

1) **Tradition One**

A) 12 x 12

1) **Pg. 129, paragraph 3**

a) "No A.A. can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled."

B) **A.A. Comes Of Age**

1) **Pg. 98, paragraphs 2 & 3:**

a) "...we soon found that there were forces among us that could threaten us...", "These were the desires for power, for domination, for glory, and for money. They were all the more dangerous because they were invariably powered by self-righteousness, self-justification, and the destructive power of anger, usually masquerading as righteous indignation."

b) "True brotherhood, harmony, and love, fortified by clear insights and right practices, are the only answers. And the purpose of A.A.'s traditional principles is to bring these forces to the top and keep them there. Only then can our common welfare be served: only then can A.A.'s unity become permanent."

C) **The Language of the Heart**

1) **Pg. 8, paragraphs 3 & 4**

a) "Yet we powerfully unite around them (the Twelve Steps of our AA Program) because the truth they contain has saved our lives...."

b) "Ultimately, these truths govern his life and he comes to live under their authority, the most powerful authority known, **the authority of his full consent, willingly given**. He is ruled not by people, but by principles, by truths and, as most of us would say, by God."

2) **Pg. 40, paragraph 1**

a) "Hence it is not strange that the only real authority to be found in AA is that of spiritual principle. It is never personal authority."

3) **Pg. 76, paragraphs 3 & 4**

a) "Few A.A. groups impose penalties on anyone for nonconformity. We do suggest, but we don't discipline. Instead, compliance or noncompliance with any principle of A.A. is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he is the judge of his own conduct. Those words of old time, "judge not," we observe literally."

b) "...how shall it ever be sure that the common welfare does come first? How is it possible to be governed without a government?"

4) **Pg. 77, paragraph 1**

a) "...there is no constituted human authority to restrain us. Actually, our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards."

b) "Group opinion shows him that he is off the beam, his own conscience tells him he is dead wrong, and if he goes too far, Barleycorn brings him real conviction."

5) **Pg. 133, paragraph 4**

a) "Without doubt, that Book (Alcoholics Anonymous) is the backbone of our unity;..."

2) **Tradition Two**

A) 12 x 12

1) **Pg. 132, paragraph 1**

a) "...when indeed no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience..."; "...the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience."

2) Pg. 134, paragraph 1

a) "...the group now has a so-called rotating committee, very sharply limited in its authority. In no sense whatever can its members govern or direct the group. They are servants."

b) "The committee gives no spiritual advice, judges no one's conduct, issues no orders. Every one of them may be promptly eliminated at the next election if they try this."; "...they make the belated discovery that they are really servants, not senators."

B) A.A. Comes Of Age

1) Pg. 99, paragraph 3

a) "...the now proven fact that the conscience of the group, when properly informed of the facts and the issues and principles involved, was often wiser than any leader, self-appointed or not."; "Because of his position of assumed authority, he was too often influenced by personal prejudices and interests."

3) Tradition Three

A) The Language of the Heart

1) Pg. 79, paragraph 4

a) "Our membership Tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for the purpose for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Here our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight AA activities."

4) Tradition Four

A) 12 x 12

1) Pg. 146, paragraph 1 & 3

a) "Autonomy...in relation to us, it means very simply that every A.A. group can manage its affairs exactly as it pleases, except when A.A. as a whole is threatened."

b) "Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for the purpose for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

c) "We saw that the group must eventually conform to whatever tested principles would guarantee survival."

2) Pg. 147, paragraph 1

a) "This meant that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group as an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own group conscience as a guide to action."

B) A.A. Comes Of Age

1) Pg. 105, Top paragraph, paragraphs 1 & 2

a) "...in its original long form, Tradition Four declares: 'Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for the purpose for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.'"

b) “This means that these two or three alcoholics could try sobriety in any way they liked. They could disagree with any or all of A.A.’s principles and still call themselves an A.A. group.”

c) “If they found something better than A.A., or if they were able to improve on our methods, then in all probability we would adopt what they discovered for general use everywhere.”

d) “...we found we need no human authority whatever. We have two authorities which are far more effective.”; “There is God, our Father...The other authority is named John Barleycorn.”

C) The Language of the Heart

1) Pg. 80, paragraph 2

a) “...let us look more closely at Tradition Four. The first sentence guarantees each A.A. group local autonomy. With respect to its own affairs, the group may make any decisions, adopt any attitudes it likes.”

b) “No overall or intergroup authority should challenge this primary privilege. We feel this ought to be so, even though the group might sometimes act with complete indifference to our Tradition.”

c) “...an A.A. group could, if it wished, hire a paid preacher and support him out of the proceeds of a group nightclub. Though such an absurd procedure would be miles outside our Tradition, the group’s ‘right to be wrong’ would be held inviolate.”

d) “We are sure that each group can be granted, and safely granted, these most extreme privileges.”

2) Pg. 81, paragraph 2

a) “...we A.A.’s have universally adopted the principle of consultation. This means that if a single AA group wishes to take any action that might affect surrounding groups, it consults them. Or, it confers with the intergroup committee for the area, if there be one. Likewise, if a group or regional committee wishes to take any action that might affect AA as a whole, it consults the trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation, who are, in effect, our overall general service committee.”

