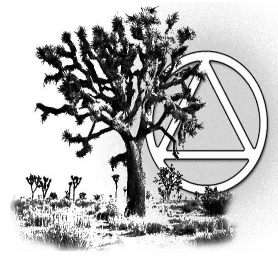


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I Am Responsible

When anyone, anywhere, Reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. to always be there. And for that: I am responsible.

The Difference Between “Asking” and “Humbly Asking”

What’s the difference between just “asking” and “humbly asking?” Step Seven says, “Humbly ask Him to remove our shortcomings.” So, I’d like to attempt explaining the difference between just ASKING and HUMBLY asking.

Being humble is becoming aware of the littleness of ourselves compared to the bigness of God. Did you ever think that your only problem is not getting your way? Being a servant of God is the highest attainment in A.A. We CLIMB our way, all the way to servant. That’s what a winner is – a servant. We’re just out there doing what God gives us the intuition to do. And when this transformation takes place, our needs are being met from the inside, so we don’t have to go out and get anything fixed. We’re ALREADY fixed, because we already have everything we need. We’re simply moving through life . . . looking for ways to be of service to God. So, humility is an awareness that we are willing to go through whatever it takes to become God-centered. That means we’re going to have to go through the pain of often not getting our way and voluntarily go through this transforming discomfort. We’ll use the following story as an illustration:

A lump of gray clay was sitting on the shelf next to a beautiful teacup. The clay says to the teacup, “Is this all there is to life, just sitting here not doing much of anything? Why can’t I be just like you, a teacup that people love and say is very beautiful?”

The teacup says, “Not too long ago I was just like you. One day soon you will be a teacup . . . and people will say that you, too, are very beautiful. They will also want to take you home with them.”

“Yes, I would LOVE that,” says the lump of clay. “Can you ask the Master to make me into a beautiful teacup?”

Have You Had a Spiritual Awakening?

How do you know? You feel it in every part of your being. You are acutely aware of those around you and sense what you can do (or say) that might contribute to their lives, instead of what they can do for you. There’s a sense of peace and well-being that comes over you and you feel at one with the world around you. You have been right sized to the point where you recognize your limitations and have no need to seek recognition for something that you are not. You accept the fact that you are not that special (except to those who love you) and that you’re just “another bozo on the bus.”

How would other know? They will sense a true humility that is not self-seeking. They will recognize it by your actions and how you comport yourself. They will easily see and understand that you have turned your will and life over to the care of the God of your understanding. They will see by your service work, whether in meetings or other necessary A.A. related activities, and in the community at large. You will be one of the first to volunteer and will only say no to an A.A. connected request if you are unavailable or simply cannot do it for other reasons (not because you just don’t feel like it).

How is this awakening reflected in your character/actions? Instead of being the character you were while you were drinking, you continue to strive developing characteristics and behaviors that are the hallmark of a mature and responsible adult. You try to carry the message of A.A. as best you can to the still suffering alcoholic. You practice the principles of A.A. in all your affairs. You do this not just in meetings, but with family, friends, neighbors, work associates, and everyone else, including those you come into contact with casually on a daily basis. You continued working the Twelve Steps in your life and are committed to working on your own character defects.

I wish I could say that all of the above are true for me, but sadly, I cannot. I can say, however, that I am more than willing to work on those areas where I am lacking, and continue doing so!!!

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Right HERE, in THIS part of the story, the clay is just ASKING to become a teacup. But HUMBLY asking is a little different than that as will be shown by the REST of the story.

The teacup continues, “Let me tell you what it takes to become the most gorgeous, the most beautiful little teacup that everyone admires and loves.

“I didn’t always look like this. There was a time in my life when I too was just a hard, cold lump of gray clay. Well, one day my Master came along and He picked me up. He began to pat me and roll me and I said, ‘What are you doing? Stop it! Quit! That hurts! Don’t do that! Ouch, leave me alone.’ And He simply said, ‘Not yet.’

“And then He put me on this wheel and began to spin me around and around and around and around and I said, ‘I’m getting dizzy, getting sick to my stomach. Let me off of here! I can’t stand this. Oh! Oh! What’s happening? My whole shape is changing! Stop it! Stop it!’ And He said, ‘Not yet

“After my shape had changed, He began to paint me all over. I said, ‘Eew. Cough, cough! That stuff stinks. Stop it! Stop it!’ And He still said, ‘Not yet.’

