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Read Further in A.A. Book For 12th Step Aid

From Detroit, Mich.

Anyone who is having trouble applying the second half of the 12th Step, the part that suggests, "...and to practice these principles in all our affairs," might get some help by reading a little further on that page of the A.A. book. It's page 72 in my edition and the part I refer to reads:

"Do not be discouraged. No one among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles. We are not saints. The point is, that we are willing to grow along spiritual lines. The principles we have set down are guides to progress. We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection."

To me, at first, applying the principle of complete honesty alone seemed too big an order. How could one get along in business is constituted, if he

were completely honest? How could one bargain? He would be taken advantage of if he were completely honest. First of all, how can one really be completely honest? How can one practice all of the A.A. principles of honesty, humility, tolerance, anonymity, etc., in a world rife with greed, competition, trickery, deceit and all the rest?

I didn't think it could be done. But I decided to take the book's suggestion and try anyway. Much to my amazement, I found it can be done. Strangely enough, too, I haven't been exploited half as much as back in the days when I used to try to out-connive the other fellow. I'm doing much better than ever before. To be sure, being honest requires a little more ingenuity, perseverance, patience and even hard work. But the satisfaction is much greater, too. -- *D.O.R.*