

People of Color Welcome to Marijuana Anonymous (a.k.a Reefer, Weed)(African-Americans, Afro-Canadians, Latinas/os, Native Americans, Jamaicans and any other Persons of Color—JOIN US!!) YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!!

Here's what some M.A. members have experienced:

From a sister of blackness : "I HAVE BEEN SMOKING SINCE IT WAS CALLED REEFER. NOW ITS WEED AND I AM SO DELIGHTED THAT I GOT TO MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS. TEENS CALL IT BY THE WEED NAME AND THINK OF IT AS WATER, BUT I KNOW THAT IT NEARLY MADE ME GIVE MY SOUL TO FOLKS THAT CARED NOT IN THE LEAST ABOUT MY LIFE."

"Don't talk to me about being high. I had found something that I could finally be good at. There was no fear of failure or success or not being good enough. Blunt after blunt after blunt. Day after day after day. I'd been high for 16 years—half of my life. 16 years of being dumbed down and willingly perpetratin' the stereotype. Until M.A. entered my life I was too high to recognize that I AM that proud, educated, black woman that everyone said I could be."

A person of Jamaican Ancestry Speaks: "Marijuana or "reefer" as we called it back in the day was not a harmless drug for me. It led me to loan my car out to underage drivers. It had me doing things that I now realize were not being free and cool. Walking into a M.A. meeting felt kind of strange, at first. Then I started listening the stories or "shares." The fear, loneliness, dysfunction and underline desire to avoid feelings and to escape the world by getting "nice" was universal among this group and I started to relate. I began to realize that I am not alone. Just like you are not alone!"

We all have healing to do. M.A. is a place to share about the challenges of life in recovery. By attending meetings with nonjudgmental others, sharing feelings and learning to trust your Higher Power (which is GOD as YOU see him/her/it), your life will slowly get better. And maybe, just maybe, pot will loosen its hold on you.

Questions and Answers from MA Members of Color:

Q: In what way or ways did you feel like you struggled to relate when coming to MA?

A: Saw so many white folks and not more than maybe one or two people who were black or latino/a.

Q: How did that change with time?

A: Kept coming and saw that even though many white folks did not directly reach out to the newcomer who was Black or latino /a the place was neutral enough that it didn't feel hostile.

Q: What would you like to say directly to the newcomer of color to encourage him or her to keep coming back?

A: Newcomers keep an open mind. Issues about race won't be healed overnight. AND the reality is the common problem with smoking has all of us in the same situation in one way at least!

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Any person of color wishing to revise, expand to or edit this pamphlet, consider it an act of service and contact the World Service at \_\_\_\_\_ with ideas and/or suggestions.

The M.A. family knows how it feels to lose control over marijuana use—to be thinking about smoking pot all the time; to break promises to ourselves and others about limiting our use; to experience our world getting smaller and smaller as we become more and more isolated and passive. We know what it is like to become dependent on this so-called “harmless” drug.” We Are Here to Help...

Marijuana Anonymous is for men and women whose lives have become unmanageable over the intensity and quantity of their drug use. M.A. uses the same principles as Alcoholics Anonymous, which has proven over and over to be really effective in overcoming addictions. We are a fellowship of non-professionals (We help ourselves!) and membership is free of charge. We do not maintain membership lists and what is said at meetings is completely confidential.