

I'm Alive was conceived from an AA meeting that discussed the promises of recovery, a section that Bill Wilson wrote, prophetically, since he was still struggling with his addiction. That section of Step Nine says:

- If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through.
- We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness.
- We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.
- We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace.
- No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.
- That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.
- We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.
- Self-seeking will slip away.
- Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.
- Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us.
- We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.
- We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.
- Are these extravagant promises? We think not.
- They are being fulfilled among us-sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly.
- They will always materialize if we work for them.

I was in a small classroom, with small chairs for large people. There were 12 people in the room. We went around the circle discussing our individual responses to the promises. It was a remarkable meeting, I thought. Everyone seemed to be positively affected by the promises and, I thought, by the proximity of the group, in a sense, confined to a small room. It occurred to me that it was a perfect setting for a play, but I didn't want to duplicate it. I wasn't interested in telling the AA story in a drama, but there was something beyond AA, as it's told in the promises, and in the possibilities of such a group gathering for no reason other than to declare, among others, "I am alive."

This play, **I'm Alive**, is a result of that occasion. Step Nine is about making amends to all those one may have harmed. Confessing one's reality becomes a form of asking

forgiveness for how that reality may have harmed others. Each one of the characters in **I'm Alive** simply tells his or her story of the day they are present in the circle, beginning with the line, "I am alive." This simple recognition is an acceptance of the moment of one's existence and it opens the moment of oneself to the world.

I'm Alive is not a play about AA or the recovery from any addiction. I'm grateful to that loose organization of freed souls for speaking of the way out and the way in, to the heart of the matter. This is a play about speaking the truth in one's life, whatever that truth may be, in the company of others, who are engaged in the same liberating act.

I'm Alive won Honorable Mention at the Seattle Playwrights' Festival in 1990.

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