The Set Aside Prayer

The Set Aside Prayer (also called the Lay Aside Prayer) is said before reading the Big Book, at the beginning of Step work, and at the beginning of some meetings. It asks God to remove preconceived beliefs so that we may learn something new.

> *Dear God, please set aside everything I think I know about myself, this book, my disease, these steps, and especially about You dear God so that I might have an open mind and a new experience with all these things. Please help me to see the truth.*

Origin

The Set Aside Prayer comes from **Don Pritz** of the **Denver AA** group known as the **"God Squad."** It is cited on the Primary Purpose Group website.

Big Book Basis

The prayer is not Big Book text, but it is built from BB directions regarding preconceived beliefs, prejudice, and the need for open-mindedness:

- p.42-¶2: *"It meant I would have to throw several lifelong conceptions out of the window"*
- p.46-¶1: *"We found that as soon as we were able to lay aside prejudice and express even a willingness to believe in a power greater than ourselves, we commenced to get results..."*
- p.47-¶4: *"Do not let any prejudice you may have against any spiritual terms deter you from honestly asking yourself what they mean to you."*
- p.47-¶4: *"Besides a seeming inability to accept much on faith, we often found ourselves handicapped by obstinacy, sensitiveness, and unreasoning prejudice."*
- p.47-¶4: *"It finally beat us into a state of reasonableness. Sometimes this was a tedious process; we hope no one else will be prejudiced for as long as some of us were."*

- p.49-¶2: *“We who have traveled this dubious path, beg you to lay aside prejudice, even against organized religion.”*
- p.58-¶3: *“Some of us have tried to hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely.”*

From the Big Book Awakening Step Four guide at bigbook.it/step-4/ · a page of the guide, not the workbook itself: the workbook's own pages are linked from “Originals & sources.” · source set-aside-prayer.md