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**This Is the Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing But the Truth, So Help
Me the WSO Inc. (and their fine attorneys) About the Birth of the Free
Basic Text--better known as the "Baby Blue"**

I know, I know, some of you have probably heard and innocently believed one of the many different rumors and lies that have been floating around for years about who was responsible for first printing the Free Basic Text, better known in some circles as the dastardly "Baby Blue". But where did it really happen? Why was it really done? Who did it? What are the REAL facts?

Most of those who think they know, think that it was all done by Grateful Dave, may he rest in peace. After all, wasn't it Grateful Dave who was actually sued in Federal Court by our own World Service Office Inc. and their fine attorneys? WSO Inc. actually misspent thousands of our dollars in the basket in order to try to prove in court (how spiritual!) that our Basic Text, and indeed all of our literature and intellectual property, really belonged to them, the World Service Office Inc, by virtue of copyright, those who continue to try to govern us arbitrarily instead of serving us keep insisting that it does not belong to us, the N.A. Fellowship at large. However, the members who wrote our literature always intended that it would always be freely ours, we know because they told us.

Those same "dollars in the basket" which you and I donated to help carry the message to the suffering addict were also misused by the WSO Inc. in a fellowship wide slanderous propaganda campaign against Grateful Dave and his "gang of evil cohorts", accusing all

those involved in printing and giving away free N.A. literature, of high treason against N.A. and of attempting to destroy our beloved World Service Office Inc. by taking away their well earned profits! But that is another story. Maybe someday, someone, will write a detailed account of that exercise in fear, manipulation, and control--WSO Inc. at its best!

We also remember with great sadness the time when the main speaker at our World Convention in Portland stood right on that podium, spewing arrogance and hatred, slandered and berated Big Lou P., God rest his soul, intimating that it was Big Lou who was the evil force behind the Free Basic Text and the attempted destruction of WSO Inc. And so it goes, on and on, many other dedicated members from all over the country received threatening letters from the WSO Inc. and their lawyers, warning them to cease and desist, or they would all face litigation.

Well, as one who was there and involved at the time, I can tell you that the way this whole thing really began was as follows:

There were some totally committed and very well informed members in the South Dade Area of the then Florida Region (soon to become the liberated South Florida Region) who were fervently looking for some kind of a spiritual solution to the problems that had surfaced at the time with relation to the purity of message content, quality, and most of all, the cost of our literature.

On the one hand, the Fourth and Fifth Edition fiasco was still very fresh on our minds. Just in case you have never heard about this important part of our history, about 9 years ago the WSO Inc. had printed and distributed to the unsuspecting fellowship the "gutted" Fourth Edition of the Basic Text. Then, even after they got caught red handed and were forced to stop by the fellowship at large, and exhibiting a large measure of their customary arrogance, they still refused to follow the fellowship's desire to return to the last approved edition, the Third Revised.

Instead they went ahead and rammed the Fifth Edition through the conference without sending it back to the fellowship for the input and review process which would have been the sane course of action to follow under those circumstances. They then slapped a 5 year moratorium on the Basic Text so that the fellowship could not force them to also throw out the Fifth Edition like they had done the Fourth.

At the same time, more and more of the home groups in our Area, and as it became apparent afterwards, many other Areas and Regions, were suffering financially due to the exorbitantly inflated prices that were being charged for all our literature by the Florida Regional Service Office Incorporated and the World Service Office Incorporated. The only way our Areas and Regions could pay for the services that helped carry our message was to generate funds artificially through merchandise sales and fund-raising dances, picnics, conventions, etc. The spiritual principle of the Seventh Tradition was being strangled by the ignorance and greed that the corporations we had formed were exhibiting. The overruling priority was the survival of the corporations, spiritual principles be damned. The welfare of the suffering addict and N.A. Groups be damned!

The Corporation MUST survive at all costs. We had created a monster and the disease was using that monster to destroy us! The tail was wagging the dog! We had had enough of money, property, and prestige! It was time to take action!

It is a well known fact that for services to be most effective, they must be provided as close to the need as possible. If a group can provide a particular service than an area has no business being involved. If an area can better provide a service than a region should not be involved, etc, etc. And yet, here is the least important service body, the WSO Inc., which sits at the very bottom of our inverted pyramid structure, draining every last resource from the groups, areas, and regions, and therefore, the Conference. In this very sad scenario, the proper and logical fund flow of the Seventh Tradition (from member to group, group to area, area to region, and only then from region on to WSC) gets totally distorted. What to do? How to make sure that anyone who could not afford to pay the four and five hundred percent profit (and even more in some cases) for OUR OWN literature could still be able to have access to it.

