

# LITERATURE : ITEM H

Review progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.

<https://vimeopro.com/user/112910871/riptab-big-book-presentation/video/463496932>

PASSWORD: RIPTAB2020

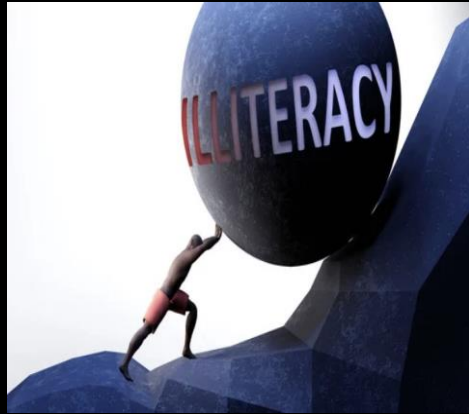
Alcoholics  
Anonymous®

## The Big Book

Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access  
70<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference 2020



# WHO DO WE WANT TO REACH



It will not replace the Big Book

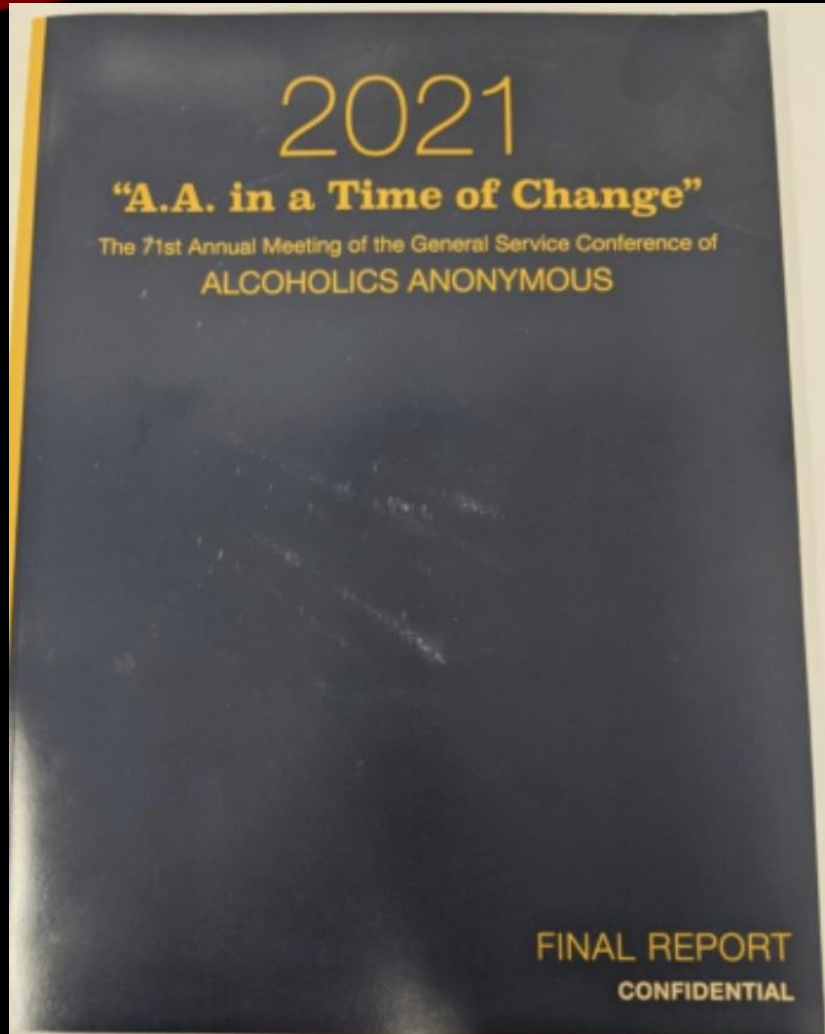
It is another choice of literature to use in  
Alcoholics Anonymous

It is geared to reach a broader audience

This is not for people who are already here-  
It is for people who are not







# 2021 ADVISORY ACTION

## Page 60 Item 28

A draft version of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)*, be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature

# JANUARY 2022

The publishing department worked closely with TABB (Tools for access to the Big Book) committee to establish process and roles and continues to follow on what is jointly decided

Using 5 publishing industry plain language translators/vendors they obtained 18 candidates. They narrowed down to 6. They were contracted to submit writing samples of Chapter 5 How It Works.

AA Publishing department met with TABB on Jan 18th and picked a candidate

# JANUARY 2022



CLARITY & COMMUNICATION



The intended use /audience/scope of translation is to meet accessibility needs defined as a 5th grade reading level

- The TABB committee noted that the plain and simple language does not always lend itself to referring to individuals or groups by gender. It was also noted that using various gender terminology inconsistently throughout the book would be challenging for the reader.
- It was emphasized that there is no intent or desire to remove gender from the text. It was agreed that where there is a reference to someone who has a gender in the text the use of gender should be retained (examples included mother and father, reference to males such as Bill, Bob, Jim etc. as he or him).
- Article 3 of the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board make clear that the Steps themselves should not be modified, altered, or extended. The subcommittee expects the final treatment of Chapter 5 to be consistent with that guidance.

