

The New/Old NAWay

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The 1982 World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous formed a new subcommittee to “administer the publishing of a monthly magazine on recovery from addiction called the NA way.” The NEW / OLD NA Way, Our magazine, can become a reality with your help. We need articles on recovery from addiction, personal experiences on sharing our message of recovery, spiritual and inspirational articles, thought-provoking growth experiences, reflective one-liners with impact, personal and group experiences in practical application of our traditions. We need Your input. Please pray to be used as an instrument and share in writing what you might otherwise say in a meeting. That's all there is to it.

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Anonymity the Spiritual foundation of all of our traditions

http://magshare.org/narchive/NArchive/Misc/Tradition_12_-_Anonymity.pdf

HOW ANONYMITY IS THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION IN EACH TRADITION

1) "Our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends on N.A. Unity."
Anonymity is the critical ingredient in the first tradition, our personal recovery depends

on it. It depends on unity, and unity is corroded by the egocentricity that is inherent when we are caught up in personality or individuality. Right from the very beginning the traditions point out to us the pre-eminent importance of anonymity. We are confronted immediately with the fact that we can not recover by ourselves, the individual addict can not find recovery in a vacuum, only in unity. Anonymity is our true nature, it is our name, we are Narcotics Anonymous. Anonymity is clearly seen in this tradition. It is the force that drives away the ego self and fosters unity while nurturing our personal recovery.

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."

Here again it is really easy to see anonymity at the center of this tradition. No one of us carries any authority in N.A., even when we lead we are asked to do so in an attitude of humility and selfless service, not the usual one of fear based dictatorial control. God is the ultimate authority and in reality our only authority and he manifests himself through the spiritual principal of group conscience. When our egos interfere, as in the search for power or prestige, when any one addict disdains anonymity and attempts to gain control, govern, or manipulate other addicts, our unity automatically suffers. We join a home group and become part of, our personal opinions, experiences and input become part of a group conscience. Anonymity is the key here again with the emphasis always being placed on the conscience of the whole group, not on the opinion or power of will of any one individual member. It is here in this joint spiritual action as we surrender our egos to the group that God shows himself. And where there is God the disease is automatically arrested and recovery is then possible.

3) "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using"

Here again anonymity rules as the lowest common denominator, no emphasis is placed on individuality. It doesn't matter who we may think we are (our image) or what or how much we used. Our individual characteristics or how much or little money we have are not important or necessary for membership, just that good old desire is all any one of us needs. We are brought together again in anonymity, grouping instead of separating, blending in instead of standing out, because we all have the same desire to stop using. We put aside our individual agendas in order to join others in a new life of service and anonymity. We must recover together and equality (anonymity) is the key.

4) "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or N.A. As a whole"

Here we have anonymity expressing itself from the point of view of the whole group as a unit. Autonomy is critically necessary for each group to be able to function at it's natural best and to have available that maximum flexibility for change while it carries out its primary purpose, it must have that freedom. But, as important as that freedom is, it must stop at the door of other groups. Even the home group is subjected to NA as a whole, to

the spirit of NA, to the principle of recovery. It is group Anonymity that makes our autonomy possible!

5) "Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry the message to the addict who still suffers"

In order for each group to fulfill its purpose, carry the message of recovery, it must of course do that through the actions, desire, and example of its individual members, here again the ego self of the individual addict must subjugate itself to the greater purpose of the group. We can't keep what we have unless we give it away. All that is not given is lost. We must become channels for God's Love, which is how we recover through God's Grace. The emphasis is again placed on Anonymity, away from the importance of the self and towards the importance of the group. The needs of the many outweigh the need of the one.

6) " An N.A. Group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the N.A. Name to any related facility or outside enterprise lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Having been reminded of the nature of our primary purpose in the previous tradition here we are now warned of the possible diversion from that purpose if instead of remaining totally focused in our anonymity we were to dilute the power, purity, and energy of our message by endorsing or affiliating with other fellowships, clubhouses, treatment centers, etc. Vigilance is critical and made easier the more we adhere to the principle of anonymity. Maintaining our singleness of purpose without wasting any energy by straying onto the soft shoulders of outside enterprises of related facilities we insure the directness and success of our purpose. Individually we are more vulnerable to the allure of money, property, and prestige, but in anonymity, as a member of a group, drawing from the whole we become powerful and focused.

7) "Every N.A. Group ought to be fully self supporting declining outside contributions."

This tradition is our continuing reminder of the importance of remaining focused in order to successfully carry a powerfully pure message. The group must operate in total freedom, we can not afford to be influenced by any outside forces that would contaminate our message, but more importantly in the spirit on anonymity, no addict must be allowed to contribute more than their fair share. No addict must rise above the next addict in importance. We are all equal. We are all the same. We must all contribute equally to the well being and survival of the group and the message that the group carries. Anonymity is even more important in this tradition. It is very easy and almost automatic to place oldtimers on pedestals or to look down on newcomers as ignorant or having a lower level of recovery, but especially here we must never forget anonymity. We are all the same. The responsibility for the support of the group must fall equally on all of our shoulders. This applies to monetary as well as all other aspects.

8) "Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional but our service centers may employ special workers."

To further protect us from the danger of confusion and dilution we now begin to be advised of the separation that exists in N.A. And any service center that we (N.A.) may create. This is necessary so that if or when any professional help may be needed to help us carry the message it must be other than N.A. That gets involved. N.A. as such or N.A. as a whole consists solely of the recovery meetings. All else is not N.A. This is necessary so that our message is not tainted or diluted. Although some of us may be professionals in some other areas of our lives, when it comes to N.A. anonymity again takes precedence and we are all just another addict seeking recovery.

