



# The Awakening

January 26, 2006

A publication of the Sunset Group of Alcoholics Anonymous

## GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM...



We found that as soon as we were able to lay aside prejudice and express even a willingness to believe in a Power greater than ourselves, we commenced to get results, even though it was impossible for any of us to fully define or comprehend that Power, which is God.

Much to our relief, we discovered we did not need to consider another's conception of God. Our own conception, however inadequate, was sufficient to make the approach and to effect a contact with Him. As soon as we admitted the possible existence of a Creative Intelligence, a Spirit of the Universe underlying the totality of things, we began to be possessed of a new sense of power and direction, provided we took other simple steps. We found that God does not make too hard terms with those who seek Him. To us, the Realm of Spirit is broad, roomy, all inclusive; never exclusive or forbidding to those who earnestly seek. It is open, we believe, to all men.

As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically assure him that he is on his way. It has been repeatedly proven among us that upon this simple cornerstone a wonderfully effective spiritual structure can be built.

*The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, pp. 46-47*



## STEP TWO: "CAME TO BELIEVE THAT A POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES COULD RESTORE US TO SANITY."

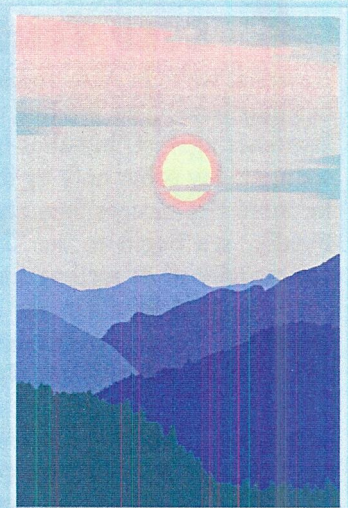
"...it had been obvious to me before coming to AA that I was beaten, so it had also been obvious that only some power *other* than myself could restore me to some inner order and peace. Whatever this power, it had to be greater than I, greater than anything I had been able to call on so far. I had rejected religion; medicine and psychiatry had failed me, and my own powers had got me nowhere.

But in the very first meetings I began to sense that, collectively, either the members of AA were such a power or they had access to it. For their stories convinced me that in their experience with alcohol they were like me. And they were sober, enjoyably sober. Whatever this power was, then, I knew *where* it was, or at least one place where it was. It was in the groups. Perhaps it could do for me what it was doing for the others.

Thus I came to believe that a power greater than myself could--perhaps--restore me to sanity. With that belief, I had unwittingly taken the Second Step. It took no effort of will, no decision--as with the First Step, it was merely a matter of admitting and accepting what had long been obvious to everyone who knew me.

But now I made a decision, not all at once and not entirely consciously. It was that *whatever AA collectively told me to do, I would do to the best of my ability, private doubts and reservations notwithstanding.*"

*C.A. of Los Angeles, © The Grapevine, March 1962, All rights reserved.*



## The Sunset Group

Thursdays at 7:00 pm  
Jewish Community Center  
13164 Burbank Boulevard  
Sherman Oaks, California

**February 2**

Charles K. of Culver City

**February 9**

Bob F. of Northridge

**February 16**

Kaye S. of Sherman Oaks

**February 23**

Joel W. of Long Beach

**March 2**

Mark C. of Little Rock

**March 9**

Rick W. of Oxnard

**March 16**

Harvey G. of Sherman Oaks

**March 23**

Mike S. of Riverside

**March 30**

Debbie D. of Concord

**April 6**

TBA

**April 13**

Chris R. of Ingram, Texas

**April 20**

TBA

**April 27**

Billy S. of Las Vegas



## STEP TEN: YOUR DAILY INVENTORY

Now that we're in A.A. and sober, and winning back the esteem of our friends and business associates, we find that we still need to exercise special vigilance. As an insurance against "big-shot-ism" we can often check ourselves by remembering that we are today sober only by the grace of God and that any success we may be having is far more His success than ours.

Finally, we begin to see that all people, including ourselves, are to some extent emotionally ill as well as frequently wrong, and then we approach true tolerance and see what real love for our fellows actually means. It will become more and more evident as we go forward that it is pointless to become angry, or to get hurt by people who, like us, are suffering from the pains of growing up.

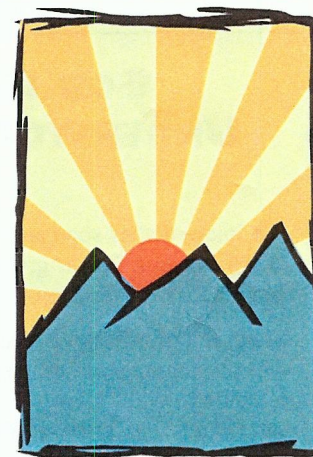
...we A.A.'s find we need something much better in order to keep our balance. We can't stand it if we hate deeply. The idea that we can be possessively loving of a few, can ignore the many, and can continue to fear or hate anybody, has to be abandoned, if only a little at a time. We can try to stop making unreasonable demands upon those we love. We can show kindness where we had shown none. With those we dislike we can begin to practice justice and courtesy, perhaps going out of our way to understand and help them. Whenever we fail any of these people, we can promptly admit it--to ourselves always, and to them also, when the admission would be helpful. Courtesy, kindness, justice, and love are the keynotes by which we may come into harmony with practically anybody. When in doubt we can always pause, saying, "Not my will, but Thine, be done." -- *12 Steps and 12 Traditions*

### THE TWELVE STEPS IN REVERSE

Everyone is always talking about the 12 Steps in A. A. Another way of thinking about it are the 12 Mis-Steps of A. A. Here they are:

1. Start missing meetings for any reason, real or imaginary.
2. Become critical of the methods used by other members who may not agree with you in everything.
3. Nurse the idea that someday, somehow, you can drink again and become a controlled drinker.
4. Let the other fellow do the 12th Step work in your group. You are too busy.
5. Become conscious of your A. A. seniority and view every new member with a skeptical, jaundiced eye.
6. Become so pleased with your own views of the program that you consider yourself an "elder statesman."
7. Start a small clique within your own group, composed only of a few members who see eye-to-eye with you.
8. Tell the new member in confidence that you yourself do not take certain of the 12 Steps seriously.
9. Let your mind dwell more and more on how much you are helping others rather than on how much the A. A. program is *helping you*.
10. If an unfortunate member has a slip, *drop him at once*.
11. Cultivate the habit of borrowing money from other members; then stay away from meetings to avoid embarrassment.
12. Look upon the 24-hour plan as vital to new members, but not for yourself. YOU have outgrown the need of that long, long ago.

-- C.L., Chicago, © *The Grapevine*, March 1947, all rights reserved.



### SUNRISE GROUP

Saturday Morning  
Step Study  
8:15 am

above Jerry's Deli and  
PINZ Bowling Alley  
12655 Ventura Blvd  
Studio City, CA

February 4  
Rick A. of Las Vegas  
STEP 12

February 11  
Paula  
STEP 1

### THE SUNRISE GROUP THE STEPS COME ALIVE

The Sunrise Group meeting is a step study workshop. A speaker shares his or her experience with the step for 30 to 40 minutes, followed by 25 minutes of questions and answers. Coffee and pastries are served. Join us.