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# IT WORKS WHEN WE WORK

**T**HE ALCOHOLIC mind outwits the alcoholic. I was in trouble; as soon as AA showed me the way out, I began looking for a way out of the way out. I was not willing to go to any length for the AA way of life. I was willing, however, to go to any length to give the impression that I was willing to go to any length.

Phonies are like that: big production, no product. Convincing others I was getting well felt like getting well. A pretense of doing the Twelve Steps of recovery felt like recovery — until, suddenly, I began to come down drunk.

In the shuddery, goosebumpy craving for alcohol, I had a clear choice: Get honest or get drunk. A simple prayer of surrender was answered. In the beginnings of hon-

esty, I took Steps One, Two, and Three. God alone could and did protect me from myself. The obsession with drinking went away.

Since then, nine years and never a bad day in AA. (Some days are more mysterious than others.) Inventories, amends, learning experiences, yes, but never a bad day. Nearly died a couple of times, but our book doesn't say anything about pneumonia — it says it will show us a way to leave off our drinking habit.

In large measure the promises of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous have come true, and for me there is a promise on every page. Especially, I like the shortest paragraph in the book (page 88): "It works — it really does."

*P.H., Medford, Ore.*