

(Many heartfelt thanks go out to Archie M., who compiled this!!!)

THIS IS EVERY QUESTION IN THE "BIG BOOK" ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
There are 170 questions between pages v and 164 in the 3rd edition.

The test that it faced was this: Could these large numbers of erstwhile erratic alcoholics successfully meet and work together? Would there be quarrels over membership, leadership and money? Would there be striving for power and prestige? Would there be schisms which would split A.A. apart?
page xviii, paragraph 2, lines 2-8

What is the solution?
page xxix, paragraph 1, line 1

I fancied myself a leader, for had not the men of my battery given me a special token of appreciation?
page 1, paragraph 4, lines 2-4

Why not I?
page 2, paragraph 1, line 6

My friends had dropped several million since ten o'clock--so what?
page 4, paragraph 1, lines 11,12

Where had been my high resolve?
page 5, paragraph 5, line 1

Was I crazy?
page 5, paragraph 5, line 5

Should I kill myself?
page 6, paragraph 1, lines 11,12

What had happened?
page 9, paragraph 1, line 3

"Come, what's all this about?" I queried.
page 9, paragraph 3, line 1

How could there be so much of precise and immutable law, and no intelligence?
page 10, paragraph 3, lines 9-11

Had this power originated in him?
page 11, paragraph 4, line 1

"Why don't you choose your own conception of God?"
page 12, paragraph 2, lines 2,3

Would I have it?
page 12, paragraph 4, line 6

How then shall we present that which has been so freely given us?
page 19, paragraph 2, lines 7,8

If you are an alcoholic who wants to get over it, you may already be asking--"What do I have to do?"
page 20, paragraph 1, lines 5-7

Why can't he?"
page 20, paragraph 3, line 2

"Why don't you drink like a gentleman or quit?"
page 20, paragraph 3, lines 2,3

"Why don't you try beer and wine?"
page 20, paragraph 3, lines 4,5

But what about the real alcoholic?
page 21, paragraph 1, line 1

Why does he behave like this? If hundreds of experiences have shown him that one drink means another debacle with all its attendant suffering and humiliation, why is it he takes that one drink? Why can't he stay on the water wagon? What has become of the commonsense and will power that he still sometimes displays with respect to other matters?
page 22, paragraph 2

How often have some of us begun to drink in this nonchalant way, and after the third or fourth, pounded on the bar and said to ourselves, "For God's sake, how did I ever get started again?"
page 24, paragraph 3, lines 3-7

Or "What's the use anyhow?"
page 24, paragraph 3, lines 8,9

Why was this?
page 26, paragraph 2, line 6

He said to the doctor, "Is there no exception?"
page 27, paragraph 3

How then shall we help our readers determine, to their own satisfaction, whether they are one of us?
page 34, paragraph 3, lines 1,2

What sort of thinking dominates an alcoholic who repeats time after time the desperate experiment of the first drink?
page 35, paragraph 1, lines 1-3

Why does he? Of what is he thinking?
page 35, paragraph 1, lines 6,7

How can such a lack of proportion, of the ability to think straight, be called anything else?
page 37, paragraph 1, lines 2-4

Such a man would be crazy, wouldn't he?
page 38, paragraph 1, lines 9,10

But is it?
page 38, paragraph 2, lines 1,2

It's strong language--but isn't it true?
page 38, paragraph 2, line 7

But where and how were we to find this Power?
page 45, paragraph 1, lines 3,4

How could a Supreme Being have anything to do with it all? And who could comprehend a Supreme Being anyhow? Yet, in other moments, we found ourselves thinking, when enchanted by a starlit night, "Who, then, make all this?"
page 45, paragraph 3, lines 15-19

"Do I now believe, or am I even willing to believe, that there is a Power greater than myself?"
page 47, paragraph 2, lines 2,3

Why this ready acceptance?
page 48, paragraph 2, lines 6,7

And does not science demonstrate that visual proof is the weakest proof?
page 48, paragraph 3, lines 3,4

Rather vain of us, wasn't it?

page 49, paragraph 1, lines 5,6

We asked ourselves this: Are not some of us just as biased and unreasonable about the realm of the spirit as were the ancients about the realm of the material?

page 51, paragraph 2, lines 1-3

Had not all efforts at flight failed before? Did not Professor Langley's flying machine go to the bottom of the Potomac River? Was it not true that the best mathematical minds had proved man could never fly? Had not people said God had reserved this privilege to the birds?

page 51, paragraph 2, lines 7-11

Is not our age characterized by the ease with which we discard old ideas for new, by the complete readiness with which we throw away the theory or gadget which does not work for something new which does?

page 52, paragraph 1, lines 5-9

We were having trouble with personal relationships, we couldn't control our emotional natures, we were a prey to misery and depression, we couldn't make a living, we had a feeling of uselessness, we were full of fear, we were unhappy, we couldn't seem to be of real help to other people--was not a basic solution of these bedevils more important than whether we should see newsreels of lunar flight?

