

TWELFTH STEP WITHIN

RELAPSE AND RECOVERY--COLLECTED EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE

This is the fourth installment of the collection of experience, strength & hope gathered from letters sent to the Region III Twelfth Step Within Committee. There will be one more installment next month to complete it.

43. BAD DAYS CEASE TO EXIST. THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED IN THE PROGRAM, THEY BECOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH POSITIVE ACTION & ACCEPTANCE.

44. WRITE ON WHAT IS BOTHERING YOU BEFORE YOU TAKE THAT FIRST COMPULSIVE BITE. THE MIND RATIONALIZES: WRITING CLARIFIES OUR THOUGHTS.

45. COMPLACENCY AND GRANDIOSITY GO HAND IN HAND AND CAN TAKE US TO DESTRUCTION. IF IT WORKS, DON'T FIX IT.....IF IT'S NOT WORKING, CHANGE IT.

46. I HAD TO LEARN HOW TO LIVE WITH THE OBSESSION AND NOT OVEREAT BEFORE I EVER EXPERIENCED ANY FREEDOM FROM IT.

47. NO PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED UNTIL IT IS SQUARELY FACED. THROUGH THE PROGRAM, I AM LEARNING TO FACE PROBLEMS AND TAKE THE POSITIVE ACTION NECESSARY.

48. SHAME AND GUILT HAVE TO BE REPLACED WITH ACCEPTANCE AND LOVE BEFORE REAL PROGRESS IS EXPERIENCED IN RECOVERY.

49. I NO LONGER CAN STARVE OR BINGE MY EMOTIONS. THEY ARE A PART OF ME THAT I HAVE TO ACCEPT AND DEAL WITH.

50. THIN IS A STATE OF BODY, NOT OF MIND. TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY BODY IS TO DEVELOP A HEALTHY PERCEPTION OF LIFE AND A NORMAL REACTION TO IT.

51. I NEED TO OPEN MY HEART TO OTHERS OR I'LL CLOSE THE DOOR TO RECOVERY.

52. THE ONLY WAY TO FAIL IN THIS PROGRAM IS TO QUIT TRYING.

53. THE STRUGGLE WAS LESS WHEN I STOPPED LOOKING FOR THE REASONS WHY I HAVE THE PROBLEM, ACCEPTED THE FACTS, AND STARTED WORKING ON THE SOLUTION.

54. REACHING OUT TO OTHERS FOR HELP IS NOT A TOOL ONLY FOR NEWCOMERS.



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ITT CALL NOW TITI CALL BEFORE YOUR PROBLEM HAS YOU THIT



"SIMPLE BUT NOT EASY" PAGE

DEAR JOHN LETTER TO FOOD

Dear Food,

Ever since I can remember, you have been one of the greatest loves in my life. You were my bridge over troubled water, and my shelter in every storm. Sometimes my cravings for you were uncontrollable and I ran to you with open arms.

We made love everywhere - in the car, in the living room, the dining room, in the kitchen, in the bathroom, in the office. But somewhere along the line, you bummer, you turned on me and began to grow up.

Growing pains at any age are painful. I had to face some realities. Your price tag was too high. You helped me bury all my feelings, but you also buried me.

You made promises you couldn't keep. When we made love at night I never respected myself much in the morning. And, although I loved you, I never wanted to be seen with you in public. I became a sneak just to be with you and it grew into a cheap back-alley love affair.

I am writing this letter to let you know it's over. I found another and today I am free, free at last. Thank God, free at last!

> Terri D. - Philadelphia, PA 1985 WSO Convention, LA (BIG SKY 301, April 1986)

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My frustrations are complicated I know that's true And so I'm turning them Over to you Infinite knowledge For me does not call Why am I trying to Please them all? Impressing people is not my forte So why am I trying to act that way? What is it about me I do not like To hurt myself in name of spite? The only person I have is me To eat & sleep with constantly I am linited in the realm of life I am powerless - I abandon strife I ask for the patience to carry out the day To grow in wisdom and find your way I have selfishly mismanaged things I still don't know what tomorrow brings Selfacceptance to endure today For I am finding a softer way. -Elizabeth

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -That perches in the soul -And sings the tune without the words -And never stops at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -And sore must be the storm -That could abash the little Bird That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chillest land -And on the strangest Sea -Yet, never, in Extremity, It asked a crumb of Me. EMILY D.

submitted by Marsue

