

April 1971

Pink cloud and Big Book

From Beloit, Wis.:

The pink cloud so many of us climbed upon when we came into AA can be compared to Cinderella's pumpkin carriage. It was a promise of beautiful things to come. For those two, three, or five weeks, everything was rosy and the goose hung high and we didn't see "midnight" coming. We were sober and happy, and everything seemed to fall into place. Forgotten was the advice of a few old-timers to read the AA bible (*Alcoholics Anonymous*), start yanking out a few of our character defects, and in general try to find out what first-class stinkers we were.

My impression of those who did not achieve a happy sobriety after the pink-cloud stage is that they were either unable or unwilling to follow the guidelines set down by our predecessors. They were and are too damn smart to follow such a simple (but not easy) path.

As a dumb alcoholic with over twenty years of sobriety, I somehow cannot digest the answer we get from people with months and even years of membership when we ask them, "Have you read the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*?"

Invariably, the answer is either "No" or "Just part of it." Only last week, I posed the same question to a group of twenty or more. Right! The answer was the same from sixty percent of those present.

Most of the AAs who slip are in this category. Are we lax in not



stressing the value of the Big Book? I don't believe we are lacking in tolerance, but, after years of working with the same people, it does become frustrating at times. I have had good results in my sponsoring through the years, but this one area bothers me.

Help!

F.w.H.