT ALCOHOL. NO MAN CAN BE HAPPY IF HE BYPASSES HIS RESPONSILILITIES. EACH MEMBER KNOWS HOW MUCH HE OR SHE CAN GIVE AND WHEN THEY EVADE THIS RESPONSIBILITY THEY ARE RETARDING THEIR GROWTH IN THE PROGRAM. AA NEVER SAYS TO GIVE TILL IT HURTS, ONLY TILL IT FEELS GOOD.

AS ALCOHOLICS WE WERE IRRESPONSIBLE. AS MEMBERS OF AA, INACTIVE ALCOHOLICS, WE LEARN TO BE RESPONSIBLE. WE GIVE OUR SHARE AS INDIVIDUALS.

QUESTIONS

1. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT "MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL?"
2. DO YOU BELIEVE MONEY WILL TAKE US AWAY FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE?
3. WHO WAS THE COUPLE WHO GAVE AA ITS IDEAS ON MONEY ?
4. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT "WHEN AN ALCOHOLIC SOBERS UP, HE TIGHTENS UP?"
5. DO YOU BELIEVE AA WILL EVER GET RICH FROM ITS MEMBERSHIPS DONATIONS?
6. WHAT WAS THE FIRST "RULE OF THE THUMB" THE GSO ASKED OF THE GROUPS?
7. WHAT DO THEY ASK TODAY?
8. WERE YOU EVER A BIG SHOT LIKE BILL W. ?
9. IS IT EVER NECESSARY TO MIX MATERIAL WITH THE SPIRITUAL?
10. SHOULD AA TAKE GIFTS FROM THE DECEASED?
11. DO YOU BELIEVE "WHOEVER PAYS THE PIPER, GETS TO NAME THE TUNE" ?
12. DO YOU BELIEVE AA SHOULD BE RICH?
13. DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU AS A MEMBER HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO AA? IT IS UP TO YOU AS A MEMBER TO SUPPORT. DON'T GIVE TILL IT HURTS, BUT GIVE TILL IT FEELS GOOD.

CHAPTER TWENTY

TRADITION EIGHT

THE LONG FORM: ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SHOULD REMAIN FOREVER NONPROFESSIONAL. WE DEFINE PROFESSIONALISM AS THE OCCUPATION OF COUNSELING ALCOHOLICS FOR FEES OR HIRE. BUT WE MAY EMPLOY ALCOHOLICS WHERE THEY ARE GOING TO PERFORM THOSE SERVICES FOR WHICH WE MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE TO ENGAGE NON-ALCOHOLICS. SUCH SPECIAL SERVICES MAY BE WELL RECOMPENSED. BUT OUR USUAL A. A. "12TH STEP" WORK IS NEVER TO BE PAID FOR.

THE SHORT FORM; ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SHOULD REMAIN FOREVER NON-PROFESSIONAL, BUT OUR SERVICE CENTERS MAY EMPLOY SPECIAL WORKERS.

THE GROUP LEVEL: ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SHOULD REMAIN FOREVER NON-PROFESSIONAL, BUT OUR SERVICE CENTERS MAY EMPLOY SPECIAL WORKERS.

AA WILL NEVER HAVE A PROFESSIONAL THERAPEUTIC CLASS. WE HAVE GAINED SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE ANCIENT WORDS: "FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED, THEN FREELY GIVE." FOR OUR PURPOSES, WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT AT THE POINT OF PROFESSIONALISM MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY DO NOT MIX. WE DO NOT DECRY PROFESSIONALISM IN OTHER FIELDS. BUT WE ACCEPT THE SOBER FACT THAT IT DOES NOT WORK FOR US. EVERYTIME WE HAVE TRIED TO PROFESSIONALIZE OUR TWELVE STEPS. THE RESULT HAVE BEEN EXACTLY THE SAME; OUR SINGLE PURPOSE HAS BEEN DEFEATED.

YOU REMEMBER HOW BILL WAS TOLD BY THE AA'S GROUP CONSCIENCE THAT HE COULD NOT GO TO WORK FOR CHARLIE TOWNS AS A PROFESSIONAL THERAPIST, WHICH TURNED OUT RIGHT. EARLY IN THE GAME AA DISCOVERED THAT UNDER NO CONDITIONS SHOULD A MEMBER BE PAID FOR TAKING OR CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO SOMEONE ELSE, IT SHOULD BE DONE PERSON TO PERSON AND FACE TO FACE. IF PROFESSIONALISM EVER INVADED AA AT THAT LEVEL, IT WAS DOOMED. BUT THE ISSUE OF PROFESSIONALISM HAD OTHER ASPECTS. FOR YEARS WE WERE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHAT IN AA WAS PROFESSIONALISM AND WHAT WAS NOT. THE PROBLEM AROSE OUT OF THE NEED FOR PAID WORKERS IN OUR SERVICE CENTERS, THE NEED FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD DO THE JOBS THAT VOLUNTEERS COULD NOT OR WOULD NOT DO. WERE SERVICE WORKERS PROFESSIONALS OR WERE THEY NOT? THAT WAS THE ISSUE.

THE FIRST SITUATION OF THIS KIND CAME UP IN THE OLD CLUBHOUSE ON 24TH STREET IN NEW YORK. VOLUNTEERS HAD PAINTED THE PLACE

AND SHINED IT UP AND WERE ANSWERING THE TELEPHONE, AND THAT WAS FINE. WHEN THEY WENT HOME THEY WOULD HAND OUT NUMEROUS KEYS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NIGHT OWLS. BUT SOME OF THE OWLS HAD A HABIT OF GETTING DRUNK AND LYING AROUND THE PLACE IN ALL CONDITIONS, AND AT ALL HOUSES THAT WAS NOT GOOD. THE VOLUNTEERS ALSO GOT VERY TIRED OF SWEEPING OUT THE PLACE, SO IT STAYED DIRTY MOST OF THE TIME. PLAINLY ENOUGH THEY NEEDED A CARE-TAKER. THEY APPROACHED OLD TOM, A FIREMAN THEY HAD RECENTLY SPRUNG OUT OF ROCKLAND ASYLUM. THEY KNEW ALREADY THAT TOM WAS ON A PENSION AS A FIREMAN, SO THEY SAID TO HIM, "HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME OVER AND LIVE AT THE CLUB? WE HAVE A NICE ROOM FOR YOU THERE." TOM SAID, "WHAT'S THE ANGLE?" "WELL TOM, WE'LL GIVE YOU A NICE ROOM AND YOU CAN KINDA LOOK AFTER THE PLACE." TOM SAID, "SEVEN DAYS A WEEK?" "YES". "WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?" "WELL TOM, YOU OUGHT TO MAKE COFFEE, AND YOU KNOW, LEAD THE DRUNKS OUT IF THEY ARE TOO BAD, AND SWEEP THE PLACE UP." "DO THAT SEVEN DAYS A WEEK?" TOM ASKED. "WHAT YOU REALLY WANT IS A JANITOR," TOM SAID. "ALRIGHT", THEY SAID, "SURE WE WANT A JANITOR." "WELL," SAID TOM, "AIN'T YOU GOING TO PAY ME NOTHING?" "OH NO, THAT WOULD MAKE YOU A PROFESSIONAL, THIS IS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, WE CAN NOT MIX MONEY WITH SPIRITUALITY." "OKAY," TOM SAID, "NO MONEY, NO WORK." "I AM DOING MY TWELVE STEP WORK FREE, BUT IF YOU WANT ME AS A JANITOR, THEN YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY ME." LOTS

OF AA'S WERE WORKING AT THAT TIME AND EARNING MONEY. BUT BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THEY ACTUALLY HAGGLED WITH TOM TO GET HIM DOWN TO THE LAST CENT THEY COULD FOR DOING THAT GRUBBY JOB.

TOM WAS RIGHT, IN ORDER FOR AA TO FUNCTION, THEY HAD TO HIRE SOME HELP. WHICH INCLUDED COOKS, FRYING HAMBURGERS IN THE CLUBS, JANITORS SWEEPING THEM OUT AND WOMEN ANSWERING TELEPHONES IN THE CENTRAL OFFICES. IT ALSO INCLUDED BILL. BILL OFTEN WROTE LITERATURE FOR AA, SO HE WAS PAID A ROYALTY FOR BEING A WRITER. THAT IS WHERE THE LINE FINALLY FELL: FOR GAVE TO FACE TREATMENT OF A DRUNK, NO MONEY. BUT AA DOES HAVE TO HIRE PEOPLE SO THAT IT CAN FUNCTION WHERE THERE ARE LEGITIMATE JOBS TO BE DONE.

EVEN AFTER AA'S TRADITION EIGHT WAS ESTABLISHED IN PRINCIPLE, IT STILL TOOK MANY YEARS TO WORK OUT THE APPLICATIONS. THERE WERE ALL SORTS OF BORDERLINE CASES ALWAYS IN HOT DEBATE. FOR EXAMPLE, NO AA'S HAVE BEEN MORE BUFFETED BY SUCH EMOTIONAL GUSTS THAN THOSE BOLD ENOUGH TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES DEALING WITH THE ALCOHOLIC PROBLEM. A UNIVERSITY WANTED AN AA MEMBER TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON ALCOHOLISM. A CORPORATION WANTED THEIR PERSONAL MAN FAMILIAR WITH THE SUBJECT. A STATE DRUNK FARM WANTED A MANAGER WHO COULD REALLY HANDLE INEBRIATES. A CITY WANTED AN EXPERIENCED SOCIAL WORKER WHO UNDERSTOOD WHAT ALCOHOL COULD DO TO A FAMILY. A STATE ALCOHOL COMMISSION WANTED A PAID RESEARCHER. THESE ARE ONLY

A FEW OF THE JOBS WHICH AA MEMBERS AS INDIVIDUALS ARE FILLING TODAY. NOW AND THEN AA MEMBERS HAVE BOUGHT FARMS OR REST HOMES WHERE HARD UP ALCOHOLICS COULD FIND NEEDED CARE. THE QUESTION WAS, WERE SUCH ACTIVITIES TO BE BRANDED AS PROFESSIONALISM UNDER THE AA TRADITION.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE TELL US THAT THE ANSWER IS "NO". MEMBERS WHO SELECT SUCH FULL TIME CAREERS DO NOT PROFESSIONALIZE AA'S TWELVTH STEP. THE ROAD TO THIS CONCLUSION WAS LONG AND ROCKY. AT FIRST, WE COULD NOT SEE THE REAL ISSUES INVOLVED. IN FORMER DAYS, THE MOMENT AS AA HIRED OUT TO SUCH AN ENTERPRISE HE WAS IMMEDIATELY TEMPTED TO USE THE NAME ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS FOR PUBLICITY OR MONEY RAISING PURPOSES. DRUNK FARMS, EDUCATIONAL VENTURES, STATE LEGISLATURES AND COMMISSIONS ADVERTISED THE FACT THAT AA MEMBERS SERVE THEM. UNTHINGINGLY, AA'S WHO WERE SO EMPLOYED RECKLESSLY BROKE THEIR ANONYMITY TO THUMP THE TUB FOR THEIR PET ENTERPRISE. FOR THIS REASON, SOME VERY GOOD CAUSES AND EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH THE SUFFERED UNJUST CRITICISM FROM AA GROUPS. THERE WERE CRIES OF "PROFESSIONALISM". THAT GUY IS MAKING MONEY OUT OF AA!! YET NOT A SINGLE ONE OT THEM HAD BEEN HIRED TO DO AA'S TWELVE STEP WORK. THE VIOLATION IN THESE INSTANCES WAS NOT PROFESSIONALISM AT ALL: IT WAS BREAKING ANONYMITY. AA'S SOLE PURPOSE WAS BEING COMPROMISED AND THE NAME OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WAS BEING MISUSED.

IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE THAT TODAY ALMOST NO AA'S IN OUR FELLOWSHIP BREAK ANONYMITY AT THE GENERAL PUBLIC LEVEL, AND SO NEARLY ALL THESE FEARS HAVE SUBSIDED. WE SEE THAT WE HAVE NO RIGHT OR NEED TO DISCOURAGE AA'S WHO WISH TO WORK AS INDIVIDUALS IN THESE FIELDS. ACTUALLY IT WOULD BE ANTISOCIAL WERE WE TO DISCOURAGE THEM. WE CANNOT DECLARE AA SUCH A CLOSED CORPORATION THAT WE KEEP OUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TOP SECRET. IF AN AA MEMBER, ACTING AS A CITIZEN, CAN BECOME A BETTER RESEARCHER, EDUCATOR, OR PERSONNEL OFFICER, WHY NOT? EVERYBODY GAINS, AND AA HAS LOST NOTHING.

THIS IS THE EXCITING CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT FINALLY CAST UP AA'S TRADITION OF NON-PROFESSIONALISM. AA TWELFTH STEP-- CARRYING THE MESSAGE--IS NEVER TO BE PAID FOR BUT THOSE WHO LABOR IN SERVICE FOR US ARE WORTH OF THEIR HIRE.

THE INDIVIDUAL OR "I LEVEL" IS THE SAME. WHEN I TWELVE STEP--CARRYING THE MESSAGE--IS NEVER TO BE PAID FOR. BUT OUR LABOR IS WORTHY OF OUR HIRE.

1. DO YOU BELIEVE MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY CAN BE MIXED?
2. DO YOU THINK WE COULD PROFESSIONALIZE THE TWELVE STEPS?
3. DO YOU BELIEVE IN PERSON TO PERSON--FACE TO FACE--CARRYING THE MESSAGE?
4. DO YOU THINK THAT YOU WILL EVER GET GOOD ENOUGH IN TWELVE STEP WORK TO SELL YOUR SERVICES?
5. COULD YOU OR WOULD YOU VOLUNTEER ONE DAY A WEEK OF YOUR TIME FOR AA WORK, LIKE INTER-GROUP, TWELVE STEP CALLS, ETC. ?
6. DO YOU THINK IT IS MUCH BETTER TO HAVE PAID SERVANTS DO THE OFFICE WORK ETC. AND LEAVE TWELVE STEP WORK TO THE MEMBERSHIP?
7. SHOULD AA HAVE A FACILITY THAT ACTIVE ALCOHOLICS COULD "HANG AROUND" ?
8. SHOULD A FACILITY AA USES BE CLEAN? SHOULD WE LEAVE THIS TO VOLUNTEERS?
9. DO YOU THINK THEY TREATED "OLD TOM" RIGHT OR WERE THEY TRYING TO CON HIM INTO TAKING THE JOB?
10. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THE LARGER THE POPULATION THE MORE HIRED HELP IS NEEDED?
11. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT BROWARD COUNTY SHOULD BE RUN BY VOLUNTEERS?
12. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT AN AA MEMBER CAN WEAR TWO HATS?
13. DO YOU BELIEVE A MEMBER OF AA CAN DO ANYTHING HE LIKES AS LONG AS HE DOES NOT DO IT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF AA OR USE THE NAME OF AA IN ANY OF HIS OR HER ENDEAVORS?
14. DO WE HAVE ANY RIGHT TO DISCOURAGE AA MEMBERS FROM WORKING IN THE FIELD OF ALCOHOLISM?
15. WOULD IT DAMAGE OR RETARD AA IF WE KEPT OUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TOP SECRET?
16. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS? CARRYING THE MESSAGE IS NEVER TO BE PAID FOR, BUT THOSE WHO LABOR IN SERVICE FOR US ARE WORTHY OF THEIR HIRE.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

TRADITION NINE

THE LONG FORM: EACH A. A. GROUP NEEDS THE LEAST POSSIBLE ORGANIZATION. ROTATING LEADERSHIP IS THE BEST. THE SMALL GROUP MAY ELECT ITS SECRETARY, THE LARGE GROUP ITS ROTATING COMMITTEE, AND THE GROUPS OF A LARGE METROPOLITAN AREA THEIR CENTRAL OR INTERGROUP COMMITTEE, WHICH OFTEN EMPLOYS A FULL-TIME SECRETARY. THE TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD ARE, IN EFFECT, OUR A. A. GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE. THEY ARE THE CUSTODIANS OF OUR A. A. TRADITIONS AND THE RECEIVERS OF VOLUNTARY A. A. CONTRIBUTIONS BY WHICH WE MAINTAIN OUR A. A. GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE AT NEW YORK. THEY ARE AUTHORIZED BY THE GROUPS TO HANDLE OUR OVER-ALL PUBLIC RELATIONS AND THEY GUARANTEE THE INTEGRITY OF OUR PRINCIPLE NEWSPAPER, "THE A. A. GRAPEVINE." ALL SUCH REPRESENTATIVES ARE TO BE GUIDED IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE, FOR TRUE LEADERS IN A. A. ARE BUT TRUSTED AND EXPERIENCED SERVANTS OF THE WHOLE. THEY DERIVE NO REAL AUTHORITY FROM THEIR TITLES; THEY DO NOT GOVERN. UNIVERSAL RESPECT IS THE KEY TO THEIR USEFULNESS.

THE SHORT FORM: A. A., AS SUCH, OUGHT NEVER BE ORGANIZED; BUT WE MAY CREATE SERVICE BOARDS OR COMMITTEES DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE.

THIS TRADITION STILL PUZZLES A LOT OF PEOPLE. HOW CAN YOU HAVE A SOCIETY THAT IS UNORGANIZED, AND AT THE SAME TIME ORGANIZE SERVICES? YET AA DOES IT.

WHEN TRADITION NINE WAS FIRST WRITTEN IT SAID, ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS NEED THE LEAST POSSIBLE ORGANIZATION. IN THE YEARS SINCE THEN, WE HAVE CHANGED OUR MINDS ABOUT THIS. TODAY WE WE ARE ABLE TO SAY WITH ASSURANCE THAT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-- AS A WHOLE--SHOULD NEVER BE ORGANIZED AT ALL. THEN, IN SEEMING CONTRADICTION WE PROCEED TO CREATE SPECIAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES WHICH IN THEMSELVES ARE ORGANIZED. HOW CAN WE HAVE AN UNORGANIZED MOVEMENT WHICH CAN AND DOES CREATE A SERVICE ORGANIZATION FOR ITSELF? SCANNING THIS PUZZLER, PEOPLE SAY, "WHAT DO THEY MEAN, NO ORGANIZATION?"

WHAT AA REALLY MEANS IS THAT AA CAN NEVER HAVE AN ORGANIZED DIRECTION OR GOVERNMENT. TO AMPLIFY THIS: DID ANYONE EVER HEAR OF A NATION, CHURCH, OR POLITICAL PARTY, EVEN A BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION THAT HAD NO MEMBERSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS? DOES NOT NEARLY EVERY SOCIETY ON EARTH GIVE AUTHORITY TO SOME OF ITS MEMBERS TO IMPOSE OBEDIENCE UPON THE REST AND TO PUNISH

OR EXPEL OFFENDERS? THEREFORE EVERY NATION, INFAC T EVERY FORM OF SOCIETY, HAS TO BE A GOVERN MENT ADMINISTERED BY HUMAN BEINGS. POWER TO DIRECT AND GOVERN IS THE ESSENCE OF ORGANIZA- TION EVERYWHERE.

THO THIS IS THE RULE, AA IS A COMPLETE EXCEPTION. IT DOES NOT AT ANY POINT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF GOVERNMENT. NEITHER ITS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE, ITS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE, ITS GENERAL SERVICE GOARD, NOR THE HUMBLEST GROUP COMMITTEE CAN ISSUE A SINGLE DI RECTIVE TO AN AA ME MBER AND MAKE IT STICK, LET ALONE HAND OUT ANY PUNISHMENT. WE HAVE TRIED MANY THIMES, BUT FAILURE IS ALWAYS THE RESULT. GROUPS HAVE TRIED TO EXPEL MEMBERS, BUT THE BANISHED HAVE COME BACK TO SIT IN THE MEETING PLACE, SAYING, "THIS IS LIFE FOR US, YOU CAN'T KEEP US OUT." COMMITTEES HAVE INSTRUCTED MANY AA'S TO STOP WORKING ON A CHRONIC BACKSLIDER, ONLY TO BE TOLD, "HOW I DO MY TWELVE STEP WORK IS MY BUSINESS. WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE?" AN AA MAY TAKE ADVICE OR SUGGESTIONS FROM MORE EXPERIENCE MEMBERS, BUT HE SURELY WILL NOT TAKE ORDERS. WHO IS LESS POPULAR THAN THE OLD TIMER FULL OF WISDON, WHO MOVES TO ANOTHER AREA AND TRIES TO TELL THE GROUP HOW TO RUN THEIR BUSINESS. HE AND ALL LIKE HIM WHO "VIEW WITH ALARM FOR THE GOOD OF AA" MEET WITH S TUBBORN RESISTANCE, OR WORSE STILL, LAUGHTER. IN FACT, AA IS SO UNORGANIZED THAT SOMEONE ONCE SUGGESTED WE PUT A SIGN IN EACH AA CLUB SAYING: "ANY -

THING GOES HERE, FOLKS, EXCEPT YOU MUST NOT SMOKE OPIUM IN THE ELEVATORS!"

ONE WOULD THINK THAT THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE AND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE WOULD BE EXCEPTIONS. SURELY THE PEOPLE THERE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SOME AUTHORITY. LONG AGO TRUSTEES AND STAFF MEMBERS ALIKE FOUND THEY COULD DO NO MORE THAN MAKE SUGGESTIONS, AND VERY MILD ONES AT THAT. THEY EVEN HAD TO COIN A COUPLE OF SENTENCES WHICH STILL GO INTO HALF THE LETTERS THEY WRITE: "OF COURSE YOU ARE AT PERFECT LIBERTY TO HANDLE THIS MATTER ANYWAY YOU PLEASE. BUT THE MAJORITY EXPERIENCE IN AA DOES SEEM TO SUGGEST _____." NOW, THAT ATTITUDE IS FAR REMOVED FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, ISN'T IT? AA RECOGNIZES THAT IT CANNOT DICTATE TO FELLOW MEMBERS, INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY.

