

The 12 Traditions of A.A

One - Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

Two - For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Three - The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Four - Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Five - Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry it's message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Six - An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Seven - Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Eight -Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

Nine - A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Ten - Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Eleven - Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

Twelve - Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities. *Reprinted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous*

The Houghton Lake Group

2410 N Markey Rd, Houghton Lake MI



*I am responsible.
When anyone, anywhere
reaches out for help, I want
the hand of A.A. always to
be there. And for that; I am
responsible*



ACCEPTANCE

And acceptance is the answer to *all* my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing or situation - some fact of my life - unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing, or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment. Nothing, absolutely nothing, happens in God's world by mistake. Until I could accept my alcoholism, I could not stay sober; unless I accept my life completely on life's terms, I cannot be happy. I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me and in my attitudes. *Pg. 417 Big Book*

We were now at **Step Three**. Many of us said to our Maker, *as we understood Him*: **"God, I offer myself to Thee—to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will."**

"Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!"

We thought well before taking this step making sure we were ready; that we could at last abandon ourselves utterly to Him.

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Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you—until then.

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SEVENTH STEP PRAYER

When ready, we say something like this: **"My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen."** We have then completed Step Seven. *Pg. 76 AA Big Book*