

To ~~remain~~ remain drug-free for a day require the desire to stop using. And the desire must be honest.

~~People~~ ~~many~~ ~~people~~. People have come to us, ~~hoping~~ to solve their personal problems. They wanted to straighten out their lives, but didn't feel the need to stay clean. Most of them did not stay with us. The road to recovery lies in front of the ^{THOSE} ~~ADDICT~~ ^{ADDICT} who knows there is nothing behind him to go back to, and that to change his present situation he must

stop using ^{WE PRAY FOR} ~~Because~~ if the desire to stop using ^{TO BE} ~~is~~ ^{NOT} greater than the urge that calls us back to drug,

A feeling that I used to have of being where I'm supposed to be
And seeing that I could be free
Living in reality
Something I felt once in a dream
And searched for years to find the spot
Where I could be me without the aid
Of drinking beer and smoking pot
It's not a dream now, it is here
Today I saw it, oh so clear
and felt it in my very bones
That I have finally found a home
It's in N.A., and ~~not~~ not alone

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1) When I first found N.A., and discovered that I was
an addict and that recovery was possible, I went back
to these friends, and despite what I now know, I got
high. By my own choice. When I was there, it was
the only natural thing to do. I came back to N.A., and
discovered that I had to make a choice... these friends
who I loved deeply, or getting clean. I chose to get clean.
It was very difficult for me then, and even today
it is difficult, after 7 months of cleanliness and serenity,
to just leave them behind. They were family. I but
I went up to see them after I had 3 months, and though
I didn't get high, I wanted to badly, and I felt terrible
for weeks afterwards. I lost my serenity, I lost my
feeling of freedom, and nearly went out of my mind.
I was, quite simply, a fucking mess. I never want to
feel that way again. I won't put myself through that hell
again. It wasn't worth it. I wrote this poem about how
I felt with that, for what it's worth.

Denial; In my addiction I took a lot of prescription
u drugs; thinking I had medical problems,
when I really didn't, I was just looking
for a legal way to feed my addiction,
rationalizing my use of drugs

I've been using and abusing drugs
for many years, denying that I had a
problem. I had to go through a lot of
trouble and pain, and even then I couldn't
completely admit I had a problem - I was
addicted. I had to go through all this to be
able to admit complete defeat.

The truth of addiction comes out in
meetings.

(Find Mike's "Honest + sober")

I denied my addiction by believing
I could successfully use drugs.

Many of us refused to admit we were
addicted to all drugs. We rationalized
that we weren't addicted by switching to
our drug of choice, so we weren't
using any one drug for a long length of time

Helping addicts who are still suffering is something that is important to our

CARRYING THE MESSAGE

We found ourselves in places we really didn't want be, but stayed there because we were comfortable and to scared to move on anywhere else. THE UNEASY FEELINGS I FELT ABOUT MYSELF, THE EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL ROTTING. I STARTED OUT TAKING DRUGS BUT IN THE END THEY TOOK ME, THEY CONTROLLED ME. DRUGS TOOK ME TO PLACES I DIDN'T WANT TO GO, I DID THINGS I DIDN'T WANT TO DO, BUT I DID BECAUSE DRUGS WERE MY MASTER. I WAS THE SERVANT BUT THE WHOLE TIME I BELIEVED THAT I WAS AT THE CONTROLS.

we should be willing to tell the new comer the nature of our disease, we let them know their pain can be stopped & they ~~don't~~ ^{don't} need to go through more. _{there is hope for them}

Once they've heard our ^{experiences} ~~stories~~, they will stay on the back of their friend so that everytime they pick up a drink or a drug ^{they} will wonder if they are an addict ^{they} will know there is hope ^{for recovery}

We must remember where we came from & how we got where we are today. If anybody had helped us out when we first ^{came for help} got sober we might not have made it. Now that we are ^{clean} sober it is our turn to help the new-

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