AT THIS JUNCTURE WE CAN HEAR A CHURCH MAN EXPLAIN, "THEY ARE MAKING DISOBEDIENCE A VIRTUE!" HE IS JOINED BY THE PSYCHIATRIST WHO SAYS, "DEFIANT BRATS, THEY WON'T GROW UP AND CONFORM TO SOCIAL USAGE." THE MAN IN THE STREETS SAYS, "I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. THEY MUST BE NUTS." BUT ALL THESE OBSERVERS HAVE OVERLOOKED ONE VERY UNUSUAL CONDITION IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: "UNLESS EACH AA MEMBER FOLLOWS TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY THE TWELVE STEPS OF RECOVERY, HE ALMOST CERTAINLY SIGNS HIS DEATH WARRANT. DRUNKENNESS AND DISINTERGRATION ARE NOT PENALTIES INFLECTED BY THE PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY; THEY

ARE RESULTS OF PERSONAL DISOBEDIENCE TO SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES. WE MUST OBEY CERTAIN PRINCIPLES, OR WE DIE.

THE SAME STERN THREAT APPLIES TO THE GROUP ITSELF. UNLESS THERE IS APPROXIMATE CONFORMITY TO AA'S TWELVE TRADITIONS, THE GROUP TOO CAN DETERIORATE AND DIE. SO WE OF AA DO OBEY SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES, FIRST BECAUSE WE MUST AND ULTIMATELY BECAUSE WE LOVE THE KIND OF LIFE SUCH OBEDIENCE BRINGS. GREAT SUFFERING AND GREAT LOVE ARE AA'S DISCIPLINARIANS, IT HAS NO OTHERS.

THEREFORE IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT WE OUGHT NEVER TO NAME A BOARD TO GOVERN US. IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHALL ALWAYS NEED TO AUTHORIZE WORKERS TO SERVE US. HERE WE DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN THE SPIRIT OF VESTED AUTHORITY AND THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE, CONCEPTS WHICH ARE SOMETIMES POLES APART. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT OF SERVICE THAT WE ELECT THE AA'S GROUPS INFORMAL ROTATING COMMITTEES, THE INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION OF THE AREA, AND THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF AA AS A WHOLE. EVEN OUR TRUSTEES, ONCE AN INDEPENDENT BODY, ARE TODAY DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO OUR FELLOWSHIP. THEY ARE THE CARETAKERS AND EXPEDITERS OF OUR WORLD SERVICES.

JUST AS THE AIM OF EACH AA MEMBER IS PERSONAL SOBRIETY, SO THE AIM OF OUR SERVICES ARE TO BRING SOBRIETY WITHIN REACH OF ALL WHO WANT IT. IF NO ONE DID THE GROUP CHORES, IF THE AREA TELEPHONE RANG UNANSWERED OR IF AA DID NOT REPLY TO

ITS MAIL, THEN AA AS WE KNOW IT WOULD STOP. OUR COMMUNICATIONS LINES WITH THOSE WHO NEED OUR HELP WOULD BE BROKEN.

WHILE AA HAS TO FUNCTION, AT THE SAME TIME IT HAS TO AVOID WEALTH, PRESTIGE, AND POWER, THREE DANGERS WHICH NECESSARILY TEMPT NEARLY ALL HUMAN SOCIETIES. THOUGH TRADITION NINE AT FIRST SIGHT SEEMS TO DEAL WITH PURELY PRACTICAL MATTERS, IT EMBODIES A DEEP SPIRITUALITY IN ITS ACTUAL OPERATION. AA IS A SOCIETY WITH OUT ORGANIZATION, ANIMATED ONLY BY THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE--A TRUE FELLOWSHIP.

HOW THIS UNIQUE SITUATION DEVELOPED IS SEEN IN THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE: JOHN DOE GOES TO MIDDLETOWN, USA. HE IS AN AA MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING FROM ANOTHER CITY. IN MIDDLETOWN THERE IS NO AA GROUP AND JOHN FEELS LONESOME AND A LITTLE FRIGHTENED HE ALSO WANTS TO CARRY THE MESSAGE. SO MAYBE HE PUTS AN AD IN THE PAPER, SAYING THAT AA HAS COME TO TOWN. MAYBE HE GOES TO THE PREACHERS AND THE DOCTORS AND BARTENDERS AND SCRAPES HIMSELF UP A FEW PROPECTS. PRETTY SOON THERE IS A LITTLE GROUP. AT FIRST JOHN IS THE DICTATOR AND THESE FIRST MEMBERS ARE HIS HIARCHY, LITERALLY. THEY HAVE ALL THE AUTHORITY THERE IS. THE LOCAL FOUNDER AND HIS FRIENDS TEACH AA PRINCIPLES AND MAKE ALL THE GROUP'S ARRANGEMENTS. THE GROUP GOES ON GROWING BROADER AND BROADER AT THE BASE. FOR A WHILE THEY ACCEPT ALL THAT JOHN AND HIS FRIENDS SAY; THEY TAKE DIRECTION, QUITE RIGHTLY, BECAUSE AT THIS STAGE THERE IS NO OTHER WAY.

BY AND BY SOMETHING HAPPENS. MAYBE JOHN AND HIS FRIENDS HAVE A FALLING OUT, OR MAYBE SOME POWER-DRIVER DOWN IN THE BASE OF THE TRIANGLE BEGINS TO MURMUR, "HOW LONG ARE THESE OLD-TIMERS GOING TO KEEP RUNNING THIS THING?"

MEANWHILE THE FOUNDER AND HIS FRIENDS BASK A LITTLE IN GLORY. THEY SAY TO ONE ANOTHER, "PERHAPS IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF WE CONTINUE TO KEEP A FIRM HAND ON AA IN THIS TOWN."

GROWING PAINS NOW BESET THE GROUP. PANHANDLERS PANHANDLE. LONELY HEARTS PINE. PROBLEMS DESCEND. MURMURS ARE AGAIN HEARD IN THE BODY POLITIC WHICH SWELL INTO A LOUD CRY: "DO THESE OLD-TIMERS THINK THEY CAN RUN THIS THING FOREVER? LETS HAVE AN ELECTION." THE FOUNDER AND HIS FRIENDS ARE HURT AND DEPRESSED. THEY RUSH FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS AND FROM MEMBER TO MEMBER, PLEADING. BUT IT IS NO USE. THE REVOLUTION IS ON. THE GROUP IS ABOUT TO TAKE OVER. IF THE FOUNDER AND HIS FRIENDS SERVED WELL, THEY MAY, TO THEIR SURPRISE BE REINSTATED FOR A TIME. IF, HOWEVER THEY HAVE HEAVILY RESISTED THE RISING TIDE OF DEMOCRACY, THEY MAY BE SUMMARILY BEACHED. IN EITHER CASE, THE GROUP NOW HAS A SO CALLED ROTATING COMMITTEE, VERY SHARPLY LIMITED IN ITS AUTHORITY. IN NO SENSE WHATEVER CAN ITS MEMBERS GOVERN OR DIRECT THE GROUP. THEIRS IS SOMETIMES A THANKLESS PRIVILGE OF DOING THE GROUPS CHORES. THIS COMMITTEE CAN ONLY MAKE THE NECESSARY SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS BY WHICH THE GROUP CAN FUNCTION. IT CAN GIVE NO SPIRITUAL ADVISE, JUDGE

NO ONE'S CONDUCT, ISSUE NO ORDERS. ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER MAY BE PROMPTLY ELIMINATED AT THE NEXT ELECTION IF HE TRIES TO THROW HIS WEIGHT AROUND. THE MEMBERS FULLY REALIZE THAT THEY ARE ACTUALLY SERVANTS, NOT SENATORS. THESE ARE UNIVERSAL AA EXPERIENCES. THUS THROUGHOUT OUR FELLOWSHIP DOES THE THE GROUP CONSCIENCE DECREE THE TERMS UPON WHICH ITS LEADERS SHALL SERVE.

THIS BRINGS US STRAIGHT TO THE QUESTION, "DOES AA HAVE A REAL LEADERSHIP?" THE ANSWER IS, "YES, NOT WITHSTANDING THE APPARENT LACK OF IT." LET'S TURN AGAIN TO THE DEPOSED FOUNDER AND HIS FRIENDS. WHAT BECAME OF THEM? AS THEIR GRIEF AND ANXIETY WORE AWAY, A SUBTLE CHANGE BEGINS. ULTIMATELY THEY DIVIDE INTO TWO CLASSES KNOWN IN AA SLANG AS THE "ELDER STATESMAN" WHO IS THE ONE WHO SEES THE WISDOM OF THE GROUP'S DECISION, WHO HOLDS NO RESENTMENTS OVER HIS REDUCED STATUS, WHOSE JUDGEMENT, FORTIFIED BY CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE, IS SOUND, AND WHO IS WILLING TO SIT QUIETLY ON THE SIDE LINES PATENTLY AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS. THE OTHER IS THE "BLEEDING DEACON" WHO IS THE ONE WHO REMAINS CONVINCED THAT THE GROUP CANNOT GET ALONG WITHOUT HIM, WHO CONSTANTLY CONIVES FOR RE-ELECTION TO OFFICE, AND WHO CONTINUES TO BE CONSUMED WITH SELF-PITY. A FEW "DEACONS" HEMORRHAGE SO BADLY THAT THEY BECOME DRAINED OF ALL AA SPIRIT AND PRINCIPLES AND GET DRUNK. AT TIMES THE AA LANDSCAPE SEEMS TO BE LITTERED WITH BLEEDING FORMS. NEARLY EVERY OLD-TIME IN OUR SOCIETY

HAS GONE THROUGH THIS PROCESS IN SOME DEGREE. HAPPILY MOST OF THEM SURVIVE AND LIVE TO BECOME "ELDER STATESMEN." THIS IS A REAL AND ENDURING LEADERSHIP OF AA. THEIRS IS THE QUIET OPINION, THE SURE KNOWLEDGE, AND THE HUMBLE EXAMPLE THAT RESOLVES A CRISIS. WHEN SORELY PERPLEXED, THE GROUP INEVITABLY TURNS TO THEM FOR ADIVSE. THEY BECOME THE VOICE OF THE GROUP CONSCIENCE. THEY ARE, IN FACT, THE TRUE VOICE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. THEY DO NOT DRIVE BY MANDATE: THEY LEAD BY EXAMPLE. THIS IS HOW TRADITION NINE WAS EVOLVED. THIS IS WHY AA CAN NEVER BE ORGANIZED UNDER ANY KNOWN FORM OF GOVERNMENT. IT ALSO REMAINS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT AA CAN, AND MUST, CREATE SERVICE BOARDS OR COMMITTEES TO BE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE. AS AN INDIVIDUAL THE WORDS OF WISDOM DESCRIBING THIS TRADITION SHOULD BE HEDED AND PRACTICE BY THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF AA.

