



## A NEW LEAF

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 necessarily reflect the opinions of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole.

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## "Monster God"

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people shout about how angry they are with God and how they have a problem with "the God thing." These types of statements always make me think the two things. If you really don't believe in a God, or a higher power, or whatever, then who exactly are you mad at? If something does not exist, then it seems foolish to harbor a resentment against it. In addition, it seems arrogant for these individuals to think that God has nothing better to do than to pick on them. Yes, some of these people are on a real ego trip.

My life has not been a bed of roses. I can cite many examples of how things could have been better. I can even tell you when the responsibility of others ceased and any difficulties I experienced became my responsibility. I have made some good choices, and I have made many, many, MANY mistakes. People who know me well ask me "How do you smile? How do you maintain your sanity? How do you do it?" I tell them that it is God, pure and simple, who helps me to maintain my willingness to go through another day.

True, I can see several key points in my life where I could have made a different choice or turned in a different direction, but I didn't and in some instances I paid a heavy price. Some would say "Where is your God now?" My reply is: "Right here." That's right. My God is right here, helping me to lick my wounds, letting me know that everything is all right and that even though I screwed up once again, I am still loved and valued. When I consider that God still loves and encourages me, despite the many times I have made a mess of things in this short life, I am amazed. One thing is clear: if God will help sustain, comfort, and forgive a constant screw-up like me, I know he will do the same for anyone.

Monster God? I don't think so. From the time I was a child, that type of being wasn't real. It still isn't. There may be other forces that can help create some of the pain that others associate with this monster God. I believe that if you take a closer look you will find that most of this pain is directly related to our own choices—whom we associate with, how we manage our affairs, or what we expose our bodies to. It's all our choice. **Our choice.**

One final thought: there are other forces that are at work to bring about our downfall, but here, too, we have guidance and protection through the one true Higher Power. I look at my son and watch how he is growing and developing. I pray for him and want the best for him. But I know that he will have to make his own mistakes, just as he experiences his own successes. I am here to soften the blows, but ultimately he will be responsible for the choices he makes. I will help him fix whatever I can if he allows me the opportunity to do so. I believe the same is true with God. He may not undo the damage we create for ourselves, but he will help us go through the pain or difficulty until we are able to get back on track.

If you are like me and you constantly have to put your fingers in the fire, it is good to know that you have an advocate to soothe your wounds, to calm your anxieties, and to help show you the way. ■■

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