

## Blood, The 12 Steps, Forgiveness

In addiction meetings, we hear at least one story about how the person's substance of choice started out not as THE problem, but as a solution TO a problem. I'm sure you have heard that take on it, a turnaround of sorts where the addictive substance began as an ahhhhhhh and morphed into an ouch.

I recall drinking a glass, ok, two glasses, of vino to give me social courage. But after a month of that indulgence, the relaxation of liquid courage became an emotional necessity if I even wanted to socialize.

In ancient times, before PETA, when a person believed he had really messed up and wanted to sacrifice that mistake to feel better ( all right, it was more serious than that but you get my drift), he led a holy person to the sacrificial animal to be slaughtered in his stead. The priest put his hand on the head of the animal and after the animal was killed, the blood was poured around the altar. The animal took on the boo boos of the penitent, something like a Death Eater (Sin Eater), by absorbing the awfulness done by the dying person whose "sins" were then transferred to the Death Eater. The Catholic Mass, the Eucharist, is the ritual of accepting the transformed blood and body of Christ Jesus into the body of the penitent, transmuting the energies of sin

Now that you are sufficiently grossed-out, let me refer you to our 12 Step method of continuing this arcane practice. When we go through the Steps, we energetically transfer our mistakes to the altar of public arena. Stay with me now...we bring self-awareness into consciousness, choose to turn it over to Higher Power, proceeding then through the steps as we own it and attempt to resolve our actions. "If two of you gather in my name, I am there". See the connection?

In the Mass, as Christ Jesus shed His blood on the cross, we are no longer required to offer blood. Instead, we take into our own body the sacrifice He made for us. It's complicated but understanding the blood thing is important.

When I am consulted by law enforcement on a case, I emphasize the importance of recognizing that spilled blood holds energy. How? It's the iron. It's magnetic. That is why discarnate or purgatorial spirits are drawn to accidents and murders.

What about animal blood? When someone prepares for initiation into the arcane mysteries, he is required to avoid all meat. Except fish, fish has a neutral energetic. Blood is magnetic, so when one sacrificed an animal in his stead, the life force absorbed the energy. The ritual of consciously inserting intent into blood is powerful. The Eucharist holds this same energy and working the 12 Steps mirrors consciously intending that resolution of conflict.

I can feel the eyes of my priests staring me down on this one, but I think we can agree that not everyone takes Communion so the 12 Steps may fill in some of those needs. (As if the clergy buys that...). Whatever, I'm trying here! As a Jesuit Catholic, we try to

look at things a bit differently, right?

My point is this...Higher Power requests conscious communion with our intentions towards reconciliation. We can reconcile our negativity in many chosen ways, but conscious intent is the requisite for transferring that sin of commission or omission into the chalice of forgiveness, peace of mind.

What are your ideas on this?