

The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous

- 1.** *Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.*
- 2.** *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.*
- 3.** *The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.*
- 4.** *Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.*
- 5.** *Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*
- 6.** *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.*
- 7.** *Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*
- 8.** *Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.*
- 9.** *A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.*
- 10.** *Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.*
- 11.** *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.*
- 12.** *Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place Principles before personalities.*