

THE PAPER III

What Is a Vital Spiritual Experience?

A publication of Indianapolis Intergroup

Seemingly hopeless alcoholic, Rowland Hazard, was pronounced incurable by famous psychiatrist, Dr. Carl Jung (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 27). Desperately, he asked: —Is there no exception? He was told: —*Here and there, once in a while, alcoholics have had vital spiritual experiences. The doctor explained, —They seem to be in the nature of huge emotional displacements and rearrangements. Ideas, emotions and attitudes . . . Were suddenly cast aside and a completely new set of conceptions and motives begin to dominate them.*”

A fine way to remember old ideas, emotions and attitudes is to remember the Wizard of OZ. As Dorothy trod the yellow Brick Road she met: The Scarecrow — No brains = no ideas. The Tin Man — No heart = no emotions. The Cowardly Lion — No nerve = cowardly attitude.

Three potential alxies, obviously! But they were —fixed, (Dr. Bob called it —Jelled), by a hidden wizard (many of us call that God) and they doubtless never started drinking. The evil witch was the mental obsession and don't forget the drunken monkeys. Dorothy had the solution all the time, but didn't know it — The Great Reality deep within (p. 55). I think of the good witch as my sponsor, Carl.

The movie came out in 1939, the same year as our Big Book! Some may ask which came first the chicken or the egg. Who knows! Maybe Bill Wilson's Big Book ideas came from a trip he took down the yellow brick road — err, I mean the road to happy destiny.

--Bob S.

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Editorial: On the 1st Step

The first of the 12 steps in the creed or philosophy of Alcoholics Anonymous is, "We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol--that our lives had become unmanageable." By such an admission any alcoholic, provided he is sincere, has achieved his first success on the road to well-being.

Such an admission is usually very difficult for the alcoholic to make. The very nature of his disease makes him shun the knowledge of his inability to cope with the problems of everyday life. Hence his desire for something that will rapidly create whatever he *thinks* he lacks as an individual. With a few drinks under his belt he can fashion the most dreams about himself. These dreams *can* become his real characteristics--but only when he recognizes that he must dominate alcohol rather than have alcohol dominate him.

The sincerity with which the newcomer takes the first step is the gauge by which his recovery through A.A. can be measured.

Over the years the alcoholic develops a three-dimensional ability at picture building, which is a kind way of saying that alcoholics are adept liars. So that by really taking the first step--admitting freely and without reservation that he is an alcoholic--a person starts to build a new pattern of thought. The whole, at last, is fabricated from truth rather than wishful thinking or fantasy.

"Ye shall know the truth--and the truth shall make you free" applies certainly to the first step in this program--for truth, to the alcoholic, is simply admitting to himself that he can't handle alcohol, and because of this his life is unmanageable. To those who accept this first step the other eleven follow in the natural course of events--as the scope of the teachings of A.A. become realized and some small rewards have been received.

John B.

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I'm learning to smile and laugh again, and I've even gotten back some of my self respect ... I still have problems, but AA has taught me how to handle them and not to run from them.

Richmond, N.Y., January 1978

From: "Seventeen and Sober"

Young & Sober: Stories By Those Who Found AA Early



2012 Special Events

December 11th, 7:30 PM

*2013's Singleness of Purpose Day Weekend
Committee Formation & Elections!!*

Come Join Us Tuesday Evening
Suburban North Club (In Large Room)
1811 S 10th Street (Allisonville Road)
Noblesville, IN 46060

Monday December 17th

*Johnson Avenue Group
~~ **GOODIE NIGHT** ~~*

Bring a sweet treat to share and let's be jolly!!

Starts at 6:30 PM for fun and fellowship

Speaker at 8 PM

Irvington Presbyterian Church

55 Johnson Avenue

Indianapolis, In 46219

December 31, 7PM - 1AM

*New Year's Eve Sober Celebration
pitch-in, meetings, speaker, music*

Greenwood Middle School

523 S. Madison Avenue

Greenwood, IN 46142

December 31

New Year's Eve Party

Bring In the New Year Celebrating Sobriety!!

14 North Indiana St.

Roachdale Presbyterian Church

Starts at 7:00 PM

For more information on these and other events, see the Intergroup Web site at
www.indyaa.org/events/october.htm

Become a Faithful Fiver

Remember wasting more than \$5 drinking? Why not contribute \$5 to carry the message?

Faithful Fivers are A. A. members who donate \$5 or more per month to help support Indianapolis Intergroup.

Become a Faithful Fiver. Your

Indianapolis Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form Date _____

YES, I want to help continue to carry our life-saving message of hope.

I will contribute: __Annually (\$60) __Quarterly (\$15) __Monthly (\$5)

Please send email reminder to this email address:

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ for _____Months

Name_____

Address_____

City, State,
Zip_____

Phone
number_____

Please make check payable to: Indianapolis Intergroup
136 E. Market Street, # 1030
Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 632-7864

When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.

Language of the Heart---Bill W.

Brian V. - 1
Mike D. - 3
Chris K. - 4
Brian V. - 4

Jeffrey C. - 5
Teresa H. - 5

Kevin S. - 8
Tim M. - 9
Tony B. - 10

Greg C. - 12
Ursula Mc. - 17
Carl G. - 21

Patricia A. - 39
David A. - 39
Gary B. - 48



December Birthdays

Editorial: On the 2nd Step

Having taken the First Step of the A.A. program by admitting that we were powerless over alcohol, we were confronted with Step Two: "We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

This Second Step is often referred to as the first spiritual step; but is it or the subsequent steps any more spiritual than Step One? Is not anything spiritual, which tends toward elevating us to the best and highest type of human being we are capable of becoming?

The Second Step contains the crux of the A.A. method of getting well: it shows us how to expel that little streak of insanity which caused so many relapses into debauchery long after the normal drinker would have shrunk from another drink. This twisted kind of thinking is eliminated by faith in a Power greater than ourselves.

The question which naturally arises in the newcomer's mind is: "How can I acquire enough faith to get well?" The road to faith is by taking all Twelve Steps. Faith is acquired by working for it; it is retained by continuous use of the Twelve Steps.

One who has gained faith in this greater Power finds such faith reflected toward himself. To the alcoholic this means faith that he will not take the first, fatal drink. But that is not all, for soon we learn that in some mysterious way our whole lives have been changed, our thinking changed, and our desires as well. Finally the realization comes that we no longer drink--because we just don't want to.

The greater Power now becomes for us the court of final appeal. Those harsh judgments of people, conditions, and so on, which *we* made in the past are now left to this court. This is the way to tolerance. Our own ideals, aims and ambitions are also submitted. This leads to progress, and it is by progressing that we become--and remain--well.

Horace C.

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*When Anyone, Anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there...
for that, I am responsible.*



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