

Work 2
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WRITING THE BIG BOOK

THE CREATION OF A.A.

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Writing the Twelve Steps

1. Admit you're licked
2. Surrender your life to God
3. Act accordingly (i.e. pray, meditate, help others)

Given this overwhelming evidence regarding the essence of the program of recovery as it was being practiced up until late 1938, Bill Wilson could not have been more correct when he said "a definite statement of concrete principles"⁷⁴ absolutely had to be formulated and included in the book, something that the rationalizing alcoholic just couldn't "wiggle out" of it no matter how hard he tried.⁷⁵ This was *way* too loose and subject to far too many interpretations to ever be effective. It could hardly even be called a "program of action."

An Inspired Event

Despite all these controversies and quibbles, there is no denying that Bill Wilson created something important, unique, and profound in early December 1938. His Twelve Steps have not only helped millions of people stop drinking since that time, they have also served as the foundational principles for scores of other life-saving recovery programs worldwide. Whatever the circumstances and whatever the source, Bill Wilson's Twelve Steps are revolutionary in their simplicity, their clarity and their effectiveness. Given the confusing and contradictory conditions under which he labored, it was an accomplishment so amazing that many people have agreed with Wilson's later observation that the creation of the Twelve Steps was a truly inspired event. Others claim Bill's formulation of this intensely spiritual set of suggestions as a program of recovery was nothing short of miraculous. And, indeed, for a man who was still several days short of celebrating his fourth year of sobriety, it *was* nothing less than a miracle.

The "Original" Twelve Steps