page 52, paragraph 2, lines 3-11

What was our choice to be?

page 53, paragraph 2, line 5

Without knowing it, had we not been brought to where we stood by a certain kind of faith? For did we not believe in our own reasoning? Did we not have confidence in our ability to think? What was that but a sort of faith?

page 53, paragraph 4, lines 2-6

Had we not variously worshipped people, sentiment, things, money, and ourselves? And then, with a better motive, had we not worshipfully beheld the sunset, the sea, or a flower? Who of us had not loved something or somebody? How much did these feelings, these loves, these worships, have to do with pure reason?

page 54, paragraph 1, lines 3-9

Were not these things the tissue out of which our lives were constructed? Did not these feelings, after all, determine the course of our existence?

page 54, paragraph 1, lines 9-12

Could we still say the whole thing was nothing but a mass of electrons, created out of nothing, meaning nothing, whirling on to a destiny of nothingness?

page 54, paragraph 2, lines 5-8

What about people who proved that man could never fly?

page 54, paragraph 3, lines 3,4

But later, alone in his room, he asked himself this question: "Is it possible that all the religious people I have known are wrong?"

page 56, paragraph 2, lines 5-7

It crowded out all else: "Who are you to say there is no God?"

page 56, paragraph 3, line 1

What is this but a miracle of healing?

page 57, paragraph 1, line 1

Just what do we mean by that, and just what do we do?

page 60, paragraph 3, lines 3,4

What usually happens?

page 61, paragraph 1, line 1

What is his basic trouble? Is he not really a self-seeker even when trying to be kind? Is he not a victim of the delusion that he can wrest satisfaction and happiness out of this world if he only manages well? Is it not evident to all the rest of the players that these are

the things he wants? And do not his actions make each of them wish to retaliate, snatching all they can get out of the show? Is he not, even in his best moments, a producer of confusion rather than harmony?

page 61, paragraph 1, lines 8-17

Whatever our protestations, are not most of us concerned with ourselves, our resentments, or our self-pity?

page 61, paragraph 2, lines 9-11

Was it our self-esteem, our security, our ambitions, our personal, or sex relations, which had been interfered with?

page 65, paragraph 1, lines 2-4

How could we escape? We saw that these resentments must be mastered, but how?

page 66, paragraph 3, lines 6,7

How can I be helpful to him?

page 66, paragraph 4, lines 8,9

Where had we been selfish, dishonest, self-seeking, and frightened?

page 67, paragraph 2, lines 3,4

Where were we to blame?

page 67, paragraph 2, lines 6,7

But did not we, ourselves, set the ball rolling?

page 67, paragraph 3, lines 7,8

Wasn't it because self-reliance failed us?

page 68, paragraph 1, line 4

What can we do about them?

page 68, paragraph 4, line 17

Where had we been selfish, dishonest, or inconsiderate? Whom had we hurt? Did we unjustifiably arouse jealousy, suspicion or bitterness? Where were we at fault, what should we have done instead?

page 69, paragraph 1, lines 2-5

We subjected each relation to this test--was it selfish or not?

page 69, paragraph 2, lines 2,3

Suppose we fall short of the chosen ideal and stumble? Does this mean we are going to get drunk?

page 70, paragraph 1, lines 1,2

Having made our personal inventory, what shall we do about it?

page 72, paragraph 1, lines 1,2

Is our work solid so far? Are the stones properly in place? Have we skimmed on the cement put into the foundation? Have we tried to make mortar without sand?

page 75, paragraph 3, lines 9-12

Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? Can He now take them all--every one?

page 76, paragraph 1, lines 3-5

Why lay ourselves open to be being branded fanatics or religious bores?

page 76, paragraph 4, lines 14,15

What right had he to involve those dependent upon him? How could he possibly make a public statement exonerating his rival?

page 80, paragraph 3, lines 5-7

How could she be anything else?

page 80, paragraph 5, line 8

In fairness we must say that she may understand, but what are we going to do about a thing like that?

page 80, paragraph 5, lines 13-15

If we are sure our wife does not know, should we tell her?

page 81, paragraph 1, lines 2,3

If she knows in a general way that we have been wild, should we tell her in detail?

page 81, paragraph 1, lines 3-5

Ain't it grand the wind stopped blowin'?

page 82, paragraph 3, lines 9,10

Are these extravagant promises?

page 84, paragraph 1, line 1

Were we resentful, selfish, dishonest, or afraid? Do we owe an apology? Have we kept something to ourselves which should be discussed with another person at once? Were we kind and loving toward all? What could we have done better? Were we thinking of ourselves most of the time? Or were we thinking of what we could do for others, of what we could pack into the stream of life?

page 86, paragraph 1, lines 1-9

Therefore, ask yourself on each occasion, "Have I any good social, business, or personal reason for going to this place? Or am I expecting to steal a little vicarious pleasure from the atmosphere of such places?"

