

The NIGHT CAP

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WELCOME TO SAN ANTONIO!!

To all of you A A 's and A A A 's from everywhere, from all of us here, a hearty and heartfelt welcome. We are glad and happy you could come.

Some of us have attended all of the State and Regional Conventions in past years and a great many have attended some of them and we are indeed fortunate and happy that we can be your host.

The benefit which many people from different places, all with a common idea, ideals and aiming point, gain from meeting together is without measure; and we, who have gained so much in our visits to you are mighty happy and honored that you "could come over to our house."

Come right on in and sit down. "The coffee is saucered and blowed."

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

THE SPIRIT OF A.A.

I wish I knew where the saying, "That's the spirit," originated. It is one we all use when we wish to pat someone on the back who has caught the spirit of the group of which he is a part. Back in my football days I well remember hearing the coach say that many times. He would try time after time to get us to play as a team rather than as grand-standers. On every occasion when we would seem to catch the idea and run a play well, he would shout, "That's the spirit." It was the "spirit" that won the games.

When I look at A.A., as I know it, I feel like shouting with my football coach, "That's the spirit." To me the spirit of A.A. is to be found in a phrase in the second of the twelve steps. The second step begins with these words, "We came to believe..." When a man can say that in all of his relationships he has begun to approximate life at its best.

When a man comes to believe in God as the creator of the world, he has taken the

first step toward fulness of life. When one sees God as the creator of all things, he ceases to see the world as an arena where men are fighting for control, and that he must get his share.

When one comes to believe in his fellowmen as partners in the game of life, he has taken the second step toward fulness of life. Life is a game of human relations, in which those relations depend on our faith in humanity. It makes a difference in our fellow man's relationships with us. We cannot make a crook an honest man by believing that he is honest. But we can give him a great desire to be honest by showing him that we want to have faith in him. It also makes a difference in our relationships with our fellowman what he believes about us. If others show a basic trust in us, it causes us to do all that is within our power, with the help of God, to be worthy of that faith. We must believe in each other.

Man has taken the final step toward fulness of life when he comes to believe in himself. But belief in self depends to a

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