1. WHAT DOES "NO ORGANIZATION" MEAN IN AA?
2. DOES AA CONFORM TO ANY PATTERN OF GOVERNMENT?
3. WHO IN AA CAN ADMINISTER PUNISHMENT?
4. WHO CAN EXPEL A MEMBER OF AA?
5. WHO TELL THE INDIVIDUAL HOW TO DO TWELVE STEP WORK?
6. SHOULD AN AA MEMBER TAKE ORDERS FROM ANOTHER AA MEMBER WHEN HE IS A DIRECTLY ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE ORGANIZATION?
7. CAN GSO, TRUSTEES OR DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONFERENCES MAKE RULES OR DO THEY ONLY MAKE SUGGESTIONS?
8. DOES AA AS A WHOLE RECOGNIZE THAT IT CANNOT DICTATE TO THE MEMBERSHIP?
9. WHAT IS A "DEATH WARRENT" FOR AN ALCOHOLIC?
10. ARE THE PENALTIES OF DRUNKENNESS AND DISINTEGRATION INFLICTED BY PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY?
11. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE GROUP DOES NOT CONFORM TO THE AA TRADITIONS?
12. IS IT IMPORTANT FOR EACH MEMBER OF AA TO LIVE BY THE TWELVE STEPS AND THE TWELVE TRADITIONS?
13. SHOULD A SERVANT OF AA BE APPOINTED ACCORDING TO QUALITY OF HIS SOBRIETY AND ABILITY OR BECAUSE HE OR SHE IS A NICE FELLOW OR GIRL AND A JOB MIGHT HELP THEM STAY SOBER?
14. WHO AND WHAT ARE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND GSO ACCOUNTABLE TO AND FOR?
15. WHILE AA FUNCTIONS, WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO AVOID?
16. IS IT IMPORTANT TO USE THE ROTATION THEORY IN AA?
17. WHAT HAPPENS IN AA WHEN A SERVANT BEGINS TO THROW HIS WEIGHT AROUND?
18. CAN A COMMITTEE IN AA GIVE SPIRITUAL ADVISE, JUDGE ANYONE'S CONDUCT OR ISSUE ORDERS?
19. DOES AA HAVE ANY REAL LEADERSHIP?

20. WHAT IS AN "ELDER STATESMAN" IN AA?

21. WHO IS A "BLEEDING DEACON" IN AA?

22. WHEN THINGS REALLY GET TOUGH IN A GROUP, WHO DOES IT TURN TO?

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

TRADITION TEN

THE LONG FORM: NO A. A. GROUP OR MEMBER SHOULD EVER, IN SUCH A WAY AS TO IMPLICATE A. A., EXPRESS ANY OPINION ON OUTSIDE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES--PARTICULARLY THOSE OF POLITICS, ALCOHOL REFORM, OR SECTARIAN RELIGION. THE ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GROUPS OPPOSE NO ONE. CONCERNING SUCH MATTERS THEY CAN EXPRESS NO VIEWS WHATEVER.

THE SHORT FORM: ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HAS NO OPINION ON OUTSIDE ISSUES; HENCE THE A. A. NAME OUGHT NEVER BE DRAWN INTO PUBLIC CONTROVERSY.

SINCE IT BEGAN AA HAS NEVER BEEN DIVIDED BY A MAJOR CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE, THE AA FELLOWSHIP HAS NEVER TAKEN SIDES PUBLICLY ON ANY QUESTION IN THIS EMBATTLED WORLD. THIS HAS BEEN NO EARNED VIRTUE. IT COULD ALMOST BE SAID THAT AA WAS BORN WITH IT, FOR AS ONE OLD-TIMER DECLARED, "PRACTICALLY NEVER HAVE I HEARD A HEATED RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, OR REFORM ARGUMENT AMONG AA MEMBERS." SO LONG AS WE DON'T ARGUE THESE MATTERS, IT'S A CINCH WE SHALL NEVER ARGUE THEM PUBLICLY!"

AS BY SOME DEEP INSTINCT, WE HAVE KNOWN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THAT, NO MATTER WHAT THE PROVOCATION, WE MUST NEVER PUBLICITY TAKE SIDES, AS AA'S, IN ANY FIGHT, EVEN A WORTHY ONE. ALL HISTORY AFFORDS US THE SPECTACLE OF STRIVING NATIONS AND GROUPS FINALLY TORN ASUNDER BECAUSE THEY WERE DESIGNED FOR, OR TEMPTED INTO, CONTROVERSY. OTHERS FELL APART BECAUSE OF SHEER SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS WHILE TRYING TO FORCE UPON THE REST OF MANKIND SOME PLAN OF THEIR OWN SPECIFICATION. IN OUR TIMES WE HAVE SEEN MILLIONS DIE IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WARS OFTEN SPURRED BY RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL DIFFERENCES. WE LIVE IN THE IMMINENT POSSIBILITY OF A FRESH OLOCAUST TO DETERMINE HOW MEN SHALL BE GOVERNED AND HOW THE PRODUCTS OF NATURE AND TOIL SHALL BE DIVIDED AMONG THEM. THAT IS THE SPIRITUAL CLIMATE IN WHICH AA WAS BORN AND BY GOD'S GRACE HAS FLOURISHED NEVERTHELESS.

LET US RE-EMPHASIZE THAT THIS RELUCTANCE TO FIGHT ONE ANOTHER

OR ANYBODY ELSE IS NOT COUNTED AS SOME SPECIAL VIRTUE WHICH MAKES US FEEL SUPERIOR TO OTHER PEOPLE. NOR DOES IT MEAN THAT THE MEMBERS OF AA, NOW RESTORED AS CITIZENS OF THE WORLD ARE GOING TO BACK AWAY FROM THEIR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO ACT AS THEY SEE THE RIGHT UPON ISSUES OF OUR TIME. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO AA AS A WHOLE, THAT IS A DIFFERENT MATTER. AS AA'S WE DO NOT ENTER INTO PUBLIC CONTROVERSY, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT OUR FELLOWSHIP WILL PERISH IF WE DO. WE CONCEIVE THE SURVIVAL AND SPREAD OF AA TO BE SOMETHING OF GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN ANY WEIGHT WE COULD COLLECTIVELY THROW BEHIND OTHER COURSES. RECOVERY FROM ALCOHOLISM IS LIFE ITSELF TO US, AND WE WISH TO PRESERVE IN FULL STRENGTH OUR MEANS OF SURVIVAL.

MAYBE THIS SOUNDS AS THOUGH THE ALCOHOLICS IN AA HAD SUDDENLY GONE PEACEABLE, AND HAD BECOME ONE GREAT BIG HAPPY FAMILY. OF COURSE THIS IS NOT SO AT ALL. WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS AND WE SQUABBLED BEFORE WE LEVELED OFF A BIT. AA LOOKED MORE LIKE ONE PRODIGIOUS SQUABBLE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, AT LEAST ON THE SURFACE. A CORPORATION DIRECTOR WHO HAD JUST VOTED A COMPANY EXPENDITURE OF A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS WOULD APPEAR AT AN AA BUSINESS MEETING AND BLOW HIS TOP OVER THE OUTLAY OF TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS WORTH OF NEEDED POSTAGE STAMPS. DISLIKING THE ATTEMPT OF SOME TO MANAGE THE GROUP, HALF OF ITS MEMBERSHIP MIGHT RUSH OFF TO FORM ANOTHER GROUP MORE TO THEIR LIKING. ELDERS, TEMPORARILY TURNED PHARISEE, HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST PEOPLE SUSPECTED OF MIXED MOTIVES. YET DESPITE THEIR SIN, OUR

ROWS HAVE NEVER DONE AA A PARTICLE OF HARM. THEY WERE JUST PART AND PARCEL OF LEARNING TO WORK AND LIVE TOGETHER. LET IT BE NOTED, TOO, THAT THEY WERE ALMOST ALWAYS CONCERNED WITH HOW TO MAKE AA MORE EFFECTIVE AND HOW TO DO THE MOST GOOD FOR THE MOST ALCOHOLICS.

THE WASHINGTONIAN SOCIETY, A MOVEMENT AMONG ALCOHOLICS WHICH STARTED IN BALTIMORE A CENTURY AGO, ALMOST DISCOVERED THE ANSWER TO ALCOHOLISM. AT FIRST THE SOCIETY WAS COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF ALCOHOLICS TRYING TO HELP ONE ANOTHER. THE EARLY MEMBERS FORESAW THAT THEY SHOULD DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THIS SOLE AIM. IN MANY RESPECTS THE WASHINGTONIANS WERE AKIN TO AA. THEIR MEMBERSHIP PASSED THE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND MARK. HAD THEY STUCK TO THEIR ONE GOAL, THEY MIGHT HAVE FOUND THE FULL ANSWER, INSTEAD, THE WASHINGTONIANS PERMITTED POLITICIANS AND REFORMERS, BOTH ALCOHOLIC AND NON-ALCOHOLIC, TO USE THE SOCIETY FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. ABOLITION OF SLAVERY, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS A STORMY POLITICAL ISSUE THEN. SOON WASHINGTONIANS SPEAKERS VIOLENTLY AND PUBLICITY TOOK SIDES ON THIS QUESTION. MAYBE THE SOCIETY COULD HAVE SURVIVED THE ABOLITION CONTROVERSY, BUT IT DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE FROM THE MOMENT IT DETERMINED TO REFORM ALL AMERICANS DRINKING HABITS. SOME OF THE WASHINGTONIANS BECAME TEMPERANCE CRUSADERS. WITHIN A VERY FEW YEARS THEY HAD COMPLETELY LOST THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN HELPING ALCOHOLICS, AND THE SOCIETY COLLAPSED.

THE LESSON TO BE LEARNED FROM THE WASHINGTONIANS WAS NOT OVERLOOKED BY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. AS AA SURVEYED THE WRECK OF THAT MOVEMENT, EARLY MEMBERS RESOLVED TO KEEP OUR SOCIETY OUT OF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY.

CONSIDERING HOW MOST OF US HAVE REALLY LOVED CONTROVERSY. THIS DENIAL OF THE PRIVILEGE OF ATTACKING SOMETHING OR SOMEBODY IN PUBLIC IS NO SMALL ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE NATURALLY AGGRESSIVE PEOPLE WE ARE. TO MAKE OUR SURVIVAL AS A FELLOWSHIP SURE, WE HAVE OFTEN GONE FAR IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. YEARS AGO, FOR EXAMPLE, WE STOOD IN GREAT FEAR OF THE MISUSE OF THE AA NAME BY AA'S AND OUTSIDE GROUPS WHO WANTED TO USE IT FOR THEIR OWN MONEY-RAISING, CONTROVERSIAL, OR PUBLICITY PURPOSES. THEREFORE WE FELT WE HAD TO FIND A WAY LEGALLY TO PROTECT THE PRECIOUS NAME OF OUR SOCIETY.