page 101, paragraph 4, lines 2-6

Why sit with a long face in places where there is drinking, sighing about the good old days?

page 102, paragraph 1, lines 1,2

How could men who loved their wives and children be so unthinking, so callous, so cruel?

page 107, paragraph 2, lines 1,2

Could we have been so mistaken in the men we married?

page 107, paragraph 2, lines 10,11

And even if they did not love their families, how could they be so blind about themselves? What had become of their judgement, their common sense, their will power? Why could they not see that drink meant ruin to them? Why was it, when these dangers were pointed out that they agreed, and then got drunk again immediately?

page 107, paragraph 1

Is it right to let him ruin your life and the lives of your children?

page 108, paragraph 3, lines 7,8

Just would he like to?

page 112, paragraph 3, line 6

And why? Is it not because each wants to play the lead? Is not each trying to arrange the family show to his liking? Is he not unconsciously trying to see what he can take from the family life rather than give?

page 122, paragraph 2

If he means to right his past wrongs, why all this concern for everyone in the world but his family? What about his talk that God will take care of them?

page 128, paragraph 2, lines 8-11

But why shouldn't we laugh?

page 132, paragraph 2, line 4

Why not bring him into contact with some of our alcoholic crowd? page 138, paragraph 2, lines 4-6

Why not at least afford him an opportunity to hear my story?

page 138, paragraph 2, lines 9,10

Is he not usually brilliant, fast-thinking, imaginative and likeable? When sober, does he not work hard and have a knack of getting things done? If he had these qualities and did not drink would he be worth retaining? Should he have the same consideration as other ailing employees? Is he worth salvaging?
page 139, paragraph 4, lines 2-8

Can you discard the feeling that you are dealing only with habit, with stubbornness, or a weak will?
page 140, paragraph 1, lines 1,2

If you concede that your employee is ill, can he be forgiven for what he has done in the past? Can his past absurdities be forgotten? Can it be appreciated that he has been a victim of crooked thinking, directly caused by the action of alcohol on his brain?
page 140, paragraph 1, lines 7-11

Who wouldn't be, with such a fevered brain?
page 140, paragraph 2, line 5

Say that you believe he is a gravely ill person, with this qualification--being perhaps fatally ill, does he want to get well?
page 142, paragraph 1, lines 6-8

But does he? Will he take every necessary step, submit to anything to get well, to stop drinking forever? If he says yes, does he really mean it, or down inside does he think he is fooling you, and that after rest and treatment he will be able to get away with a few drinks now and then?
page 142, paragraph 1, lines 8-12 & paragraph 2, lines 1-4

If not, why waste time with him?
page 142, paragraph 3, lines 7,8

Can you have every confidence in his ability to recover? While on the subject of confidence, can you adopt the attitude that so far as you are concerned this will be a strictly personal matter, that his alcoholic derelictions, the treatment about to be undertaken, will never be discussed without his consent?
page 143, paragraph 2, lines 1-6

After all, are you not looking for results rather than methods?
page 143, paragraph 3, lines 7-9

In this connection, can you remain undisturbed if the man proceeds to tell you shocking things?
page 145, paragraph 1, lines 1,2

Can you charge this off as you would a bad account and start fresh with him?
page 145, paragraph 1, lines 7-9

Can he talk frankly with you so long as he does not bear business tales or criticize his associates?
page 145, paragraph 2, lines 2-4

Do you want to stop drinking or not?
page 147, paragraph 3, line 3

But why not?
page 149, paragraph 4, line 3

But am I to be consigned to a life where I shall be stupid, boring and glum, like some righteous people I see? I know I must get along without liquor, but how can I? Have you a sufficient substitute?"
page 152, paragraph 1, lines 2-6

"How is that to come about?" you ask. "Where am I to find these people?"
page 152, paragraph 3

How can they rise out of such misery, bad repute and hopelessness?
page 153, paragraph 1, lines 2-4

He wanted so much to talk with someone, but whom?
page 154, paragraph 1, lines 4,5

Of course he couldn't drink, but why not sit hopefully at a table, a bottle of ginger ale before him? After all, had he not been sober six months?

page 154, paragraph 3, lines 1-3

But what about his responsibilities--his family and the men who would die because they would not know how to get well, ah--yes, those other alcoholics?

page 154, paragraph 4, lines 1-3

Why, he argued, should he lose the remainder of his business, only to bring still more suffering to his family by foolishly admitting his plight to people from whom he made his livelihood?

page 155, paragraph 2, line 9-12

"Who are you fellows, and why this private room?"

page 157, paragraph 2, lines 3,4

How could they?

page 161, paragraph 2, lines 14

So he inquired, what did our friend have on the ball?

page 163, paragraph 2, lines 11,12

The "12 Traditions" of Alcoholics Anonymous are, we A.A.'s believe, the best answers that our experience has yet given to those ever urgent questions, "How can A.A. best function?" and, "How can A.A. best stay whole and so survive?"

page 563, paragraph 3