

The ARCH which we must build to walk through to the broad highway to freedom.

If we are going to build an ARCH to walk through to the broad highway to freedom it must be built on a firm Foundation.

But before we lay the Foundation, where do we build our ARCH?

But be sure you are on solid spiritual ground before you start and that your motive in going is thoroughly good. (Big Book page 101, paragraph 4, lines 8-10)

What are we going to build with?

When, therefore, we were approached by those in whom the problem had been solved, there was nothing left for us but to pick up the simple kit of spiritual tools laid at our feet. (page 25, paragraph 1, lines 7-10)

God, I offer myself to Thee--to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. (page 63, paragraph 2, lines 2-4)

The portion of a structure upon which all else (even the foundation) rests is the Footing.

Being all powerful, He provided what we needed, if we kept close to Him and performed His work well. Established on such a footing we became less and less interested in ourselves, our little plans and designs. (page 63, paragraph 1, lines 3-6)

Lets now look at the Foundation itself.

Upon a foundation of complete willingness I might build what I saw in my friend. (page 12, paragraph 4, lines 4 & 5)

Helping others is the foundation stone of your recovery. (page 97, paragraph 1, lines 2 & 3)

...let him go as far as he likes in helping other alcoholics. During those first days of convalescence, this will do more to insure his sobriety than anything else. Though some of his manifestations are alarming and disagreeable, we think dad will be on a firmer foundation than the man who is placing business or professional success ahead of spiritual development. (page 129, paragraph 3, lines 4-11)

Twelve--Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities. (page 564, paragraph 12)

We have all heard of a Cornerstone. To a mason, it is the first stone laid. It is also a stone forming a part of a corner or angle, specifically one laid at the formal inauguration of the erection of a building, usually inscribed with the date or other matters and often hollowed out to receive documents, records or other relics. In a more general sense, a Cornerstone is something of fundamental importance; a trait or fact upon which others rest as if forming a superstructure. In the latter sense it is akin to a keystone.

Do I now believe, or am I even willing to believe, that there is a Power greater than myself?" As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically assure him that he is on his way. It has been repeatedly proven among us that upon this simple cornerstone a wonderfully effective spiritual structure can be built. (page 47, paragraph 2, lines 2-8)

For the first time, he lived in conscious companionship with his Creator.

Thus was our friend's cornerstone fixed in place. (page 56, paragraph 4, lines 8 & 9, paragraph 5, line 1)

Let us take a look at a Keystone. It is the stone in the center at the top. Both sides of the ARCH rest upon it. Without the Keystone, the whole structure would collapse. Because our ARCH is spiritual, rather than material, the Keystone symbolizes something other than stone.

...we decided that hereafter in this drama of life, God was going to be our Director. He is the Principal; we are His agents. He is the Father, and we are His children. Most good ideas are simple, and this concept was the keystone of the new and triumphant arch... (page 62, paragraph 3, lines 2-7)

And what Binds the stones together?

The feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us. (page 17, paragraph 2, lines 13-15)

Entry into the ARCH, however, is barred to those without the Key.

We turned back to the list, for it held the key to the future. (page 66, paragraph 6, lines 1 & 2)

Cling to the thought that, in God's hands, the dark past is the greatest possession you have--the key to life and happiness for others. (page 124, paragraph 2, lines 9-12)

Now lets Review our construction.

Is our work solid so far? Are the stones properly in place? Have we skimped on the cement put into the foundation? Have we tried to make mortar without sand? (page 75, paragraph 3, lines 9-12)

Unknown