

March 1961

The Big Book

From J. M., Manitoba: I have heard it said that, in every century since man has been on earth, God has given an assurance of His Love for us and that AA was one of His gifts to mankind in the twentieth century.

When one reads the Big Book daily one becomes convinced that only the inspiration of God, only His concern that this message should not be garbled nor lost, enabled the authors to put on paper, a message couched in such terms of understanding, love and tolerance that we problem people, iconoclasts to a man, became one voice in saying, "This book must never be altered or changed."

In all our vocabulary I believe there is only one word that can explain the voice with which the Big Book speaks. That word is "authority." No book before or since has ever spoken with such validity, nor dealt so completely with the illness of alcoholism as it affects the whole man, sick in body, in mind and in spirit.

I have always felt that every newcomer to AA should be given exactly the same chance I was given. How then can we tender each new member an equal chance unless he or she has a copy of the Big Book?