

March 10, 1982

Dear Friend, and Fellow-member in SA,

Today the world is adrift on a sea of, rapidly shifting mores. Thousands of voices clamor for attention, preaching new "freedoms" of every kind. This change has been accelerating at an unprecedented rate. The last eighty years have surpassed the progress and rate of change of the last eight thousand, and the last twenty years have surpassed the previous eighty. Every aspect of our lives, our sexual thought, and behavior are affected. Was it not but a few years ago that "cohabitation" referred to the abnormal? And witness the new movement to legalize incest. Look at any of the sexual trends in the last few decades; there is something more than mere revolution or a reversal of attitudes here. There is a dissolution of the entire fabric holding couples, families, and nations together.

Such forces as the Pill, the Bomb, the technological revolution, world war, the population explosion, and the media are all shaping changes in the attitudes and beliefs of men and women toward sexual thinking and expression at a rate never before experienced in the history of the human race.

Deeper than mere rebellion, the present problem seems to be one of floundering in a situation with unknown limits. And some are arguing that we don't need boundaries, limits, or norms, that in today's world the best approach is to let each individual decide what is best for himself. One historian of this phenomenon titles it "the sexual wilderness."

We sexaholics, victims of our own attitudes and actions, are nevertheless children of our times. Not only did we let these new forces into our own lives, we helped make them! As a result, we found ourselves not only adrift, but drowning in this sea of relativism, with nothing to anchor our frail lives against the storm without and the storm within, powerless to heal ourselves and others.

Most of the voices we hear today on the beguiling windsong playing about us offer an easier softer way: the way down instead of the way up, the lowest common denominator, instead of the highest. They pander to our weakness, instead of appealing to our strength, to the worst in us instead of the best. They call for indulgence, rather than putting the other's good before our own; for taking rather than giving. They are based on the material and the commercial, rather than on the spiritual; their appeal is to the transitory, rather than the lasting, the permanent. Their cry is "DO IT!" rather than "I can do without it;" "I've gotta have it NOW!" rather than "Thy will be done." And theirs is based on a deception: the primacy of the physical, instead of the truth: the spiritual first.

The best among these voices would settle for the good. But as Bill W. of AA used to say, the good is often the enemy of the best. And if SA has anything unique to offer, it is the best — sobriety. To the world at large, we have nothing to say except to bear witness to our own recovery. But to the storm-tossed suffering sexaholics who want survival and freedom from the bondage of their "freedom," we offer an island in the storm, an anchor for the soul, a Connection with the unchanging, the real, and the true.

Roy K.