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All the answers

From Pasadena, Calif.:

A book is an impersonal thing. One can't love a book or relate to it as one can to another human being. When we ask for help, we may be told that "the answer is in the Big Book. The book's got all the answers." Well, the book does *not* have all the answers. It even says so itself: "We realize we know only a little"; more will be disclosed "to you and to us."

Each person brings himself, together with all his emotions and attributes at any given time, into whatever he is doing, such as reading. There is no such thing as objectivity. When someone tosses me the book and tells me to find the answer, he assumes I will find the same answer that he found. He expects *all* to find the answer he found at the time he found it, and he assumes that their satisfaction with the answer, both quantitative and qualitative, will duplicate his own.

This is true, however, only if the book-tosser has laid aside his own prejudice and knows in his heart that he must not expect others to share his personal attitudes. When he has reached that point of self-understanding, he has begun to attain what we sometimes call humility.

J. S.