VICTOR VALLEY INTERGROUP CENTRAL OFFICE

Newsletter for the Fellowship

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DEFINING HUMILITY

BY: RICK R. POWAY, CALIFORNIA

STEP SEVEN: Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

We hear much talk about humility in AA meetings, and for the life of me I've never heard anyone define it to my satisfaction. Our book, the "Twelve and Twelve," defines it as "a clear recognition of what and who we really are, followed by a sincere attempt to become what we could be." That still doesn't pin it down for me. It took me more than 20 years to come to an understanding of that word that would put my search to rest.

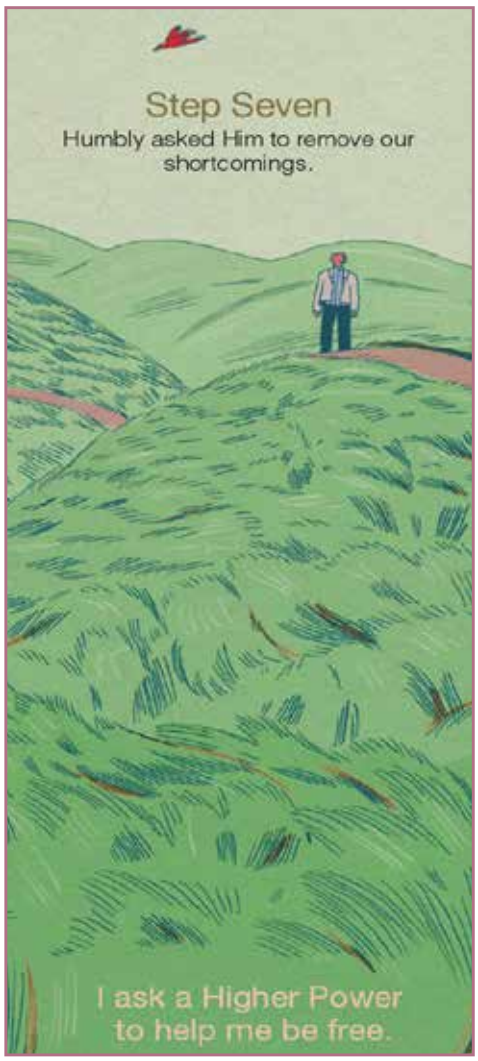
I remember being on the phone with a man once who was trying to draw me into an argument. When he realized I wasn't going to bite, he fired his last salvo by saying, "Well, I've heard stories about you, and you're no angel." I thought about what he said for a few seconds and then replied, "I've done a lot of things in my life that I'm not proud of, but I'm not ashamed of anything that I've done in the past 22 years." The phone call ended peacefully.

Several years later, in a Step-study meeting when the topic was humility, I remembered that phone call and realized that pride is not the opposite of humility; pride is the opposite of shame, and humility falls right in the middle of the two. When I boiled it all down, I concluded that I should not be proud of or ashamed of the things I do. I should be humbly in the middle somewhere.

I've learned to live by unselfish principles today, and if I am sure that my motives are selfless, I have nothing to be proud of or ashamed of—unless I have personally created that principle that I based my decision on.

And I can't remember one principle that I created myself. Humbly yours.

https://www.aagrapevine.org/magazine/2019/jul/defining-humility



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TRADITION SEVEN: Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

CONCEPT SIX The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

The Spiritual Principle of step 7 is Humility:

In step 7, we ask for a Greater Power to remove our worst shortcomings. This undertaking requires humility on two levels. First, to recognize our failings. Second, to admit we cannot remedy them with spiritual help.

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