

BILL AND BOB IN HEAVEN

Two male actors, each with an oversized telephone receiver, (and possibly white robes, halos and angel wings) enter and take their places, left and right of the stage, each facing the audience. Bill puts his receiver to his ear and “dials” a number. Bob’s phone rings.

BOB (checking his caller I.D.) Oh, no! Not that pesky Bill W. again! (ring) He just doesn’t know when to shut up. (ring) Well, maybe I can get rid of him. (picks up phone, cheerfully) Hello! This is the heavenly pink cloud of the late Dr. Bob. I’m sorry that Dr. Bob is away from his phone at the moment, but if you will leave a message at the tone....

BILL (laughing) Oh, come on, Bob. You can’t fool me THAT easily! I know you’re there!

BOB Well, it was worth a try. Listen, Bill, why do you keep calling me, anyway? Didn’t you pester me enough while we were down on earth? Give me a break!

BILL Oh, Bob, you are such a joker! I know that you really like hearing from me!

BOB OK, Bill. You’re right. I DO like to hear from you. And I hope that you are enjoying your heavenly reward-- just like I’M trying to do-- and NOT wasting your time in eternity dreaming up some crazy new scheme to “improve” AA.

BILL Funny you should mention AA, Bob...

BOB Oh, no...

BILL I just so happens that I DO have a new idea to run past you...

BOB Oh, no...

BILL Now don’t worry, this isn’t like last time, when I wanted to add another couple of chapters to the Big Book.

BOB Oh, yeah... I remember: "WHY IT WORKS" and "HOW TO MAKE A FORTUNE IN THE RECOVERY BUSINESS".

BILL I know, I know... Those were not among my best ideas. But this is different.. That's why I was so anxious to run this NEW idea past you.

BOB Ohhhh....Nooooo...

BILL Now, Bob, give it a chance! Didn't you always tell me to stay "Open-Minded"?

BOB There's a big difference between "Open-Minded" and "Empty-Headed".

BILL OK, OK, you are gonna LOVE this! Now-- you know how AA has spread all over the world since we first met with AA number 3 way back in 1935?

BOB (with suspicion) Yes?

BILL And you know how many YOUNG people have joined AA? Thousands... maybe MILLIONS!

BOB Yeah, that's wonderful. So... what's the new idea?

BILL Well, I thought that since so many young people are in AA nowadays, maybe we should update the Big Book!

BOB WHAT?

BILL Just a few little changes, you know... to make it CONTEMPORARY, make it COOL,.... make it FRESH!

BOB Update the Big Book?

BILL Fo Shizzle, ma brotha!

BOB Now look, Bill, I know you want AA to attract as many people as possible, but, I think this is a really bad idea.....BAD.

BILL That's IT! That's just how the kids talk today: Good is "BAD", hot is "COOL", and if something is really terrific, it's "THE BOMB"!

BOB The "Bomb"? That doesn't sound very good to ME. Bill, listen to me... Can't we just... KEEP IT SIMPLE ?

BILL "Simple" is exactly what I had in mind! For example: you know the part in the Big Book that talks about "PITIFUL AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE DEMORALIZATION"?

BOB Yeah ?

BILL You gotta admit, that's a real mouthful. How about instead of "PITIFUL AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE DEMORALIZATION", we just say, "What a Bummer"?Whadya think?

BOB (slowly) At this moment,...it is PITIFUL...how INCOMPREHENSIBLE... my DEMORALIZATION is.

BILL Oh, come on. Be COOL, my brother!

BOB You are truly amazing.

BILL Thanks, homeboy.

BOB (slyly turning the tables) But, Bill, maybe you're not thinking BIG enough.

BILL Really?

BOB Yeah. Changing a few words here and there might be okay, but why don't we just RE-INVENT the whole thing from scratch!

4

BILL Well, I don't know about THAT....

BOB I've got it! We'll get Quentin Tarantino to completely re-write the whole thing, and then we'll make it into a major motion picture!
Or wait, I know: Miley Cyrus writes the AA Songbook! "Hanna Montana Goes to Rehab"!

BILL Well, THAT'S thinking outside the box... but I'm not sure that...

BOB Oo-oo--oo! Robert Downey Jr. does the book -- ON TAPE! And all the personal stories -- are HIS! My goodness, why didn't we think of this before? Bill, you are BRILLIANT! I can see the commercial tie-ins now: Paris Hilton on the cover of the Big Book, holding the AA logo. Totally HOT!

BILL But Bob!...

BOB And the Sponsorships! "Chapter Six... brought to you by BOUNTY -- The quicker picker upper!"

BILL Oh, my! No, no, no...

BOB Let's buy a ball team! Change the name of the Dallas Cowboys to the TEXAS TEA-TOTALLERS! (sports announcer voice) "And Step Number 12 of the Tea Totallers is at the 20, at the 15.. Boy, that Alcoholic sure can run! Oops! He gets sacked at the 5 yard line... but he sure looks like he's filled with GRATITUDE!"

BILL Now hold on just a doggone minute, there, Bob!

BOB What?

BILL This is too much. This is getting out of hand.

BOB But it's your idea! And it's a GREAT one! I'm just taking it to the next level.

5

BILL Why, oh why was I born so brilliant?

BOB God only knows, Bill.

BILL If we let this idea get out, who knows what would happen. People like YOU would get carried away.... And then what? After awhile, they'll have some Reality show on TV.... With drunks and addicts trying to get sober... In PRIMETIME!

BOB Ummm... I think that's already on Bravo... on Wednesdays?

BILL Oh, No! Okay, look. No more talk of this. We need to keep things just as they are. I don't want to hear any more ideas out of YOU!

BOB Okay, Bill. If you say so.

BILL I DO! One of us has to protect our legacy around here, you know.

BOB (mocking) Yes, Dear.

BILL Alright then, I'm glad THAT'S settled. Now.... I'm going to do a Step Ten Inventory, and then take a long nap. I suggest YOU do the same.

BOB Yes, Bill. Thank you for bringing me to my senses.

BILL Of course. It was my pleasure. Isn't that what the fellowship is about? Helping others? I'll talk to you later.

BOB I'm sure that you will.

BILL Oh, Bob... um, you still bringing the meat patties for the cookout tomorrow?

BOB Yes, Bill. Just the way you like them.

6

BILL “Easy Does It” on the chili powder, Bob.

BOB I know, Bill.

BILL That chili powder gives me gas, Bob.

BOB I KNOW, Bill.

BILL Okay, then! G’night, Bob.

BOB G’night, Bill.

(they hang up their phones and exit)