

*WE
DO
RECOVER*

1961

Double Space.

Jimmy K. "We Do Recover"

Although "Politics makes strange bedfellows" as the old saying goes, addiction makes us one of a kind. Our personal stories may vary in individual pattern but in the end we all have the same thing in common. This common illness or disorder is addiction. We know well the two things that make up this addiction: Obsession + compulsion. Obsession — that fixed idea that takes us back, time + time again to our particular drug or power substitute, to recapture the ease + comfort ~~we~~ we once knew, and to solve the problems, that we found — and lost — in the self-destructive progression of our illness.

Compulsion — that once having started the process with our fix, our pill, our drink, we cannot stop through our ~~own~~ own power of will. Because of our physical sensitivity to drugs we are completely in the grip of a destructive power, greater than ourselves.

When at the end of the road, we find that we cannot longer function as a human being, either with or without drugs, we all face the same ~~dilemma~~ dilemma. What is there left to do? There seems to be ~~only~~ these alternatives: either go on as best we can to the bitter end, fails, institutions or death; or find a new way to live. In years gone by, a few, very few addicts ever had this last choice.

Those who are addicted today, are more fortunate. For the first time in man's entire history, a simple way, has been proving itself in the lives of many addicts. It is available to us all. This is a simple spiritual — not religious — program, known as Narcotics Anonymous.

2.
Jimmy R ~~new paragraph.~~

When my addictions brought me to the point of complete powerlessness, uselessness and surrender some fourteen years ago, there was, in N. A. I found H. H. and in that Fellowship, ~~found~~ met addicts who had also found that program to be the answer to their problems.

However, we knew that many were still going down the road of disillusion, degradation and death, because they were unable to identify with the alcoholic in H. H. Their identification was at the level of apparent symptoms and, not at the deeper level of emotions & feelings, where empathy becomes a healing therapy for all addicted people. With several other addicts & some members of H. H. who had great faith in me and the program, we formed in July of 1953, what we now know as Narcotics Anonymous.

We felt that now the addict would define from the start, as much identification as each needed to convince himself that he could stay clean, from the example of others who had ~~recovered~~ recovered for many years. That this was what was principally needed, has proved itself in these passing years. That wordless language of recognition, belief and faith, which we call empathy, created the atmosphere in which we could feel true, touch reality and recognize spiritual values, long lost to many of us. In our program of recovery we are growing in numbers in strength. Never before have so many clean addicts, of their own choice and in free society, been able to meet when they please, to maintain their recovery in complete creative freedom.

Even addicts said it could not be done the way we had it planned. We believed in openly scheduled meetings, no more hiding, as other groups had tried. Our other idea, and in this we differed from all other

