



a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

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Emancipated!

As we approach the spring holidays of Easter and Passover, I thought I'd write on the word that best describes how I feel as I approach my 6 month point in sobriety, and what it means to me. The other day an old using buddy asked me how I feel now that I'm not smoking weed all day, every day. He was amazed at the profound changes he's observed in me in the last five-plus months, and with a bit of envy and curiosity asked me what's changed in my life, and how sobriety feels. The first word that came to my mind was EMANCIPATION! I knew that the word had larger meaning as it obviously refers to the freeing of the slaves at the end of the Civil War, but I too feel freed from slavery and bondage; thus the answer: Emancipated!

I was a slave to pot for over 25 years, and was hopelessly imprisoned. I felt shackled!--like I had cement shoes on my feet, a ball and chain attached to my leg and a weight belt around my waist while I tried to swim. The anxiety of a dwindling bag, the terror of not knowing where to score, and the demoralization of smoking away all one's hopes and dreams is a form of slavery. Not having the freedom and the will to live one's life is a form of bondage.

As a practicing Jew I am (as of this writing) about to celebrate Passover, which is the story of Moses and his battle with the Pharaoh of Egypt over the slavery and imprisonment of the biblical Jews. When Moses realized

he was a Hebrew rather than a privileged Egyptian, he decided to confront his step brother Ramses and lead the Jews out of bondage. We've all seen the movie The Ten Commandments where Charlton Heston and Yul Brynner perfectly play the respective parts of the protagonist and the antagonist, and the analogy to the concepts of sobriety and freedom is remarkable. This famous biblical story can be linked symbolically to MA and to the addict's battle for sobriety.

The Egyptians were some seriously stubborn people just as we marijuana addicts are. When Moses told Pharaoh to free the Jews, threatening that otherwise really bad stuff would surely happen, Pharaoh said "NO WAY!" When people around us said, "Dude, you smoke WAY too much weed, you really need to cut back or stop altogether," we also said, "NO WAY!"

Then, Moses began to unleash an unprecedented series of bad happenings upon the Egyptians, beginning by turning the drinking water into blood. Yet the Pharaoh still stood pat and said, "NO WAY!" We addicts understand the Pharaoh. After all, we began to lose our friends, lose our spouses and lose our jobs, yet we still continued to abuse marijuana.

Next Moses unleashed upon the Egyptians frogs, lice, pestilence, death of all livestock, boils, hail and thunder, and locusts--yet Pharaoh continued to practice his old ways. We began to lose everything over our pot smoking. We lost money, lost friends, and

alienated family, and yet we stood pat and kept smoking our lives away. We lost our drive, we lost our motivation, and eventually hit rock bottom, and crawled into the rooms of MA beaten and demoralized. I think Pharaoh was a pot head because he was one stubborn dude! Only after Moses delivered the death blow, killing the firstborn children of every Egyptian family--only then did Pharaoh finally say, "I give up and need to go to an MA meeting." Then Moses assembled the Jews and began leading them across the desert in hopes of finding safety. But then Pharaoh again went back to his old ways, and sent his army after the Jews!

The Pharaoh had to hit rock bottom to change his ways; we potheads similarly deal with the incomprehensible demoralization of losing everything before we begin to recover, and then we often relapse just as Pharaoh did. We get sucked into using again by friends and old using buddies. We get goaded into relapse by people who need us to continue using so that they can feel good about their own problems just as Pharaoh got pressured into relapse by his wife and advisors, who argued that without the Hebrew slaves, who would build the future pyramids of Egypt? So Pharaoh did what most of us potheads do: We forget how bad it was, and start using again only to eventually suffer even more terrible consequences which in some cases leads to death.

And so, as we all know, when Pharaoh came charging after
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The purpose of A New Leaf is to carry the message of recovery from marijuana addiction. It is through the written experiences of recovering addicts and their stories that we may find experience, strength and hope.

Articles submitted should reflect recovery, unity, and service.

The articles contained in A New Leaf are the sole opinions of the authors and do not reflect the opinions of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole.

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www.marijuana-anonymous.org
and click on the newsletter tab.

Emancipated!

Moses and the newly emancipated Jews, GOD parted the Red Sea and all the Egyptians drowned trying to cross. The similarities between Pharaoh and we potheads is remarkable, and a terrific comparison to make this time of year.