As one possible solution to our problem, armed with the sincere knowledge that our NA literature (up to that point) had been written freely by addicts for addicts and that it belongs and will always belong freely to any NA member and to no one else, and that no corporation, especially one that we had created ourselves, had the right to rape us at will, a couple of members of that group (I was one of them so you are getting this story first hand, this is not hearsay or propaganda) decided to take the bull by the horns and try to reduce our costs as much as possible so that we could continue to support our services based on the Spiritual foundation of generosity and self-support.

Because our God always gives us what we need, it just so happened that another home group member was working at a print shop at the time, so we took a Basic Text, tore off page by page, pasted it back up, and made a master (without the stories) so that we could print it as inexpensively as possible. We used the Third Edition Revised because that was the last edition that had actually been circulated throughout the whole fellowship for approval. The Fourth and Fifth Editions were never even seen or approved by the fellowship. And so we did it, we printed it, the first "Baby Blue" ever to see the light of day did so about nine years ago in Miami, Florida.

We experimented widely, tried different methods of binding, varied designs and wordings on the cover itself; "FREE BASIC TEXT", "SUPPORT YOUR HOME GROUP", "FELLOWSHIP APPROVED", etc. We also tried various different colors on the cover; white, light brown, and assorted shades of blue until we settled on "Baby Blue".

Once we had a book we were happy with , we started printing as many Free Basic Texts as we could with our very limited resources, and giving them away for FREE. We gave them to the prison system and to state and county run treatment centers, detoxes, etc. One area gave some to each of their groups at area service and we started giving them away individually, one on one, to all newcomers, pr to anyone who wanted or needed one.

Hey everyone, beetz here,

Do you like this rag? We hope so. We also hope to get more and more people reading this. If you could, would you try to get someone you know to subscribe? We would like to see this newsletter continue to grow (and it has). As always, make as many copies as you like :)

The idea started to catch fire and very soon other individual members, groups, and even areas, started printing their own Free Basic Texts and other NA literature too; IP's, White books, Grey forms, etc.

To date many other variations of the "Baby Blue" Free Basic Text have been, and still are being produced; the "Colorado Resentment Baby Red", "London Lime Baby Green", and Georgia Baby Peach", to name a few. I have seen and have in my archives right now Free Basic Texts with yellow covers, purple covers, brown covers, white covers, and I am sure there are some others around that I have never seen. There was even a home group called O.D.O.P. (One Disease, One Program) in the South Broward Area, South Florida Region, that produced a Fifth Edition of the Free Basic Text with a white cover, they also printed their own I.P.'s. There is also a "Baby Grey Form" available to all.

Well, there you have it, there is a lot more to this story, but here at least, for the first time in print, are the real circumstances that necessitated the creation of the Free Basic Text :Baby Blue".

Please always remember that WE are N.A. and that We own the literature. It is our legacy fro the addicts who wrote it for us. Any one of us can, at any time reproduce it for our own use and no corporation can stop us!

SOLID STATE RECOVERY

I have been trying to follow the meanderings of our structural service units as they undergo radical revision with practically no reaction from the Fellowship. This is the same Fellowship that howled when group conscience was abridged or a vote was taken without the representatives checking with the group members to see what their will was on the matter. Now, all these changes and no one speaks up. Doesn't it make you wonder?

I always felt like the structure was set up to bring individuals in NA together and let them speak with a single voice. I remember the Conference Agenda Workshops where core group members would sit and go over the report before voting on each issue. There was a feeling that everyone was important and that while our personal wishes may not fall in with the majority, we were certainly taken seriously and had a chance to make our will known to trusted servants who cared. As a trusted servant at the time, I can share that it felt wonderful to have all the members in support of what we were doing. I felt relieved because I didn't have to worry about my imperfections messing up those I was attempting to serve. Even in difficult times, there was the feeling that the truth would come out eventually.

We shall attempt to print all articles promoting a change in our intolerance and indifference towards spiritual principles. We seek any and all ideas for this publication to become a venue for change. All materials shall be printed in a spirit of anonymity.

We encourage the use of humor and lampoon to stimulate thought and levity. Our hope is to find ways to transgress the perceived separation that exists amongst members of our society.

Then, I remember how certain topics would come up at conference with the Fellowship expressing itself very clearly. One example was the long time annual motion that only RSR's vote at the WSC. It was like the presenters felt if they kept repeating the question, they would eventually get the answer they wanted. And boy, did they ever get their way.

