

The parable of an alcoholic who was stuck in a hole and could not find his way out

A hopeless alcoholic had fallen into a hole and could not find a way out.

A businessman happened to pass by and heard the alcoholic calling out for help. The businessman gave him some money and told him buy himself a ladder. But the alcoholic could not find a ladder, so he stayed stuck in his hole. (Some say the businessman actually gave the alcoholic a ladder but he sold it to finance his next spree only to realize he was still in the hole).

A doctor walked by and the alcoholic cried out, "Help me, I can't get out of this hole." The doctor said, "Take these pills, they will relieve the pain." The alcoholic said thanks, but when the pills ran out, he was still painfully aware that he was stuck in the hole.

A renowned psychiatrist strolled by and heard the alcoholic pleading for help. He stopped and said, "How did you get into that hole? Were you born there? Were you put there by your parents? Tell me about yourself, it will alleviate your sense of loneliness." So the alcoholic talked with him for an hour, then the psychiatrist said he had to leave, but he would come back next week. The alcoholic thanked him but realized he was still stuck in his hole.

A priest came by and the alcoholic called out for help. The priest gave him a Bible and said, "I'll say a prayer for you." He got down on his knees and prayed for the alcoholic, then left. The alcoholic was very grateful and thanked the priest for his Bible which he read, but he was still stuck in his hole.

Finally a recovered alcoholic happened to be passing by and heard the poor man's cry for help. Right away, the recovered alcoholic jumped into the hole with him. The suffering alcoholic said, "Why did you do that? Now we're both stuck here in this god forsaken hole!" But the recovered alcoholic said with a gleam in his eye, "It's okay, I've been here before; I know the way out!"