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IT TELLS YOU HOW . . .

THE Big Book is priceless. You cannot buy what is in it for a hundred thousand dollars. It tells you first that you can live. It gives you direct personal evidence that there is hope for you if you think you are hopeless. It tells you how to stop drinking and it tells you how to stay stopped. It tells you *how* you can live. You can read it with wonder, but it will really do things to you if you listen to it. For it does not present a theory which can be explained but a fact which cannot be explained, and this is told by people like you, talking to you.

It is impossible to push AA down everybody's throat; it only rests in

an outstretched hand. Our purpose is to carry the message. One of the most rewarding and effective ways of doing this is by sincere and quiet example. Even so, another voice is needed, and that is the voice of the Big Book.

Personally, I would like to be able to go to a meeting with a spare one always in my pocket. But now there is never a spare one because the one that was going to be spare has gone too (like the bottles used to).

The book is a thing to be treasured and loved and read aloud and re-read and shared and studied and discussed—and then read again. When it is clean and new and unopened it has not started its life of starting life. But when it is old and tattered and thumbed and pencil-marked it is priceless.

*T.P.W., London, England*