Like I said, no one seems to care much about these things today. Service is not a popular subject. Only a few members are willing to talk about the transition group and the various reports where apparently a very few people are making sweeping recommendations that could affect every group and every member in the world. And no one is reacting. Perhaps it is because they are waiting for things to settle down before they assess the changes and how they feel about them. Perhaps they are sick of the whole thing and just don't care.

The structure used to be like a radio set with lots of little wires and transistors that allow energy to be passed tremendously fast and without generating much heat. Other trusted servants were quick to pitch in and help if asked or needed. There was a feeling that we were all in this together.

I really believe God is in charge and that even amid a sweltering mass of confusing changes that I don't recall any group or member asking for, somehow, God is going to work it all out. My recovery is still the most important thing in life for me and I can feel myself growing daily. So, there are probably giant miracles on their way, they are just to humongous for me to make out with my weak mortal eyes.

Q: How many addicts does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Two, one to get up the \$10, and the other taking the money and promising to come back with the bulb.

The Contamination of the Purity of Our Message Caused By the Ignorance of the Greedy Treatment Centers and By Our Lack of Cojones (Balls) for Not Standing Up for Our Traditions

So, there I was, sitting in the darkened room, illuminated only by candlelight. At first, as I listened attentively, I thought that I might have mistakenly walked into a National Geographic Society Explorers meeting. It seemed that they were talking about the Arctic and the Antarctic, some guy was proudly stating that he was "bi-polar". I figured that he must mean that he had explored both the north and south poles or something. Then, as I was trying to absorb this, a lady spoke next and identified herself as an alcoholic and food AND drug addict--I became even more confused because although I knew that I was in some kind of 12 step fellowship meeting, I was not quite sure which one! A.A.? O.A.? N.A.?

I know, I know, some of you probably don't think this is very funny. Maybe some of you still identify yourselves as something other than just an ADDICT! Hell, I would even venture to place a pretty good bet (oh, oh, should I go to G.A.?) That some of you even attend other fellowships on a regular basis without even understanding the corrosive effects that this behavior has on our Traditions, our Anonymity, and our unity. Well, guess what? I agree with you! I don't think this is very funny either. As a matter of fact, I think that this is as serious a matter as we have to deal with in N.A. today. It is way past the time that we start openly discussing the extremely serious damage that is being caused to us by the incredible ignorance demonstrated by the "professionals" in the "recovery industry", because that is where this whole fiasco begins.

At first sight, I may not seem like the best qualified person to be exploring this touchy subject because I am one of the ones who actually went through a treatment center. I did not find N.A. directly. However, maybe it is exactly because I did get to N.A. via a treatment center and have experienced their incompetence first hand, that I am now qualified to write this article.

Now I am not saying that all treatment centers are totally worthless (damned close though!). What I am saying is that the very meager benefits provided by these treatment centers are completely dwarfed, in the long run, by the great harm they cause, due to their ignorance and greed. In order to better illustrate this point let me give you one sample experience (my own). I have found out since then that a great number of us who got here via treatment can relate to this experience at some level or another.

I personally went through a treatment center back in 1987 when the insurance companies and government agencies were still paying out thousands upon thousands of dollars to anyone who claimed they could treat that most elusive of all diseases "chemical dependency".

When I went into treatment at age 41 (I had started using at age 12 or 13), I had no idea that I was an addict or that there was a disease called addiction which was totally separate, different, and apart from "drug addiction". I did not think that I was an addict because I did not use needles, did not live in the streets or abandoned buildings, and I did not get physically sick if I did not have my drug of choice. In other words, I wasn't a junkie. I did not know until I read it in our Basic Text that "our disease was present long before the first time we used", I had zero knowledge about the disease of addiction when

I went into treatment and I was even worse off after I came out because I had been given wrong information. And, as we all know, no info is way better than wrong info!

Guess what? 68 days and \$23,000 later, the minute my insurance company would not pay them a penny more, that respected, distinguished, and caring doctor, who was a specialist in addictionology, and the program director who had a masters in social work, solemnly called me into their office and told me that I had to leave immediately because my insurance had just run out. They told me that there was nothing more they could do for me, that I had been using drugs for too long and that they were sure that I was bound to relapse and that they would be very glad to see me again soon because I would come back for more "treatment". I believed them because there was a lady in my group who had been through 32, count them 32!, "treatment centers", and mental hospitals, and she had not even used as long as I had!

Now, during my stay at that "treatment center", they have assured me that I was a drug addict and an alcoholic. They said that I had an eating disorder and that I was a compulsive overeater. They also gave me the good news that I was emotionally and psychologically disturbed. Therefore, once outside I should try to attend N.A., A.A., O.A., and personal and group therapy with the psychologist on staff at the hospital. This psychologist, by the way, prescribed medication (drugs), and said that I had to take them if I expected to have any chance at all!