OUR TRUSTEES WERE ADVISED THAT THIS COULD BE DONE BY INCORPORATING THE NAME ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN EVERY STATE OF THE UNION AND IN ALL FOREIGN COUNTRIES. WE ACTUALLY BEGAN THIS TEDIOUS, COMPLICATED, AND EXPENSIVE TASK, WHICH FINALLY BOGGED DOWN IN A MASS OF TECHNICALITIES, RED TAPE AND CHARTERS.

BUT THE ISSUE WAS REVIVED WITH A BANG WHEN ONE OF THE LARGE MOTION-PICTURE PRODUCERS SUDDENLY CAME UP WITH A SCRIPT FOR A PICTURE WHICH THEY WERE GOING TO CALL "MR. AND MRS. ANONYMOUS." THE PROPOSED PORTRAYAL OF AA SEEMED PRETTY LOPSIDED AND IN RATHER BAD TASTE. THOUGH THEY AGREED TO CHANGE THE TITLE,

THE COMPANY REFUSED TO DO MUCH OF ANYTHING ABOUT THE OBJECTION-
ABLE SCRIPT. WHAT, THEN COULD WE DO ABOUT IT?

WE CONCLUDED THAT WE OUGHT TO ASK FOR AN INJUNCTION AGAINST
THE COMPANY FOR MISUSE OF THE AA NAME. THIS PROPECT OF LEGAL
ACTION CAUSED THE COMPANY TO REVISE THE SCRIPT MORE TO OUR
LIKING. OTHER WISE, WE MIGHT HAVE SUED, FOR GETTING ALL ABOUT
AA'S PRINCIPLES OF NON-CONTROVERSY IN PUBLIC. WE WERE THAT
EXCITED.

AFTER THE MOTION-PICTURE INCIDENT, THE TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN,
BERNARD SMITH, CAME UP WITH WHAT LOOKED LIKE A WONDERFUL IDEA.
AS A LAWYER, HE THOUGHT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS COULD EASILY
OBTAIN A CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER, AND ACT OF CONGRESS WHICH WOULD
PROTECT THE AA NAME EVERYWHERE. THIS WOULD PUT US IN THE SAME
CLASS AS THE RED CROSS AND SEVERAL OTHER NOTABLE ORGANIZATIONS.
IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THE NERE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A CHARTER WOULD
RESTRAIN. NEARLY ALL THOSE WHO MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO MISUSE
AA'S NAME. A LEGAL BLUDGEON OF THIS SIZE AND WEIGHT WOULD EASILY
BE USED ON ANY WHO MIGHT STILL DEFY THE LAW. IT LOOKED LIKE
A GRAND IDEA AND THOSE AT THE GSO WERE ALL FOR IT.

THE CONSCIENCE OF AA, ITS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE, HAD
OTHER IDEAS. THE CONFERENCE POINTED OUT HOW FOOLISH IT WOULD
BE TO INCORPATE AA'S WAY OF LIFE AS A LEGAL INSTRUMENT WITH
WHICH TO ATTACK ANYONE, NO MATTER WHAT THE PROVOCATION. AA
WOULD NOT BE CONTENT WITH SUCH AN INSTRUMENT FOR PURPOSES OF

PURE RESTRAINT. UNDER ENOUGH PROVOCATION, IT WOULD BE BOUND TO START PUBLIC LAW SUITS AND THUS ENTER THE FIELD OF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY. IT WOULD BE LIKE BUILDING A WAR MACHINE ON THE THEORY THAT IT WOULD ALWAYS STAY AT HOME AND NEVER FIGHT. IT WOULD MEAN THE LEGAL ORGANIZATION OF A FELLOWSHIP WHOSE TRADITIONS INSISTED ON IT'S BEING UNORGANIZED. THE CONFERENCE THOUGHT AA OUGHT TO FORGET ABOUT THE QUESTIONABLE ADVANTAGES OF LEGALITY AND CONTROVERSY AND RELY UPON GROUP AND PUBLIC OPINION FOR OUR ULTIMATE PROTECTION. AFTER LONG DEBATE, GSO SAW THAT THE CONSCIENCE OF AA, ACTING THROUGH THE DELEGATES, WAS WISER THAN THEY WERE. SO THE CONGRESS OF THE USA WAS NEVER ASKED TO INCORPORATE AA.

TODAY AA'S EVERYWHERE BELIEVE:

- (1) THAT "SPIRITUAL FAITH" AND A "WAY OF LIFE" CANNOT BE INCORPORATED.
- (2) THAT AA CAN AND WILL SURVIVE SO LONG AS IT REMAINS A SPIRITUAL FAITH AND A WAY OF LIFE OPEN TO ALL MEM AND WOMEN WHO SUFFER FROM ALCOHOLISM.
- (3) THAT AA SEEKS NOT COMPROMISE BUT CERTAINTY.

THEREFORE AA WAS NEVER OR WE BELIEVE TODAY WILL NEVER, BE INCORPORATED.

AN INDIVIDUAL SHOULD TAKE HEED OF EVERY WORD IN TRADITION TEN AND ABIDE STRICTLY BY ITS INTENT.

1. HAS AA EVER BEEN DIVIDED ON A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE?
2. HAS THE AA FELLOWSHIP EVER TOOK SIDES ON ANY WORLD ISSUE?
3. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD A HEATED RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL OR REFORM ARGUMENT AMONG AA MEMBER?
4. DOES AA TAKE THE RIGHT OF ITS MEMBERS TO ARGUE OVER INDIVIDUAL OPINION?
5. DOES AA EVER FORCE IT'S PROGRAMS ON ALCOHOLICS OR ANYONE?
6. IS RECOVERY FROM ALCOHOLISM, LIFE ITSELF TO US?
7. HOW IMPORTANT IS LIVING AND WORKING TOGETHER?
8. CAN AA CHANGE AMERICA'S DRINKING HABITS?
9. DO YOU REALIZE THE IMPORTANT OF AA, AS A WHOLE, STAYING OUT OF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY?
10. HOW CAN YOU "INCORPORATE A WAY OF LIFE"?
11. WHO DOES AA RELY ON FOR ITS ULTIMATE PROTECTION?
12. HAS THE CONGRESS OF THE USA EVER BEEN ASKED TO INCORPORATE AA?
13. AS A MEMBER OF AA DO YOU RESOLVE TO TRY TO RECOGNIZE CONTROVERSY, BOTH PUBLIC AND INTER-AA AND TO ATTEMPT TO ELIMATE IT ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF AA THROUGH THE TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

TRADITION ELEVEN

THE LONG FORM: OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY PERSONAL ANONYMITY. WE THINK A. A. OUGHT TO AVOID SENSATIONAL ADVERTISING. OUR NAMES AND PICTURES AS A. A. MEMBERS OUGHT NOT BE BROADCAST, FILMED, OR PUBLICLY PRINTED. OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION. THERE IS NEVER NEED TO PRAISE OURSELVES. WE FEEL IT BETTER TO LET OUR FRIENDS RECOMMEND US.

THE SHORT FORM: OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY IS BASED ON ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION; WE NEED ALWAYS MAINTAIN PERSONAL ANONYMITY AT THE LEVEL OF PRESS, RADIO AND FILMS.

WITHOUT ITS LEGIONS OF WELL-WISHERS, AA COULD NEVER HAVE GROWN AS IT HAS. THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FAVORABLE PUBLICITY HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPAL MEANS OF BRINGING ALCOHOLICS INTO OUR FELLOWSHIP. IN AA OFFICES, CLUBS AND HOMES TELEPHONES RING CONSTANTLY. ONE VOICE SAYS, "I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER _____." ANOTHER, "WE HEARD A RADIO PROGRAM" AND STILL OTHERS, "WE SAW A MOTION PICTURE", OR "WE SAW SOMETHING ABOUT AA ON TELEVISION." IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT HALF OF AA'S MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN LED TO US THROUGH CHANNELS LIKE THESE.

THE INQUIRING VOICES ARE NOT ALL ALCOHOLICS AND FAMILIES. DOCTORS READ MEDICAL PAPERS ABOUT AA AND CALLED FOR MORE INFORMATION. CLERGYMAN SAW ARTICLES IN THEIR CHURCH JOURNALS AND ALSO MADE INQUIRES. EMPLOYERS LEARN THAT GREAT CORPORATIONS HAVE SET THEIR APPROVAL UPON US AND WISH TO DISCOVER WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM IN THEIR FIRMS.

THEREFORE THE RESPONSIBILITY FELL UPON US TO DEVELOP THE BEST POSSIBLE PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY FOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. THROUGH MANY PAINFUL EXPERIENCES WE THINK WE ARRIVED AT WHAT THAT POLICY OUGHT TO BE. IT IS OPPOSITE IN MANY WAYS TO THE USUAL PROMOTIONAL PRACTICES. AA FOUND THAT IT HAD TO RELY UPON THE PRINCIPLE OF ATTRACTION RATHER THAT PROMOTION.

LETS SEE HOW THESE CONTRASTING IDEAS, ATTRACTION AND PROMOTION, WORK OUT. A POLITICAL PARTY WISHES TO WIN AN ELECTION SO IT ADVERTISED THE VIRTUE OF ITS LEADERSHIP IN ORDER TO DRAW

VOTES. A WORTHY CHARITY WANTS TO RAISE MONEY, SO ITS LETTER - HEADS SHOW THE NAMES OF EVERY DISTINGUISHED PERSON WHOSE SUPPORT CAN BE OBTAINED. MUCH OF THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE WORLD IS DEPENDENT UPON PUBLICIZED LEADERSHIP. PEOPLE WHO SYMBOLIZE CAUSES AND IDEAS FILL A DEEP HUMAN NEED. AA DOES NOT QUESTION THAT BUT IT DOES HAVE TO FACT THE FACT THAT BEING IN THE PUBLIC EYE IS HAZARDOUS, ESPECIALLY FOR US. BY TEMPERAMENT MANY OF US HAD BEEN IRRESOPNSIBLE PROMOTERS, AND THE PROSPECT OF A SOCIETY COMPOSED LARGELY OF PROMOTERS WAS FRIGHTENING. AA KNEW IT HAD TO EXERCISE SELF-RESTRAINT.