Freedom from bondage is the same in both stories. Shackles or addiction, it's the same cement shoes preventing us from living the free lives we all deserve. Smoking pot makes us less than we can be, and being dependent on drugs and alcohol is a form of slavery.

When we finally hit rock bottom and crawl into the rooms asking for help, it's just like being freed from years of slavery and bondage. You'd think after the ten plagues, the Egyptians and the Pharaoh would have gotten the message, yet he still stood his ground and held onto his bag and bong. You'd think after we began to lose our families, our finances, our jobs and our dignity, we'd get the message that we need to stop smoking, yet we continue to hold onto our weed as if it's a life preserver and we're floating in the ocean.

Yes, we have a lot to be thankful for this time of the year just as the Jews who were freed from bondage did. We too have been freed from slavery: the bondage of marijuana addiction. So, when someone asks you what being sober feels like, you can answer with the word EMANCIPATION. Anon. ▲

**New Meetings Start-Up
All The Time.
Check your local districts
website for updated
information!
Get listed on the MAWS
website
contact:
office@marijuana_anonymous.
org**

The Twelve Steps of Marijuana Anonymous

1. We admitted we were powerless over marijuana, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood God.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood God, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to marijuana addicts and to practice these principles in all our affairs. ▲

birthdays Celebrating 222 years of sobriety in this issue!

Want your sobriety date published? Let your Bureau Chief know or see ANL contact information on page 2. Bureau Chiefs are encouraged to submit Birthdays that, a) HAVE occurred, b) HAVE NOT been published and, c) are not older than 45 days.

Lee H.R. Colorado	5/3/2010	1 Year!
Gwen G. Mesa Az	4/13/1993	18 years

District 2

Annie	5/6/2005	6 years
Noemi	5/9/2010	1 Year!
Alex	5/22/2010	1 Year!
Susan	5/?/2006	5 years
Suki	5/26/1995	16 years

District 5

Tom W.	4/12/1991	20 years
Keith K.	4/07/1998	13 years
Mike P.	4/13/1999	12 years
Laura	4/20/2004	7 years
Keith B.	4/25/2004	7 years
Charles	4/12/2005	6 years
Erik	4/03/2006	5 years
Robert	4/01/2009	2 years
Reinhard	4/11/2009	2 years
David	4/12/2009	2 years
Lyman	4/27/2010	1 Year!
Gary	5/08/2010	4 years
Mary C.	5/10/2010	1 Year!
Tom G.	5/15/2010	1 Year!

District 6

Carol R.	4/20/1991	20 years
Kevin B.	4/22/2002	9 years
Sam S.	5/5/2002	9 years
Maria S.	5/15/2003	8 years

District 7

Josh	5/4/00	11 years
Alan B.	5/1/97	14 years
Sam K.	5/?/91	20 years

District 8

Bobby M.	4/27/09	2 years
Jodi L.	4/9/03	8 years

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marijuana anonymous worldwide

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For a complete listing of all meetings visit www.marijuana-anonymous.org

SPECIAL NOTICE!

This is to inform everyone that the OFFICIAL ADDRESS of MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS has changed as of DECEMBER 7, 2010.

Every effort has been made to account for all the business names that can be used for our address; but please be careful in future to use the address below as the address for ALL official correspondence, including 7th Traditions:

**MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES
PO BOX 7807
TORRANCE, CA 90504**

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD! Tell your local meetings, tell your DSC meetings, and especially tell your Treasury and Literature chairs!

This notice will appear on the website, and will be carried in the New Leaf, for a period of a year. Thanks in advance for helping to make the transition a smooth one!



HELP WANTED

FIELD EDITOR NEEDED

INTERESTED ADDICTS

SHOULD EMAIL

THE ANLP BOARD.

 anlp@marijauna-anonymous.org 

**Your New Leaf Needs Your Story!
Write yours and submit it today!
anlp@marijauna-anonymous.org**

ROVING REPORTER ASKS?

Question for June

What defects of character work in your life today?
Why?

Please submit answers by July 17

Step Seven

Humbly Ask God to remove our shortcomings.

Tradition Seven

Every M.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.