I was attending AA once a week ( a small women's group) and I was sober some 30 + years and liked it that way. Now, did I still like AA? Honestly ...not really. I had moved on from the smallness of AA's framework and had been seeking for the later 15 years for some other way - or really community. I really didn't like most of those I met in AA. The new people were the only refreshing thing in meetings- yes there were some I liked. Many were  very judgemental , hyper critical, obsessed with themselves and so after all those years - of nothing - meaning booze - I could see the damage AA had done on many who were sober but never got any therapy. Yes there were some nice people still there - yet I felt out of place and really done with it all - it felt so old - and really ...just not helpful –

A young women came to my home group meeting in Culver City  and was sobbing about how she met this guy- he circled the meeting place ( The Marina Center) asking if she needed a ride- she finally succumbed, he drove her home - a short 5 minutes to her tiny apartment in Mar Vista, asked if he could come up- he did , and he never left. He didn't have a job, she had 2 , he was 9 years sober  and in his late 20's. She was sober 33 days , and was 22. When she told her story she added that her sponsor blamed her for what had happened and asked to " what was her part in it all" - a few of us gasped. We knew Kali had no part in this- she was young, wanted to be sober - and was preyed on - sexually harassed ...aka 13 stepped AA style.

This guy was a "player " and was already cock blocking his friends when a new young female entered the scene-me- I was 18 years old. My first encounter is not the obvious 13 step- because I had not entered my first meeting- but rather my first quasi meeting was  a social one on a beach in Kailua , Hawaii in 1975. I met a nice guy - who we will call John  - who was a very enthusiastic stepper. He had long straight blonde hair with a flowing beard to match. He loved AA, swore by AA, and was very new age literate. I liked him - he seemed nice.  I was already sober 14 days on my own. I had quit 2 weeks prior and had prayed to never drink again.  I was feeling better physically . New to the Hawaiian Islands, I was living with my DAD and his new wife. I worked in a restaurant in the kitchen and in a Bakery to keep myself busy. The next day I walked down to my beach, it was not just John, but a group of his friends and John- they waved me to come over and join them - so I did. I felt so unsure. They looked nothing like my friends back in Inwood . I was hesitant. But I walked through the soft white sand in my bare feet- warm to my touch.

Another guy who we will call Ken approached me as I sat off to the side near this strange group of sunny California hippie looking young people, on the quiet beach in Kailua. After talking to John again- Ken began flirting with me - he was 25  and 5 years sober and looked a bit like Kenny Loggins. I was 18 and 2 weeks sober. He asked me to go out on a hiking date. I said yes. John was furious ,  because he had met me first and unknown to me, liked me very much,  and said he thought" I was his soulmate".  As it turns out Ken had slept with John's ex wife, years ago, and made it a habit to cock block John more then once as the story goes.

I was very genuine about wanting to make a big change in my life which I had already done on my own. I was not powerless. Ken was not as sincere or giving as John was. I heard that they had another  screaming match back at their cottage after I left. And so my introduction to AA on a beach in Hawaii was filled with way more drama then I cared for.

Next day Ken and I went for a hike. Then a trip to Maui.  Things didn't work out but the encounter left me feeling manipulated, used and dumped.    Even over the years this guy shared in meetings how this was his issue -his inability to commit -  like he had no control over what he did with any of the women he dated- geesh.... We rolled our eyes during many of his shares over the years. This incident did put me in an emotional upheaval which then lead John to suggest I come to meetings with them  and work the steps. Which I did. Looking back - I wish I never went back to any meetings with them. It was an odd, rocky time- sometimes euphoric - sometimes surreal-as I was being indoctrinated into the AA thinking and ways.

I then traveled back to NEW YORK CITY sober, and becoming evangelical about "carrying the message " of AA, to all my friends and even my family -while carrying my Big Book all over the city.

Years later Ken took me to lunch and apologized for his behavior over the years. Its funny because he likes to deny this and pretend he did no wrong= so why did he make amends to me 6 years after this occurrence when I was 24 and 6 years sober ? I don't care anymore-but his behavior became notorious in NA circles on the island of Oahu. He was not a rapist- no no - just an asshole 13 stepper- who used his understanding of the 12 step jargon to seduce new women in the program.

It use to baffle me why I stayed in AA so long - but not anymore - AA is a very fast acting brainwashing machine - using the US and WE - the readings alone at every meeting are brainwashing tools. Chapter 5 as they drone on and  on, reading it in that strange way, in that odd tone - you know what I mean if you go to AA.

Now looking over the 12 steps- the 12 th step seems even more ludicrous then ever before - The step asks one to turn their "Will" and Their lives Over to the care of GOD - my will -  and my life - why ? Who they hell are these AA people to want my will to be turned over to some strangers - Seems pretty cult like to me - I was raised a Catholic - **I was taught that we had free will -** I think this step and its **demands are extremely dangerous** and... is a very sneaky way to indoctrinate - while pretending to be benign- and subtle - **there is nothing subtle about AA** and its mad steps to hell. After all - it captured me for 36 years- like Leah Remini's 36 years  in Scientology. Too many years wasted. Too many service assignments given.

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I do understand how vulnerable you feel during AA meetings where you get creepy stares from people. I was sexually  exploited by a younger AA guy right at the first. This guy was a "player " and was already cock blocking his friends when a new young female entered the scene-me- I was 18 years old. My first encounter is not the obvious 13 step- because I had not entered my first meeting- but rather my first quasi meeting was  a social one on a beach in Kailua , Hawaii in 1975. I met a nice guy - who we will call John  - who was a very enthusiastic stepper. He had long straight blonde hair with a flowing beard to match. He loved AA, swore by AA, and was very new age literate. I liked him - he seemed nice.  I was already sober 14 days on my own. I had quit 2 weeks prior and had prayed to never drink again.  I was feeling better physically . New to the Hawaiian Islands, I was living with my DAD and his new wife. I worked in a restaurant in the kitchen and in a Bakery to keep myself busy. The next day I walked down to my beach, it was not just John, but a group of his friends and John- they waved me to come over and join them - so I did. I felt so unsure. They looked nothing like my friends back in Inwood . I was hesitant. But I walked through the soft white sand in my bare feet- warm to my touch.