5) Tradition Five

A) 12 x 12

1) Pg. 151, paragraph 1

a) “...it is not strange that our Society has concluded that it has but one high mission—to carry the AA message to those who don’t know there’s a way out.”

B) A.A. Comes Of Age

1) Pg. 107, paragraph 1

a) “...AA has but one single purpose: *to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers*. That is our basic objective, our real reason for existence.”

C) The Language of the Heart

1) Pg. 82, paragraph 2

a) “So the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot, it dare not, ever be diverted from its primary purpose.”

2) Pg. 83, paragraph 3

a) “And may we reflect with ever deepening conviction, that we shall never be at our best except when we hew only to the primary spiritual aim of AA. That of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers alcoholism.”

6) Concept Twelve

A) Warranty Four

1) "That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity."

2) "Here on the one hand we erect a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority; and on the other hand we take notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small."

B) Warranty Six

1) "In preceding Concepts, much attention has been drawn to the extraordinary liberties which the AA Traditions accord to the individual member and to his group:

a) "no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to AA principles"

b) "no fees or dues to be levied – voluntary contributions only"

c) "no member to be expelled from AA – membership always to be the choice of the individual"

d) "each AA group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes – it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure AA as a whole"

e) "and finally that nay group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, *as a group*, they have no other purpose or affiliation."

2) "that no action ought to be taken in anger, haste, or recklessness; that care will be observed to respect and protect all minorities; that no action should ever be personally punitive; that whenever possible, important actions will be taken in substantial unanimity; and that our Conference will ever be prudently on guard against tyrannies, great or small, whether these be found in the majority or in the minority."

7) AA Guidelines: Central or Intergroup Offices

A) Functions of a Central Office

1) Pg. 1, paragraphs 1 & 2

a) "The A.A. experience has demonstrated that central offices are helpful, particularly in populous areas. There are nearly 1000 central/intergroup offices throughout the world, performing vital AA services. These constitute a network of service outlets and AA contacts to help carry the AA message."

b) "Sometimes, however, central office ventures have bogged down in disputes over money, authority, and like matters—thus becoming less effective in carrying the AA message. It's not always clear why these troubles have come up, but often it's because the proper functions of a central office were not clearly explained or understood, or there was some disregard of the principles in AA's Twelve Traditions."

B) Getting Under Way

1) Pg. 2, paragraph 2

a) "Once formed, the committee takes over the responsibility for the project and outlines it aims and purposes for approval by the participant groups. Such an outline might cover these points:

1) "Listing of all groups in the community that want to participate."

2) "A reminder that financial support is voluntary and not a condition of membership (in keeping with AA tradition).

3) "A clear explanation that responsibility for the maintenance of the service office rests with the groups. Therefore, each group should name a central office representative and an alternate to serve a specified term as the connecting link between the group and its central office."

4) "A summary of the functions of the central office and an explanation of how it will be staffed and operated."

5) "A discussion of how the service office will handle such vital matters as inquiries from newcomers, relations with the press, and similar duties."

6) "Assurance that the service center will be operated in keeping with AA's Twelve Traditions."

C) Group Representation at a Central Office

1) Pg. 2, paragraph 1 & 2

a) "Service centers usually have no authority on their own account; they derive it from the participating groups. Local group representatives reflect the groups' conscience in the service center operations."

b) "In most communities, a central office committee or steering committee is set up to handle the administrative activities of the service office." "Periodically, the steering committee reports to group representatives on central office problems and accomplishments."

D) Communication

1) Pg. 4, paragraph 3

a) "Central offices and general service area committees are complementary, rather than competitive, AA operations. Both exist to help insure AA unity and to fulfill AA's primary purpose of carrying the message."

E) Good Luck and Smooth Sailing

1) Pg. 4, paragraph 1

a) "These are suggestions only, and it's the spirit and cooperation behind the central office idea that will make it work."

8) Dr, Bob and the Good Oldtimers

A) Sudden growth in Cleveland

1) Pg. 211, paragraph 5

a) Bill concluded, "The Cleveland pioneers had proved three essential things: the value of personal sponsorship, the worth of the AA book in indoctrinating newcomers, and finally, the tremendous fact that AA, when the word really got around, could now soundly grow to great size."

B) Group concerns and angry rumors

1) Pg. 261, paragraphs 1 – 3

a) "We opened with an audible prayer," said Clarence S. "The speaker, spoke for 45 minutes, and then we closed with the Lord's Prayer."

b) "Then, we would reopen for informal comments, questions, and so forth."

c) "Records in Cleveland show that 93 percent of those who came to us never had a drink again." Today, it's all watered down so much."

2) Pg. 262, top paragraph

a) "I think the program is just the same," he said (Warren C.). "The principles are there; the Steps are there; the practices are there; and the opportunities are there. If you do as the Big Book says, then it is the same program that existed when I came in, in 1939."

9) Alcoholics Anonymous

A) There Is A Solution

1) Pg. 19, paragraph 3

a) "We have concluded to publish an anonymous volume setting forth the problem as we see it. We shall bring to the task our combined experience and knowledge."

B) More About Alcoholism

1) Pg. 30, paragraph 2

a) "We learned that we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics."

C) Into Action

1) Pg. 87, paragraph 2

a) "There are many helpful books also. Suggestions about these may be obtained from one's priest, minister, or rabbi. Be quick to see where religious people are right. Make use of what they offer."