

WE AGNOSTICS

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Chapter 4, “WE AGNOSTICS,” is truly a remarkable piece of writing. Four short years before writing this Chapter, the principal author, Bill W., was an agnostic, yet he demonstrates the depth of understanding a hopeless, agnostic alcoholic may receive in spirituality as we become students and practitioners of this Textbook.

This Chapter begins with some of the most important information this Book contains. In this Chapter, we learn the truth about the fatal malady -- alcoholism. The Authors then give us a test that, if answered honestly, will tell us if we really need what this Program has to offer. Once he has helped us determine if we are alcoholics of the hopeless variety, the Text restates our problem, and then the true answer -- a Higher Power, *as we understand Him*, who will solve all our problems.

Once that Promise is stated, the Book begins to erase some of our objections, ease some of our resistance, question some of our unreasonableness, open the door to the willingness to explore the possibilities promised by this Program. It states where most of us find ourselves as the result of trying to run the show ourselves.

We then are told that we have all the elements necessary to have a successful relationship with our Creator. That we have worshipped something or somebody, loved something or somebody and that we live on faith and little else.

And then, we are told that we need not go in search of our Higher Power. He knew we would not know where to look for Him, so He planted Himself deep within each of us. We need only to learn to follow the clear-cut directions in this Book to see if that is so with us.

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- (P) 1. What have we learned in our study of “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Bill’s Story,” “There Is A Solution” and “More About Alcoholism?”

2. What do we want to make clear?

Comment: Now take the “two question test” to determine the severity of your alcoholism.

- 3-a. How do you know if your life is unmanageable?

- 3-b. How do you know if you are powerless over alcohol?

Comment: Does this appear to be Step One in reverse order?

- 3-c. If you cannot quit entirely and have little control over the amount you drink, what are you?

6. What is the only known solution for such an illness?

Comment: Does this appear to be Step Two?

- (P) 7-a. Will this present problems to an atheist or an agnostic?

- 7-b. What will happen if they do not accept our Solution?

- 7-c. Especially if they are what type of alcoholic?

- 10-a. If you are powerless over alcohol and cannot manage a decision to not take the first drink, what is your destiny?

Comment: Is this the destiny for those who stop at Step One?

- 10-b. What is the alternative?

Comment: Is “to live on a spiritual basis” the essence of Step Two?

- 10-c. Are these alternatives easy for real alcoholics?

- (P) 13. When we can see the truth, is it really so difficult to hope that there just might be a Higher Power?

14. How many of the First 100 came as atheists or agnostics?

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- 15-a. What do some of us try to do with the truth?
- 15-b. What are we hoping?

- 17. Ultimately, we must do what?

- 18. Is it possible that this could apply to you as well?

- 19. If so, why should you not be discouraged?

- 20. What does our experience demonstrate to the atheist or agnostic?

- (P) 21. Will a code of morals or a good philosophy of living save the real alcoholic?

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1. If we really apply ourselves, can we resist the first drink?
2. When we use all our might to put our moral and best philosophy to work, what is still needed?
3. When we sincerely apply self-will to our human resources, how successful can we be?

- (P) 4. What is lack of power?
 - 5-a. To live, what did we have to do?
 - 5-b. What did it have to be?
7. If that is what we must have to survive, what is the question?

- (P) 8. Well, where do we find the answer to that most important question?
 - 9-a. What is its main object?
 - 9-b. This Power will do what?

Comment: Notice that the promise is not “will show us how,” “help us,” “enable us,” etc.; the promise is that IT WILL SOLVE OUR PROBLEM!! What problem? Every one of them as we grow in understanding and effectiveness in applying our Program.

11. This Book is written to be what?

Comment: The word “moral” in this Text Book means “truthful, honest.”

12. We are going to talk about who?

13. Who will have difficulty with this topic?

14. What will give the newcomer hope?

15-a. What will dampen his hope?

15-b. Why will this topic disturb him?