



Cross Over the Bridge



The Great Fact...The Gift of a New Life...

From Alcoholics Anonymous page 164..."We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and us. Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do each day for the man (woman) who is still sick. The answers will come, if your own house is in order.

But obviously you cannot transmit something you haven't got. See to it that your relationship with Him is right and great events will come to pass for you and countless others. This is The Great Fact for us.

To the newcomer: Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the fellowship of the spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the road to happy destiny. May God bless you and keep you until then."

These are the final words of the first 164 pages of AA which have not changed since it was first written in 1939. Occasionally someone will ask why I still go to meetings after 20+ years of sobriety. To me the reasons are clear. When you've received the Gift of a New Life, the understanding of alcoholism and drug addiction as I lived it are uniquely useful to still suffering/sick people. My lies, petty crimes, divorce, selfishness, abandoning my kids, promiscuity all become assets to the fellowship when I grow past them and help others do the same.

To be a part of another person's growth is the only gift I have to give to God. It's not only newcomers, it's restored relationships, damaged beyond belief with family and friends. This is the "Fellowship of the Spirit" that I and many others in 12 step programs.

*If you know of anyone in need, please contact the pastors
who will lead you to the hand that will help you cross over the bridge.*