THE WAY THIS RESTRAINT PAID OFF IS INTERESTING. IT HAS RESULTED IN MORE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR AA THAN COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN OBTAINED THROUGHT ALL THE ARTS AND ABILITIES OF AA'S BEST PRESS AGENTS. OBVIOUSLY, AA HAD TO BE PUBLICIZED SOMEHOW, SO IT RESORTED TO THE IDEA THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LET OUR FRIENDS DO THIS FOR US. THEY HAVE DONE IT TO AN AMAZING EXTENT. VETERAN NEWSMEN, TRAINED DOUBLTERS THAT THEY ARE, HAVE GONE ALL OUT TO CARRY AA'S MESSAGE. TO THEM AA IS SOMETHING MORE THAN THE SOURCE OF GOOD STORIES. ON ALMOST EVERY NEWSFRONT MEN AND WOMEN OF THE PRESS HAVE BECOME OUR FRIENDS. IN THE BEGINNING THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND OUR REFUSAL OF ALL PERSONAL PUBLICITY. THEY WEE GENUINELY BAFFLED BY OUR INSISTENCE UPON ANONYMITY BUT SOON THEY GOT THE POINT. HERE WAS SOMETHING RARE IN THE WORLD, A SOCIETY WHICH SAID IT WISHED TO PUBLICIZED ITS PRINCIPLES AND ITS WORKS BUT NOT ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. THE

PRESS WAS PLEASED WITH THIS ATTITUDE, AND THESE FRIENDS EVER SINCE HAVE REPORTED AA WITH AN ENTHUSIASM WHICH THE MOST ARDENT MEMBERS THEMSELVES COULD HARDLY MATCH.

THERE WAS ACTUALLY A TIME WHEN THE PRESS OF AMERICA THOUGHT THE ANONYMITY OF AA WAS BETTER FOR US THAN SOME OF OUR OUW MEMBERS DID. AT ONE POINT ABOUT A HUNDRED OF OUR SOCIETY WERE BREAKING ANONYMITY AT THE PUBLIC LEVEL. WITH PERFECTLY GOOD INTENT, THESE FOLKS DECLARED THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF ANONYMITY WAS HORSE AND BUGGY STUFF, SOMETHING APPROPRIATE TO AA'S PIONEERING DAYS. THEY WERE SURE THAT AA COULD GO FASTER AND FARTHER IF IT AVAILED ITSELF OF MODERN PUBLICITY METHODS. AA, THEY POINTED OUT, INCLUDED MANU PERSONS OF LOCAL, NATIONAL, OR INTERNATIONAL FAME. PROVIDED THEY WERE WILLING (AND MANY WERE) WHY SHOULDN'T THEIR MEMBERSHIP BE PUBLICIZED, THEREBY ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO JOIN?

THERE WERE PLAUSIBLE ARGUMENTS, BUT HAPPILY OUR FRIENDS OF THE WRITING PROFESSION DISAGREED WITH THEM. YEARS EARLIER THE GSO HAD WRITTEN LETTERS TO PRACTICALLY EVERY NEWS OUTLET IN NORTH AMERICA, SETTING FORTH AA'S PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY OF ATTRACTION, RATHER THAN PROMOTION AND EMAPHASIZING PERSONAL ANONYMITY AS AA'S GREATEST PROTECTION. SINCE THAT TIME EDITIORS AND REWRITE MEN HAVE REPEATEDLY DELETED NAMES AND PICTURES OF MEMBERS FROM AA COPY. FREQUENTLY THEY HAVE REMINED INDIVIDUALS OF AA'S ANONYMITY POLICY. THEY HAVE EVEN SACIFICED GOOD

STORIES TO THE END. THE FORCE OF THEIR CO-OPERATION HAS HELPED BEYOND MEASURE. ONLY A VERY FEW AA MEMBERS ARE LEFT WHO DELIBERATELY BREAK ANONYMITY AT THE PUBLIC LEVEL.

AN OLD STORY REVEALING SEVERAL ASPECTS OF AA'S PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS COMES TO MIND: ONE OF AA'S PIONEER MEMBERS CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF STARTING A GROUP IN HIS CITY BY RADIO. THE LOCAL STATION, WITH A RADIUS OF ABOUT A HUNDRED MILES, OFFERED TO HELP. SO OUR PROMOTER FRIEND CONSTRUCTED A SERIES OF "TWELVE LECTURES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS." THESE WERE A STRANGE MIXTURE OF AA AND HIS OWN RELIGIOUS IDEAS. HE SOON PUT THEM ON THE AIR WITH ALL THE VIGOR OF A CHAUTAUGUA ORATOR. CONTRARY TO OUR EXPECTATIONS, HE GOT A MODEST RESULT. INQUIRIES CAME IN AND HE STARTED A GROUP.

NOW FLUSHED WITH SUCCESS, HE WAS SMITTEN WITH A WONDERFUL VISION. HE WROTE THE GSO, TELLING THEM HOW A PROMINENT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY WOULD SPONSOR HIM ON A NATIONAL NETWORK TO DELIVER HIS "TWELVE LECTURES." HE WAS GOING TO APPEAR UNDER HIS OWN NAME, AS AN AA MEMBER. FOR DOING SUCH A GREAT WORK, OF COURSE, HE WAS TO RECEIVE A GENEROUS FEE.

THE GSO DEMONSTRATED, BUT IT WAS NO USE. HE WAS ADVISED THAT THE TRUSTEES FELT HIS MESSAGE INAPPROPRIATE FOR NATIONAL CONSUMPTION. SO HE WROTE A HOT LETTER TO THIS EFFECT "TO HELL WITH THE TRUSTEES, THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR MY MESSAGE. I'VE GOT THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH, AND I AM GOING ON THE AIR WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT."

THIS ULTIMATUM WAS ALARMING AND IT LOOKED LIKE PROMOTION, PROFESSIONALISM, AND ANONYMITY-BREAKING ALL IN ONE PACKAGE. IF THIS SORT OF VENTURE PROVED SUCCESSFUL, FROM THE PROMOTERS POINT OF VIEW, EVERY ADVERTISEMENT MAN AND SALESMAN IN AA WOULD SOON BE SELLING AA'S WARES. AA WOULD LOSE ALL CONTROL OF ITS PUBLIC RELATIONS.

SO THE GSO TOOK THE POSITION. OF ASSUREDING ITS WELL-MEANING FRIEND THAT IT WOULD CERTAINLY UPHOLD HIS RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH. THEY ADDED THAT HE OUGHT TO UPHOLD AA'S TOO. HE WAS ASSURED THAT IF HIS "LECTURES" WENT ON THE AIR, EVERY AA GROUP WOULD BE ADVISED OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND ASKED TO WRITE STRONG LETTERS TO THE SPONSORING LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, LETTERS OF A KIND THE SPONSOR MIGHT NOT LIKE TO RECEIVE. THE BROADCAST NEVER WENT ON THE AIR. AS A RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT, AA'S TRUSTEES WERE EMPOWERED TO CONDUCT OUR OVER-ALL PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND THE PRINCIPLE OF ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION BECAME ESTABLISHED AS THE KEY TO OUR RELATION WITH THE WORLD ABOUT US. IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT THE ORIGINAL "LONGFORM" DRAFT OF TRADITION ELEVEN CARRIES THE STATEMENT THAT "IT IS BETTER TO LET OUR FRIENDS RECOMMEND US."

THIS IN BRIEF IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH AA'S TRADITION ELEVEN WAS DEVELOPED. TO US IT REPRESENTS MORE THAN A DENIAL OF SELF-SEEKING. TRADITION ELEVEN IS CERTAINLY A CONSTANT REMINDER THAT PERSONAL AMBITION HAS NO PLACE IN AA, BUT IT ALSO IMPLIES THAT EACH MEMBER OUGHT TO BECOME AN ACTIVE GUARDIAN OF OUR FELLOW-

SHIP IN ITS RELATION WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

ANONYMITY IS THE PROTECTIVE MANTLE THAT COVERS OUR WHOLE SOCIETY. IT IS MORE THAN PROTECTION, IT HAS ANOTHER DIMENSION, A SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE, WHICH LEADS US INTO TRADITION TWELVE.

QUESTIONS

1. WHO ARE OUR FRIENDS MENTIONED IN THE LONG FORM -- TRADITION ELEVEN?
2. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT 50% OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF AA WAS LED TO THE FELLOWSHIP BY OUR FRIENDS? LETS TAKE A COUNT?
3. DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE PRINCIPLE OF AA? (ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION)
4. DO YOU BELIEVE WALKING DOWN THE STREET OF YOUR HOME TOWN SOBER IS THE BEST FORM OF TWELVE STEP WORK THAT YOU CAN DO?
5. IS A SOCIETY OF AA COMPOSED LARGELY OF "PROMOTERS" FRIGHTENING TO YOU?
6. WHAT DOES AA WISH TO PUBLICIZE?
7. HAS THE PRESS BEEN OUR FRIEND OVER THE YEARS? WHY?
8. DO YOU THINK ANONYMITY IS HORSE AND BUGGY STUFF?
9. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH AA GROWTH?
10. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH AA'S PUBLICITY METHODS?
11. DO YOU THINK PEOPLE OF FAME ADD TO THE DIGNITY OF AA?
12. WHAT IS OUR GREATEST PROTECTION?
13. DO YOU BELIEVE WE SHOULD UPHOLD A MEMBER'S RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH?
14. NAME SOME OF THE FRIENDS WE HAVE TODAY RECOMMENDING US?
15. DO YOU AGREE WITH "DENIAL OF SELF-SEEKING"?

16. DOES PERSONAL AMBITION HAVE IT'S PLACE IN AA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF STAYING SOBER?
17. ARE YOU AS A MEMBER OF AA AN ACTIVE GUARDIAN OF OUR FELLOWSHIP AND IT'S RELATION WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC?
18. WHAT DOES THE WORD "ANONYMITY" MEAN TO YOU?

CHAPTER TWELVE

TRADITION TWELVE

THE LONG FORM: AND FINALLY, WE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF ANONYMITY HAS AN IMMENSE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE. IT REMINDS US THAT WE ARE TO PLACE PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES; THAT WE ARE ACTUALLY TO PRACTICE A GENUINE HUMILITY. THIS TO THE END THAT OUR GREAT BLESSINGS MAY NEVER SPOIL US; THAT WE SHALL FOREVER LIVE IN THANKFUL CONTEMPLATION OF HIM WHO PRESIDES OVER US ALL.

THE SHORT FORM: ANONYMITY IS THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF OUR TRADITIONS, EVER REMINDING US TO PLACE PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES.

IN AA BELIEF, THE ENTIRE FUTURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HANGS UPON THIS VITAL PRINCIPLE. IF WE CONTINUE TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AND PRACTICE OF ANONYMITY NO SHOAL OR REEF CAN WRECK US. IF WE FORGET THIS PRINCIPLE, THE LID TO PANDORA'S BOX WILL BE OFF AND THE SPIRITS OF MONEY, POWER, AND PRESTIGE WILL BE LOOSE AMONG US. OBSESSED BY EVIL GENIS, WE MIGHT WELL FOUNDER AND BREAK UP. WE IN AA DEVOUTLY BELIEVE THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN. NO AA PRINCIPLE MERITS MORE STUDY AND APPLICIATION THAN THIS ONE. WE ARE POSITIVE THAT AA ANONYMITY IS THE KEY TO LONG-TIME SURVIVAL.