About a year later, after staying clean, sober, and abstinent, I was ready to kill myself because I could not do it any more. I could not continue attending all those different fellowships trying to work 36 steps and 36 traditions, while the psychologists kept trying to tell me to take prescribed drugs so that I could alter my mind and mood to adjust to life! It was then that my life was saved by my N.A. sponsor who told me about O.D.O.P.-One Disease, One Program!

Sometimes I think what could have been if I had gotten the correct information, the true message, right from the beginning. I wasted more than my first whole year going to other fellowships, breaking our traditions and their traditions, unable to work any qualifying steps, wasting thousands of dollars in ineffective therapy (the therapeutic value of one addict helping another is without parallel) and in the end it almost cost me my very life! And I was one of the fortunate ones who survived, I am still here and clean. Only God knows how many other addicts left us, confused and overwhelmed, and are still suffering, or ended up in prison, or even died after getting a second chance and finding our rooms. This to me is totally unacceptable.

Today I am just "clean", I identify myself only as an addict and I find recovery from my one and only disease in Narcotics Anonymous. I do not attend any other fellowships because to do so would mean breaking our traditions and certainly theirs too. But, I am one of the few blessed ones. On a daily basis the treatment centers crank us out, one after another, ignorant and confused (and broke), thinking that we suffer from a myriad of different diseases.

Our Basic Text tells us that, "Our problem is not a specific substance, it is a disease called addiction." And yet, today more than ever, our rooms are full of addicts who still think that their problem is the substance and they are still ignorant of what their disease really is all about. No wonder they relapse and leave our rooms in hopeless desperation before the miracle can work in their lives. How can we work on a solution if we don't even know what the problem really is"

And how about the unfortunate ones who end up lost forever in the limbo of A.A., C.A., O.A., etc. They are bamboozled by the disease of addiction into thinking that all 12 step fellowships are the same, that even if they are addicts they can just go to A.A. or C.A. and everything will be alright because all the steps are the same. I guess that if all the fellowships were really the same there would need to be only one great big fellowship that would be called E.A.--Everything Anonymous.

Oh no! Don't tell me! Are you really one of those who still thinks that all the steps are the same?

One of our founders Jimmy K. told us that the reason that N.A. was formed in 1953 was that addicts were dying in A.A. and that if people like us could have found recovery in A.A. there would never have been the desperate need to form N.A. N.A. would never have existed. It was also hoped at the time that the 12 steps and 12 traditions of A.A., if adapted to our disease, may prove a successful deterrent to our disease of addiction, just like they had been for the disease of alcoholism.

But wait, it gets worse, it seems that these "treatment centers" raped the insurance companies and government agencies so hard and so deep that in order to protect themselves, they no longer pay through the nose for "long term treatment" for "chemical dependency". Now the average hospital stay is 5 to 7 days and in order to be able to make their money from the misery of the suffering addicts these "treatment centers" are now classifying all of us as "dual diagnosed". We are no longer "chemically dependant" because they will not get paid for that diagnosis. We are now "dual diagnosed", "bi-polar", etc. only because that is where the money is!

I could go on and on telling you horror story after horror story about how treatment centers eat away at the very foundation of our program, like for profit treatment centers claiming in their sales pitch that their "program" is based on N.A. 12 step recovery, or that N.A. and A.A. are part of their "program". The treatment centers that make enormous profits using up thousands of dollars worth of literature that they get for free from our well intentioned Area H&I sub-committees. This literature is a major part of their "program", but it seriously depletes our resources. These people are getting rich riding on our backs!

The saddest part of this whole situation are all the recovering addicts who now make their living in the "recovery business". Our fellowship is in such a great state of total confusion that to all those without the 12 Traditions of N.A. in their lives (the numbers would astound you) it is all "the same thing"; A.A., N.A., treatment centers--all other 12 step

fellowships are one and the same thing. Our clear, pure, message of Narcotics Anonymous recovery is being diluted on a daily basis by members who have become "counselors and therapists" to their sponsees, instead of N.A. sponsors. Our recovery meetings are full of cross-sharing and suggestions instead of honest, gut level sharing!

Please be a part of the solution. Identify yourself simply as an "addict". Attend only N.A. IT WORKS! Don't help the ignorance of the disease to destroy the very fellowship that saves your life today.

