

THE BIG BOOK IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

2021 Conference Resolution

That a draft of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) be translated into plain language and be developed in a manner that is accessible and relatable to as wide an audience as possible and that a progress report or report or draft be presented to the Publications Committee of the 2022 Conference.

Why a plain language version of the Big Book?

A study was done in the US to find out the literacy level of people. Literacy means the ability to identify or evaluate one or more pieces of information, which requires different levels of interpretation of a text.

Experts have assessed the level required to read and understand the text of the Big Book. They have determined that it corresponds to level 3 on a scale of 5. According to studies conducted in the US, 48% of the population was at a level of 3 or higher. This means that 52% of the population would not be able to sufficiently understand what is written in the Big Book.

Appendix 1 provides an overview of what a plain language translation of the Big Book would look like.

Question:

Do you agree with the 2021 conference resolution to translate the Big Book into plain language?

APENDIX 1

<p>We believe, and so suggested a few years ago, that the action of alcohol on these chronic alcoholics is the manifestation of an allergy; that the phenomenon of craving is limited to this class and never occurs in the average temperate drinker. These allergic types can never safely use alcohol in any form at all; and once having formed the habit and found they cannot break it, once having lost their self-confidence, their reliance upon things human, their problems pile up on them and become astonishingly difficult to solve.</p>	<p>We believe that alcohol affects chronic alcoholics differently than it affects average drinkers. It interacts with their bodies almost like an allergy, forcing them to behave in unusual and unpredictable ways. The intense cravings that chronic alcoholics experience almost never happen for occasional drinkers. For anyone with this alcohol "allergy," though, cravings may be constant and hard to control. This means chronic alcoholics can never safely use alcohol in any form at all. Once they have experienced alcohol's affects, they will form a drinking habit quickly and struggle to stop. They will lose self confidence, neglect their relationships, and watch their problems pile up, feeling totally unable to solve them.</p>
<p>Frothy emotional appeal seldom suffices.</p>	<p>Begging these people to stop drinking never helps.</p>
<p>And it means, of course, that we are going to talk about God. Here difficulty arises with agnostics,</p>	<p>It also means that we are going to talk about God. If you aren't sure that God exists—in other words, if you are an agnostic— this may worry you.</p>