THE SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE OF ANONYMITY IS SACRIFICE. BECAUSE AA'S TWELVE TRADITIONS REPEATLY ASKS ITS MEMBERS TO GIVE UP PERSONAL DESIRES FOR THE COMMON GOOD, THEY REALIZE THAT THE SCARIFICAL SPIRIT, WELL SYMBOLIZED BY ANONYMITY, IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL THE TRADITIONS. IT IS AA'S PROVED WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THESE SACIFICES THAT GIVES PEOPLE HIGH CONFIDENCE IN OUR FUTURE.

IN THE BEGINNING ANONYMITY WAS NOT BORN OF CONFIDENCE, IT WAS A CHILD OF FEAR. OUR FIRST NAMELESS GROUPS OF ALCOHOLICS WERE SECRET SOCIETIES. NEW PROSPECTS COULD FIND AA ONLY THROUGH A FEW TRUSTED FRIENDS. THE BARE HINT OF PUBLICITY, EVEN WHEN IT WAS NOT FOR THE MEMBERSHIP BUT FOR AA WORK, SHOCKED US. ALTHOUGHT MEMBERS WERE NO LONGER DRINKING THEY STILL THOUGHT THEY HAD TO HIDE FROM PUBLIC DISTRUST AND CONTEMPT.

WHEN THE BIG BOOK APPEARED IN 1939, IT WAS CALLED ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. ITS ORIGINAL FORWARD MADE THIS REVEALING STATEMENT: "IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE REMAIN ANONYMOUS BECAUSE WE ARE TO FEW,

AT PRESENT, TO HANDLE THE OVER WHELMING NUMBER OF PERSONAL APPEARS WHICH MAY RESULT FROM THIS PUBLICATION. BEING MOSTLY BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL FOLKS, WE COULD NOT WELL CARRY ON OUR OCCUPATIONS IN SUCH AN EVENT." BETWEEN THE LINES IT IS EASY TO READ AA'S FEAR THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF INCOMING PEOPLE MIGHT BREAK ITS ANONYMITY WIDE OPEN.

AS THE AA GROUPS MULTIPLIES, SO DID ANONYMITY PROBLEMS. EXCITED OVER THE SPECTACULAR RECOVERY OF A BROTHER ALCOHOLIC, A MEMBER WOULD SOMETIMES DISCUSS INTIMATE AND HARROWING ASPECTS OF HIS CASE THAT HAD BEEN MEANT FOR HIS SPONSOR'S EAR ALONE. THE AGGRIVATED VICTIM WOULD THEN RIGHTLY DECLARE THAT HIS TRUST HAD BEEN BROKEN. WHEN REPORTS OF SUCH CASES GOT INTO CIRCULATION OUTSIDE OF AA, THE RESULTING LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR ANONYMITY PROMISE WAS SEVER. IT SOMETIMES TURNED PEOPLE AWAY FROM US. CLEARLY, EACH AA MEMBER'S NAME, AND HIS STORY TOO, HAD TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, IF HE WISHED IT TO BE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HOWEVER, WITH CHARACTERISTICALLY ALCOHOLIC TEMPERANCE SOME OF THE NEWCOMERS DID NOT CARE FOR THE PERSONAL ANONYMITY. THEY WANTED TO SHOUT ABOUT AA FROM THE HOUSETOPS, AND DID. ALCOHOLICS BARELY DRY IN AA RUSHED ABOUT BRIGHT EYED, BUTTON HOLEING ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN TO THEIR STORIES. OTHERS HURRIED TO PLACE THEMSELVES BEFORE MICROPHONES AND CAMERAS. SOMETIMES THEY GOT DRUNK AND LET THEIR GROUP DOWN WITH A BANG. THEY HAD CHANGED FROM AA MEMBERS INTO AA SHOW-OFFS.

THIS PHENOMENON OF CONTRACT ON THE ANONYMITY ISSUE REALLY

SET US THINKING. SQUARELY BEFORE US WAS THE QUESTION, "HOW ANONYMOUS SHOULD AN AA MEMBER BE?" OUR GROWTH MADE IT PLAIN THAT AA COULD NOT BE A SECRET SOCIETY. IT WAS EQUALLY PLAIN THAT AA COULD NOT BE A VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT, EITHER. THE CHARTING OF A SAFE PATH BETWEEN THESE EXTREMES TOOK A LONG TIME.

AS A RULE, THE AVERAGE NEWCOMER WANTED HIS OR HER FAMILY TO KNOW IMMEDIATELY WHAT HE OR SHE WAS TRYING TO DO. THEY ALSO WANTED TO TELL OTHERS WHO HAD TRIED THE HELP OF THE DOCTOR, THE MINISTER, AND CLOSE FRIENDS. AS HE OR SHE GAINED CONFIDENCE THEY FELT IT RIGHT TO EXPLAIN THE NEW WAY OF LIFE TO THEIR EMPLOYER AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATES. WHEN OPPORTUNITIES TO BE HELPFUL CAME ALONG, THEY FOUND THAT THEY COULD TALK EASILY ABOUT AA TO ALMOST ANYONE. THESE QUIET DISCLOSURES HELPED THEM LOSE THE FEAR OF THE ALCOHOLIC STIGMA AND TO SPREAD NEWS OF AA'S EXISTENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY. THROUGH NOW WITHIN THE STRICT LETTER OF ANONYMITY THESE COMMUNICATIONS WERE WELL WITHIN ITS SPIRIT.

IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE WORD OF MOUTH METHOD OF LETTING PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT AA WAS LIMITED. OUR WORK, AS SUCH, NEEDED TO BE PUBLICIZED. AA GROUPS WANTED QUICKLY TO REACH AS MANY DISPAIRING ALCOHOLICS AS POSSIBLE. THEY BEGAN TO HOLD MEETINGS WHICH WERE OPEN TO INTERESTED FRIENDS AND TO THE PUBLIC, SO THAT THE AVERAGE CITIZEN COULD SEE FOR HIMSELF JUST WHAT AA WAS ALL ABOUT. THE RESPONSE TO THESE MEETINGS WAS WARMLY

SYMPATHETIC. SOON GROUPS BEGAN TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR AA SPEAKERS TO APPEAR BEFORE CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, CHURCH GROUPS, AND MEDICAL SOCIETIES. PROVIDED REPORTERS PRESENT WERE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE USE OF FULL NAMES OR PICTURES, THE RESULTS WERE FINE.

THEN CAME THE FIRST FEW EXCURSIONS INTO MAJOR PUBLICITY, AND THESE WERE BREATHTAKING. CLEVELAND'S "PLAIN DEALER" ARTICLES ABOUT AA RAN THAT TOWN'S MEMBERSHIP FROM A FEW DOZEN INTO HUNDREDS OVERNIGHT. THE NEWS STORIES OF MR. ROCKEFELLER'S DINNER FOR AA HELPED DOUBLES OUR TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IN A YEAR'S TIME. JACK ALEXANDER'S FAMOUS "SATURDAY EVENING POST" PIECE MADE AA A NATIONAL INSTITUTION. SUCH TRIBUTES AS THESE BROUGHT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STILL MORE RECOGNITION. OTHER NEWSPAPERS AND MAGIZINES WANTED AA STORIES. FILM COMPANIES WANTED TO PHOTOGRAPH US. RADIO AND FINALLY TELEVISION COMPANIES BESIEGED US WITH REQUESTS FOR CO-OPERATION. WHAT SHOULD AA DO?

AS THIS TIDAL OFFERING OF TOP PUBLIC APPROVAL SWEEP IN, AA REALIZED THAT IT COULD DO INCALCULABLE GOOD OR GREAT HARM. EVERYTHING WOULD DEPEND UPON HOW IT WAS CHANNELED. AA SIMPLY" COULD NOT AFFORD TO TAKE THE CHANCE OF LETTING SELF-APP OINTED MEMBERS PRESENT THEMSELVES AS MESSIAHS REPRESENTING AA BEFORE THE WHOLE PUBLIC. THE PROMOTER INSTINCT IN US MIGHT BE OUR UNDOING. IF EVEN ON SUCH PERSON PUBLICITY GOT DRUNK OR WAS LURED INTO USING AA'S NAME FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES, THE DAMAGE MIGHT BE IRREPARABLE. AT THIS ALTITUDE (PRESS, RADIO, FILMS, AND TELEVISION)

ANONYMITY--"ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ANONYMITY"--WAS THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER. HERE PRINCIPLES WOULD HAVE TO COME BEFORE PERSONALITIES, WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

QUESTIONS

1. WHAT DOES THE ENTIRE FUTURE OF THE AA FELLOWSHIP DEPEND UPON?
2. WHAT IS AA'S GREATEST ENEMY ?
3. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT AA ANONYMITY IS THE KEY TO LONG-TIME SURVIVAL?
4. WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE OF ANONYMITY?
5. WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL THE TRADITIONS?
6. WHAT IS THE BASIS OF ANONYMITY?
7. DO YOU BELIEVE AN ALCOHOLIC CAN STAY SOBER UNDER CONSTANT "FEAR" ?
8. DO YOU AS AN AA MEMBER FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO HIDE FROM THE PUBLIC?
9. DO YOU AS AN AA MEMBER BELIEVE THAT THE PUBLIC HAS A DISTRUST AND COMTEMPT FOR YOU AND ALL OTHER ALCOHOLICS?
10. WHAT IS YOUR INTERPRETATION OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM THE BIG BOOK: "IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE REMAIN ANONYMOUS BECAUSE WE ARE TOO FEW AT PRESENT TO HANDLE THE OVER WHELMING NUMBER OF PERSONAL APPEALS, WHICH MAY RESULT FROM THIS PUBLICATION?"
11. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORD "TRUST" IN DEALING WITH YOUR FELLOW ALCOHOLICS?
12. HAVE YOU NOTICED A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALCOHOLICS IN THEIR OPINIONS ON PERSONAL ANONYMITY?
13. IS AA A SECRET SOCIETY?

14. HAVE YOU DISCUSSED WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO WITH YOU FAMILY; YOUR DOCTOR; MINISTER; CLOSE FRIENDS; EMPLOYER OR BUSINESS ASSOCIATES?
- 15.. DO YOU THINK TALKING OVER YOUR INTENT WITH THESE PEOPLE LESSENEED YOUR FEARS OF AN ALCOHOLIC STIGMA?
16. DO YOU THINK THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE WITHIN THE STRICT LETTER OF ANONYMITY?
17. DO YOU BELIEVE IN AN OPEN MEETING?
18. DO YOU BELIEVE IN BOTH OPEN AND CLOSED MEETINGS?
19. DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD HAVE MESSIAHS IN AA? (WHO WOULD SELECT THEM?)
20. WOULD YOU BE QUALIFIED?
21. DO YOU BELIEVE IN "ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ANONYMITY" FOR PRESS, RADIO, FILMS, AND TV.?