FEBRUARY  
2022



## MAY 2022

- A formal agreement between AAWS and the writer was finalized on May 28, 2022. The writer has submitted chapters to Publishing, as well as the preface, the foreword, and the beginnings of a glossary.
- The current TABB subcommittee was formed after the 72nd General Service Conference. The subcommittee consists of John W., chair, Jimmy D., and Clint M.



# TABB SUB COMMITTEE

- The sub-committee met four times (May 27, June 21, August 17, and September 22). David R., Julia D., and Ames S. from the Publishing Department joined our June meeting, as did “the writer”. David and Julia joined again for our September meeting.
- On August 31, four chapters (*the Doctor's Opinion, Bill's Story, There is a Solution, and More About Alcoholism*) were shared with the TABB subcommittee after editorial review and revisions.
- Each committee member provided feedback at the September 22 meeting. We will be submitting further feedback, including suggested changes, with an expectation of additional rounds of refinements to ensure the tone and tenor of each chapter is faithful to the guidance and suggestions contained in the Big Book.

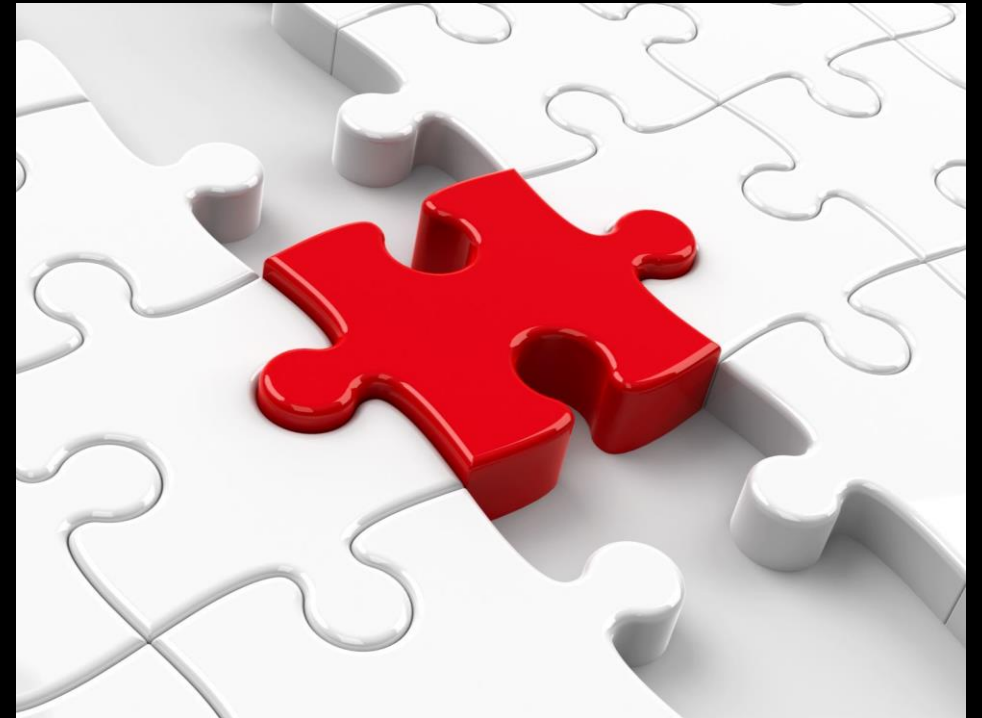
# JANUARY 2023

*Excerpt from the January 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee report:*

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language. The committee noted that a print copy of the available plain language chapters will be provided for review by Conference members during the 2023 General Service Conference in a room that will be hosted by members of the trustees' Literature committee.

GOAL DATE for FINAL DRAFT June 2023

One could question the decision to share such unrefined material with the Conference Committee on Literature, however the rationale for offering this early material is that the TABB Subcommittee knows that there is a high level of interest in the process for the plain and simple language translation; and that there are those with concerns regarding the intent of this project. It is hoped that this early transparency, and of sharing materials that have yet to even be edited, will serve to provide the Conference Committee on Literature the opportunity to see exactly where this project is at this point in time and offer any early feedback that they may have.





# EXAMPLES



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.

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.

Frothy emotional appeal seldom suffices.

Begging these people to stop drinking never helps.

And it means, of course, that we are going to talk about God. Here difficulty arises with agnostics,

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.

<b>Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)</b>	<b>Excerpt (from unedited raw sample material)</b>
<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.</p> <p>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>

<b>Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)</b>	<b>Excerpt (from unedited raw sample material)</b>
<p>Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it – then you are ready to take certain steps.</p>	<p>Many of the stories we share in this book describe the experiences that we had as AA’s founders. What we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you want what we have— and are willing to work hard to get it—then you are ready to get started.</p>