“Then He put me in this oven and closed the door. The oven had a little window, and He kept just looking at me. And I said, ‘I can’t stand this heat! Let me out of here! Cough, cough! Don’t You love me? Let me out of here! Why are you just looking at me?’ And He simply looked at me through the door and said, ‘Not yet.’

Then, finally, He opened the door, took me and dried me on the shelf for a while. [He] put another coat of that awful paint on me (cough, cough). And then He turned that oven back on seven times hotter that it was before, and [He] put me back in there again. I said, ‘What are you doing? I can’t stand this. You don’t understand this. I can’t take this, I can’t take it! Let me out of here!’ He just looked through the glass at me and said, ‘Not yet.’

“Finally one day, He opened the door, took me out, and set me on the shelf [to cool off for a while]. [Then He] came by with a mirror, and He held it up in front of me. [I] couldn’t believe it! I was beautiful! I was so changed! I was so different! I didn’t even look like that old lump of gray clay any more. And now people EVERYWHERE appreciate and love me.”

NOW, if you ask, you’re HUMBLY asking. You KNOW what’s involved. You KNOW that it’s not going to be easy, but you want it ANYWAY. Spirituality is about changing our attitude about pain and discomfort. It is looking THROUGH the pain to see the beauty of what is coming. The transformation is just on the OTHER side of the willingness to experience

not getting my way. And as soon as we go through it, it wasn’t even painful. It merely becomes a little effort. It’s [kind of] like when you’re OUT of shape and you want to get back IN shape. It’s hard at first. Remember that first week in the gym when you go home and everything hurts – everywhere? But as you keep it up, a month later it’s no longer painful. [It] merely becomes a little effort. And it’s wonderful because you know the great results it’s going to produce. After a while you LOVE pushing yourself because of the wonderful results. [The] same thing can happen in the spiritual world. I UNDERSTAND that at times I’m going to be uncomfortable, but I’m willing to go through with it anyway because I trust my Higher Power.

That’s the difference between just ASKING and HUMBLY asking.

Barefoot Bill

Submitted by,

Mary Ellen S., Apple Valley, CA

Right On Time

They say four billion years ago life showed its face on earth.

They knew not then, that man would be, the product of that birth.

Then grapes appeared upon the vine, eight thousand years just past.

Their juice, when crushed, seemed harmless, when enjoyed with repast.

But like all things that seem so fine, and too good to be true,
A darker side revealed the lure that many came to rue.

When smitten by this patient foe the bearers have no shield,
And when the choice is yea or nay, the stricken always yield.

So shameful was this malady, a moral thing they said.
Their families kept their secret safe, long after they were dead.

Centuries have come and gone, since first it got its grip,
And one in ten would pay the price, when venturing one sip.

Then God saw fit to intervene and offer up a choice,
Bill and Bob were listening, and heard His loving voice.

(Continued on page 3)

The Promises of Alcohol

1. You will be amazed at just how cunning and powerful I can really be.
2. You are going to know a torturous enslavement and be filled with deep depression, severe pain, and heavy sadness.
3. You will continually regret the past and shamefully shut the door on any happy and fulfilling future.
4. You will comprehend the word chaos and you will know insanity.
5. You will be pulled further and further down the scale until you are no good to yourself or others.
6. You will be filled with despair and feelings of uselessness and self-pity.
7. You will be plagued with “self” and your fellows will lose interest in you.
8. You will suffer and struggle terribly as your physical and mental health slips away.
9. Your whole attitude and outlook upon life will change – for the worse.
10. I will fill you with fear and insecurity and slowly take away all that you have. (The keyword there is “all.”)
11. I will make you incapable of handling the simplest situations and you will be baffled and lost.
12. I will consume your spirituality and take you away from God.

I prefer The Promises of A.A. over these any day!!!

Submitted by,

Carl O., Hesperia, CA, Hesperia Umbrella Group

On Time

(Continued from page 2)

How fortunate we are today, to be among the first,
To have been chosen, at this time, to quell that deadly thirst.

The wisdom of eight thousand years is laid there at our feet.
How bless to have it waiting, when I stumbled in defeat.

When pondering the suffering crossed, the vast expanse of
time,
I would not waste one moment of, His precious gift sublime.

Submitted by,

Rick R., Poway, CA

Minutes of the Intergroup Meeting 16 August 14

The meeting was opened at 9:32 a.m. by Doug H., who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Richard B. read the Twelve Traditions. In attendance were Doug H., Richard B., Betty B., Craig B., Ted B., Carl O., and Jim F. Ted B. read the minutes of the previous meeting. With one correction, the minutes were approved.