PART II

THESE EXPERIENCES TAUGHT AA THAT ANONYMITY IS REAL HUMILITY AT WORK. IT IS A CELL PROVIDING SPIRITUAL QUALITY WHICH TODAY KEYNOTES AA LIFE EVERYWHERE. MOVED BY THE SPIRIT OF ANONYMITY, AA MEMBERS TRIES TO GIVE UP THE NATURAL DESIRE FOR PERSONAL DISTINCTION AS AA'S BOTH AMONG FELLOW ALCOHOLICS AND BEFORE THE GENERAL PUBLIC. AS WE LAY ASIDE THESE VERY HUMAN ASPIRATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT EACH OF US TAKES PART IN THE WEAVING OF A PROTECTIVE MANTLE WHICH COVERS OUR WHOLE SOCIETY AND UNDER WHICH WE MAY GROW AND WORK IN UNITY. WE ARE SURE THAT HUMILITY, EXPRESSED BY ANONYMITY, IS THE GREATEST SAFEGUARD THAT AA CAN EVER HAVE.

IN RECENT YEARS AA'S AWARENESS OF THE DEEP SIGNIFICANCE OF ANONYMITY HAS GROWN IN A MOST HEARTENING AND WONDERFUL WAY. AT ONE TIME MANY NUMBERS OF AA'S WERE BREAKING ANONYMITY, AND OUR CO-FOUNDER BILL SAID HE WAS ONE OF THEM. TODAY THESE NUMBERS ARE REDUCED TO A MERE HANDFUL, DESPITE OUR ALCOHOLIC YEARNING FOR VAIN GLORY. THIS IS A TREMENDOUS GUARANTEE OF EVEN FINER THINGS TO COME.

THE KIND OF SACRIFICE THAT WE AS AA MEMBERS SHALL ALWAYS NEED TO MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL IS ILLUSTRATED BY A TALK MADE BY A CERTAIN TEXAS LADY. HER TEMPATION WAS EXTREME BECAUSE SHE WAS IN SHOW BUSINESS AND HAD GREAT NATIONAL POPULARITY AS AN ENTER-TAINER. THIS IS HER STORY AS SHE TOLD IT. "I SING ONLY IN THE BEST

BARROMS, AND I HAVE BEEN DOING IT FOR FIFTEEN YEARS. WITHIN A YEAR OF JOINING AA, I LOST ABOUT TEN POUNDS, THE BAGS CAME OUT FROM UNDER MY EYES, AND I BEGAN TO LOOK LIKE A HUMAN BEING. MY MANAGER COULD NOT FIGURE IT OUT, BUT AT LAST I TOLD HIM WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME. AT ONCE, HE SAID, 'BUT AREN'T YOU AND I GOING TO TELL THE PUBLIC ABOUT THIS? WHY, THIS WOULD MAKE TERRIFIC PUBLICITY, BOTH FOR AA AND YOU TOO.' "WELL", I SAID, 'TEMPORARILY I KNOW THAT IT WOULD. OTHER PEOPLE HAVE PROVED THAT, BUT, PLEASE, NOT FOR ME. AA HAD A PRINCIPLE CALLED ANONYMITY-- NO PUBLIC BIG SHOTS ALLOWED.' WE KNOW THAT AA CAN'T BE RUN LIKE SHOW BUSINESS, NO MATTER WHAT THE SHORT TERM BENEFITS MAY BE. AA SAVED MY LIFE AND MY CAREER. THEREFORE THE FUTURE WELFARE OF AA IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN THE PUBLICITY IS COULD GET AS AN AA MEMBER." THEN A LITTLE WISHFULLY SHE ADDED, "YOU KNOW, I OFTEN SEE DRUNKS IN MY AUDIENCE AND WONDER HOW I CAN HELP THEM. IF ONLY I COULD TELL THEM FROM THE STAGE THAT I AN IN AA. BUT THAT WOULD ONLY BE TEMPORARY. WOULDN'T IT? IN THE LONG RUN, WE WOULD ALL BE RUINED IF EVERYBODY DID IT." THE LADY FROM TEXAS WAS RIGHT.

BECAUSE BILL, OUR CO-FOUNDER ALWAYS HAD STRONG TENDENCIES TOWARD THE PURSUIT OF PRESTIGE, WEALTH, AND POWER, ALL OF AA TRADITIONS HAVE BORNE DOWN ON HIM WITH GREAT FORCE. REMEMBER THAT ESPISODE BACK IN BILL AND LOIS'S LIVING ROOM ON CLINTON STREET. THAT WAS THE TIME WHEN BILL'S GROUP TOLD HIM, HE COULD NEVER BECOME AN AA PROFESSIONAL. WELL, WITH NEARLY EVERY

TRADITION MUCH THE SAME THING HAS HAPPENED. AT FIRST BILL OBEYED BECAUSE HE HAD TO. BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE LOST HIS STANDING IN AA IF HE HAD NOT. AFTER A WHILE HE BEGAN TO OBEY BECAUSE HE SAY THAT THE TRADITIONS WERE WISE AND RIGHT. WHILE BILL CONFORMED BECAUSE IT WAS RIGHT TO DO SO, HE STILL RESISTED INWARDLY. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF ANONYMITY. BILL SAID, "TODAY I HOPE I HAVE COME TO A TIME IN MY AA LIFE WHEN I CAN OBEY BECAUSE I REALLY WANT TO OBEY, BECAUSE I REALLY WANT THE TRADITIONS FOR MYSELF AS WELL AS FOR AA AS A WHOLE. THEREFORE EACH OF OUR TWELVE TRADITIONS ARE REALLY EXPRESSIONS OF THE DEFLATION THAT EACH OF US HAS TO TAKE, OF THE SACRIFICE THAT WE ALL HAVE TO MAKE IN ORDER TO LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER." BILL CONTINUED: "DR. BOB WAS ESSENTIALLY A FAR MORE HUMBLE PERSON THAN I. IN SOME WAYS HE WAS A SORT OF SPIRITUAL 'NATURAL', AND THIS ANONYMITY BUSINESS CAME RATHER EASY FOR HIM. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY SOME PEOPLE SHOULD WANT SO MUCH PUBLICITY. IN THE YEARS BEFORE HE DIES, HIS PERSONAL EXAMPLE RESPECTING ANONYMITY DID MUCH TO HELP ME KEEP MY OWN LID ON. I THINK OF ONE AFFECTING INSTANCE IN PARTICULAR. ONE THAT EVERY AA OUGHT TO KNOW. WHEN IT WAS SURE THAT DR. BOB WAS MORTALLY AFFLICTED, SOME OF HIS FRIENDS SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SUITABLE MONUMENT OR MAUSOLEUM ERECTED IN HONOR OF HIM AND HIS WIFE ANNE. SOMETHING BEFITTING A FOUNDER AND HIS LADY. OF COURSE THIS WAS A VERY NATURAL AND MOVING TRIBUTE. THE COMMITTEE WENT SO FAR AS TO SHOW HIM A SKETCH OF THE PROPOSED EDIFICE. TELLING HIM ABOUT

THIS, DR. BOB GRINNED BROADLY AND SAID, 'GOD BLESS EM, THEY MEAN WELL, BUT FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, BILL LET'S YOU AND I GET BURIED JUST LIKE OTHER FOLKS.' A YEAR AFTER HIS PASSING, I VISITED THE AKRON CEMETARY WHERE DR. BOB AND ANNE LIE. THE SIMPLE STONE SAYS NOT A WORD ABOUT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. SOME PEOPLE MAY THINK THAT THIS WONDERFUL COUPLE CARRIED PERSONAL ANONYMITY TOO FAR WHEN THEY FIRMLY REFUSED TO USE THE WORDS 'ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS' EVEN ON THEIR OWN BURIAL STONE. FOR ONE, I DO NOT THINK SO. I THINK THAT THIS MOVING AND FINAL EXAMPLE OF SELF-EFFACEMENT WILL PROVE OF MORE PERMANENT WORTH TO AA THAN ANY AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ATTENTION OR ANY GREAT MONUMENT."

QUESTIONS

1. DO YOU SEE WHERE THE STATEMENT "PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES" WAS BORN?
2. IS ANONYMITY REALLY HUMILITY?
3. WHAT IS THE "SPIRIT OF ANONYMITY"?
4. ARE YOU WILLING TO LAY ASIDE YOUR HUMAN ASPIRATIONS AS FAR AS AA IS CONCERNED?
5. ARE YOU WILLING TO GROW AND WORK IN AA IN COMPLETE UNITY WITH YOUR FELLOW AA'S AND THE WORLD?
6. ARE YOU DIS-HEARTEN BY YOUR PAST CONDUCT? ARE YOU SURPRISED THAT BILL W. WAS ALSO HUMAN, WHEN HE SAID "I WAS ONE OF THE WORST ANONYMITY BREAKERS"?
7. CAN YOU REMEMBER ALWAYS "NO PUBLIC BIG SHOTS ALLOWED"?

8. DO YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE WHOLE OF AA, BUT THAT YOUR PART IS A VITAL PART OT KEEP IT GLUED TOGETHER IN UNITY?
9. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT BILL W. HAD STRONG TENDENCIES TOWARD PRESTIGE, WEALTH AND POWER?
10. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT DR. BOB HAD THE EXACT OPPOSITE TENDENCIES?
11. DO YOU BELIEVE AS BILL W. OBEYED THE TRADITIONS HIS MIND CONFORMED BECAUSE IT WAS RIGHT TO DO SO, BUT HE STILL RESISTED INWARDLY?
12. DID BILL W. FINALLY OBEY THE TRADITIONS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO OBEY, BECAUSE HE WANTED THEM FOR HIMSELF AND AA AS A WHOLE?
13. CAN YOU SEE WHY GOD BROUGHT DR. BOB AND BILL TOGETHER AS CO-FOUNDERS? WERE THEY OPPOSITE IN TEMPERMENT?
14. WHAT IS MENTIONED ON BILL AND BOB'S MONUMENTS WHERE THEY ARE AT REST?
15. WAS DR. BOB A GREAT DEFLATER FOR BILL W. ?
16. IS THIS TRUE ANONYMITY: DOING FOR OTHERS, EXPECTING NOTHING IN RETURN?
17. WOULD YOU SAY THAT OUR CO-FOUNDERS HAD A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE AND HAD DEFLATION AT GREAT DEPTHS?
18. DO YOU SEE VALUE, TRUE, VALUE TO THE PRACTICE OF THE TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS SIDE BY SIDE IN YOUR DAILY LIFE?
19. DO YOU NOW TRULY BELIEVE "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS" IS A GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE TO YOU?
20. DO YOU EXCEPT TO GIVE GOD A GIFT IN RETURN, USING THE TWELVE STEP AND TWELVE TRADITIONS OF AA TO MAKE A BETTER YOU, QUALITIFYING YOU TO TRULY SERVE YOUR FELLOWMAN?