This Newsletter is being provided to any and all interested members of N.A. at COST please feel free to copy and give out as many of these as you like. We will be printing bi-monthly. Our cost is \$0.52 (includes postage) each so 1 yr, subscription would be \$3.12 (.72x6) Please send articles and newsletter money to:

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P O Box 447
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P.S. We also deal in the barter system if you would like to send supplies instead of \$, we need stamps, paper (#20 8 x11), ink cartridges for Lexmark WinWriter 150C.

Full Participation Revisited

Ever since I was a teeny tiny little boy in service, I have observed officers being questioned, coming back with: "What's the matter? Don't you trust your trusted servants?" Often said in a tone of voice that made the hair stand up on the back of my neck like fingernails on a blackboard. The issue always came up when officers (group, area or region) had made decisions without consulting group conscience. Almost always, the appeal was made that "the groups are uninformed; they don't really care anyway; and we experienced members have a far better grasp of what's good for the fellowship." I hope that by now the hairs are standing up on the back of YOUR neck, too. If there's one thing we addicts have in spades -- that characterizes our very disease -- it's denial. We

can be in the very thick of addiction and actually believe we're doing the right thing. The one thing that acts as a check on this is the Spirit Of We. God MAY speak through our group conscience; and as He is our ONLY (i.e. "but one") and ultimate authority, I always feel safer when group conscience is consulted, however mixed the results might seem, than when only the certainty of a few experienced members is consulted.

Trusted servants serve at the pleasure of the electorate; more urgently, their service is a PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. As tough as service is, when we hold a position we have been entrusted with a position of honor! That in itself is a great reward. And we are given the chance to serve the fellowship that saved our lives, another wonderful blessing and reward; and we get to be in the middle of interesting and exciting business which is a great training for coping with responsibility in everyday life, which is yet another reward!

As rewarding as all this service is, in our arrogance we think that this is not enough; we want power too! WHAT ELSE do you describe it when one person has the same voting power as a whole area or region? How can it be mistaken as anything else but power? And more importantly, why would a trusted servant want that kind of power?

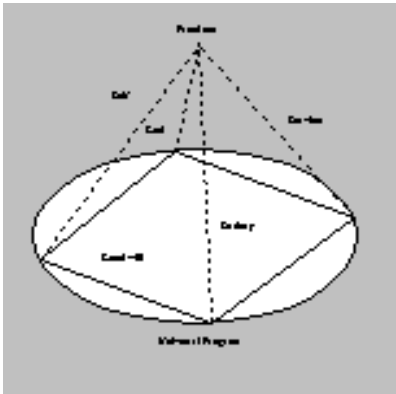
My region of thousands of addicts, many of them highly intelligent and well-informed, are justly curious as to why just one world trusted servant should have both a little vote in their home group like the rest of us, and a big vote at world powerful enough to cancel us all out. Where are the spiritual principles in this?

The boards and committees exist NOT FOR THEMSELVES, they is not self-created bodies; they were formed to better serve the groups, areas, or regions which created it. They may be just as aware as the GSR's, ASR's, or RSR's what others feel; but it is their job to SERVE, not to RULE. Voting power is rulership, as sure as it is the power to have one's way. The assertion that "there is no us and them in NA" is very nice. It all depends on the mental set of the addict. Those who have observed power cliques at work might regard it as naive. I have seen bad behavior and us-vs-them mentality on both sides of every issue you could name. Pretending that there are not or have not been pitched battles between the ins and outs, complete with strategy meetings and dirty tricks campaigns on BOTH sides, might sell on the newcomer. The reality, I deeply regret, has been different. I've seen plenty of mischief, but I still have great faith in NA and the loving God who cares for us IN SPITE of the foolishness and self-will we exhibit every day. Consider, though, that for some addicts, there is no such thing as enough. It's not enough to have the power and prestige of being the regional treasurer; they also want a vote. It's not enough to be an area H&I chair, with considerable influence, a voice at area and the joy and privilege of service; they also



want a VOTE. Well, I'm sorry, they're not getting my vote, or that of my home group, area or region. A loving God still speaks through the groups. Thank God! And until they get the vote, the trusted servants do not govern.

meeting the monster



Today I saw it. Perhaps I should say 'IT'. It attacked me. I was vulnerable, shaken, because I didn't recognize 'IT' at first. My defenses were down. 'IT' drew blood. I thought ..."surrender, give up, let it have it's way, they will see the truth"... But my recovery won...for now. I shall surrender. But I won't give up. My surrender will be active. I will not let it have it's way without holding up my principles in it's face. It shrinks from principles. It comes around new corners loaded with popular buzz words feigning Spiritual orientation. Emotional appeal counters the pure logic of principles clearly stated. They can see through it. But only if I persevere.

NEW ATTITUDES
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