

October 1993

The Vine Line

Q. What did Dr. Carl Jung mean when he wrote the phrase *spiritus contra spiritum* in a 1961 letter to Bill W.?

A. To use Dr. Jung's own words, "You see, 'alcohol' in Latin is *spiritus*, and you use the same word for the highest religious experience as well as for the most depraving poison. The helpful formula therefore is: *spiritus contra spiritum*." In this sense then, spiritual awakening is an antidote for alcoholism. (See *The Language of the Heart*, p. 276 for the full Bill W.-Carl Jung correspondence.)

Q. What ever happened to Ebby T, the man Bill W. called his sponsor?

A. After gaining sobriety in the Oxford Group and introducing Bill to their philosophy, Ebby later came in and out of AA for a number of years with varying lengths of sobriety, and finally died - sober - in March of 1966. (See *Pass It On*, p. 336.)

If you have questions for the Vine Line, write to:
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