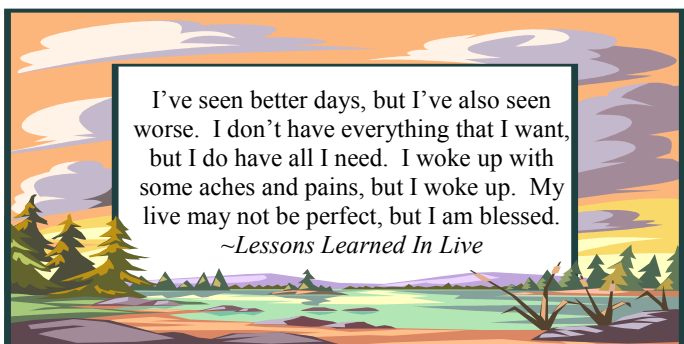
Treasurer's Report: Betty B. gave the report in the absence of Chad F. As of August 31, 2014, there was a balance of \$14,686.67 in savings, \$7,115.71 in the C.D., and \$4,699.60 in checking. Income for the month was \$2,027.26, with total expenses being \$2,056.70. August income before literature was a negative <\$29.34>. July literature sales were \$952.14 with literature purchases being \$1,314.40. Total literature was a negative <\$362.26>. The net August income was negative <\$391.60>. In August 12 people contributed \$442.00 to P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Webmaster's Report: Jim F. gave the report. Backups have been corrected back to October 2013. The event pages are up and running.

Officer Manager's Report: Craig B. reported that there were 85 visitors to the office in August. There were 149 information calls and three 12-Step calls. There were 96 call-forwarding calls and four 12-Step calls. The totals were 245 information calls and seven 12-Step calls. At this time all office and call-forwarding positions are filled. However, if someone would like to be placed on the back-up list, please call Craig B. at Central Office. Please announce at your meetings. There are 75th Anniversary Editions of the Big Book still available. Central Office is still mulling whether to purchase more A.A. literature before the October 1st price increase. A decision will be made shortly. The [Newsletter for the Fellowship] will be e-mailed to inboxes free. Please send your email address to [newsletterforthefellowship@yahoo.com] to get your newsletter. The Office Manager's Report was accepted.

Old Business: Craig B. is still considering whether the 3% convenience fee that the office can charge on credit card purchases

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starting January 1, 2015 is worth it. He will kick it around at the October 2014 Intergroup Meeting when there is a quorum.

New Business Richard B. discussed the A.A. High Desert Convention that will be held in June in Victorville. One question revolved around a \$13.00 fee that is presently being paid to an "outside" website. Is there a way to work around not paying the website and using Victor Valley Intergroup website? More discussion is needed on this issue. The Convention steering committee has several months to resolve this issue. Other issues to be discussed in the future relate to the Founders' Day Picnic will be held at the same time as the Convention. Also, how does Intergroup work around separating monetary aspects of holding the two events at the same time and location. If interested, the next Convention Committee meeting will be October 2, 2014 at the Alano Club.

the next Intergroup meeting will be October 18, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office.

Doug H. motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted B., Secretary



Mike E. with 15
years

ATTENTION!

Effective October 1,
2014, A.A.W.S. is in-

creasing the price on ALL books by about \$1.50 each. Central Office has ordered a supply at the old pricing, which will hopefully last for the remainder of the year. This would be a good time to do some early Christmas shopping for that special A.A. member in your life! Also, for a limited time, the reproduction of the 1st Edition Big Book is on sale for \$12.00 plus tax. This would be a great time to get your copy, because as they say, "When they are gone, they'll be gone!"

Central Office Activities

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
Visitors	105	731
Info. Calls	175	1,825
12 Step Calls	2	9
<u>Call Forwarding</u>		
Info. Calls	102	765
12 Step Calls	2	16
<u>Totals</u>		
Info Calls	277	1,611
12 Step Calls	4	25

Upcoming Events

Our Intergroup Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office. Call 760-242-9292 for further information. However, the December meeting will be dark.

April 10—11, 2015

Ride for Recover, from Barstow to Beatty, NV. More information will be forthcoming.

November 27—30, 2014

48th Annual Las Vegas Round Up. Visit on-line at www.lasvegasroundup.org for more information.

July 2—5, 2015

A.A. 2015 International Convention, Atlanta, GA. Visit www.aa.org for more information.

And Finally . . .



"HE'S ABOUT 5' 3", WEARING A RED JACKET, SMELLS OF BEER, AND HE SHOT A GUN AT ME"