9) "N.A. as such ought never be organized but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

This is a further clarification of the same principle stated in the previous tradition. In any organization there must exist stratification and classification and this, of course, runs contrary to anonymity. Even those of us who are asked to lead, who have that capacity and possibility, we must do so only in the attitude of service and humility. We are always directly responsible to those we serve. Any time that we stray from this principal anonymity suffers greatly, the ties that bind us together begin to loosen and addicts start to fall by the wayside. This is why all of our organizational and professional efforts must be kept separate from our efforts to recover and carry the message; even the smallest underestimated influence could be fatal.

10) "Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues hence the N.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

Continuing to zero in on the importance of anonymity. Of course as humans (and addicts) we have an opinion on everything. We are just asked (warned is more like it) to keep them to ourselves while involved in a meeting or carrying the message in any way. The word never is used and never is a very final word. It means at no time. Opinions are nothing more than individual interpretations of a specific situation, they are based and rooted in ego and will sidetrack us every time. Anonymity on the other hand is based in egolessness and is never controversial.

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 film."

Attraction rather than promotion . Promotion implies artificiality whereas we attract those to us who want what we have because our recovery speaks for itself. The spirituality of our daily lives is evident to those who are interested, it is real. It is not our great personalities that mesmerize the suffering addicts, it is the peace of God shining through our sincere eyes that hooks the ones that are ready. It is the good will that emanates from our meeting rooms because of the anonymity, because we try to place principles before personalities, because we accept and welcome and try to love one and all.

12) "Anonymity is the spiritual principal of all our traditions ever reminding us to place principals before personalities."

It is in anonymity that we are automatically welcomed and drawn into the We where God lives in our program, that is why we call it our spiritual foundation. Every time we choose to uphold the principles of the steps and traditions in our daily lives instead of continuing to live the way we used to live controlled by our fears and defects, we are changing our lives, we are getting closer to the God of our understanding. Ever means all the time 24/7 and this vigilance is what will carry us to fulfill ourselves spiritually so we can pass it on to the next aspirant .

Just what is Anonymity ?

A dictionary definition would be a "state of namelessness," Or "a state of being without individuality." As the Basic Text says, in this Way, "the I becomes the we," and we are all equal. The practice of anonymity becomes true humility at work. We realize that We are no better or worse than anyone else. As I've heard many times, "there are No big shots in NA, and no little shots, because one shot and we're all shot."

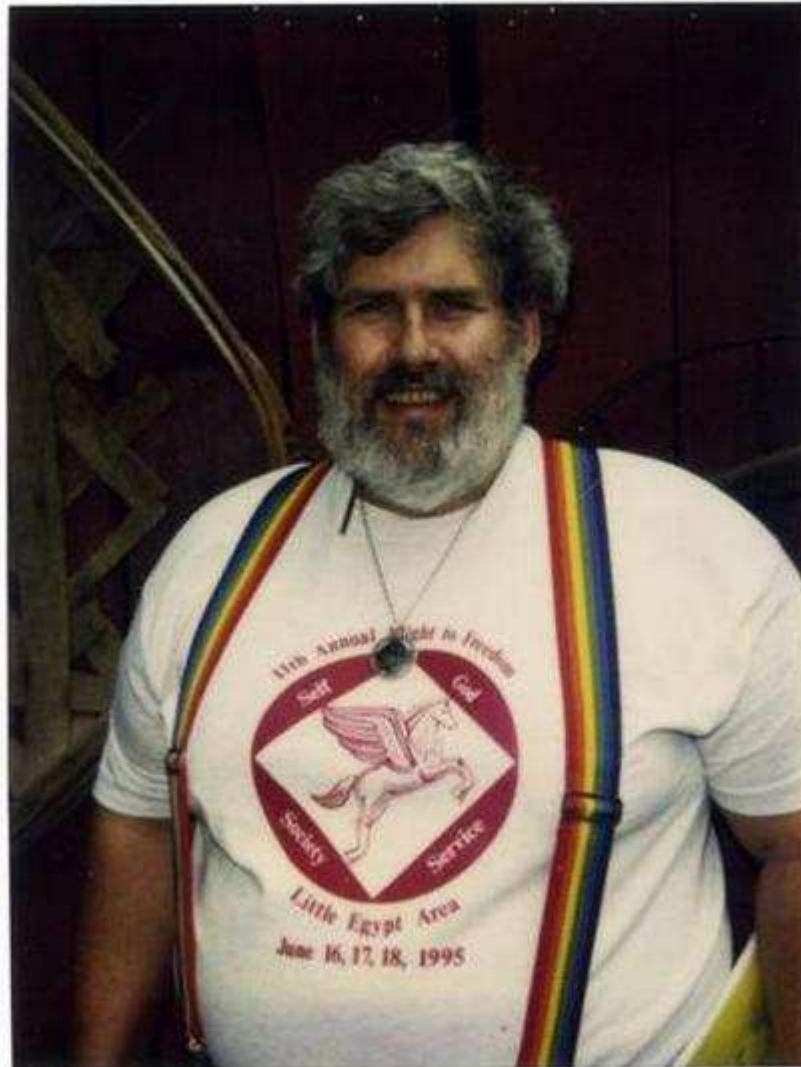
Over the years, the traditions have become more personal to me because their foundation has my undying interest. The traditions have a spiritual foundation, the same foundation I needed in my personal recovery. Anonymity is a principle that has great spiritual integrity; it is based on humility. What I have learned is that my life without some form of humility is just Smoke.

This humility at work also lets us know that we cannot use the NA name or our association with NA for our own personal gain. The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. All of our traditions remind Us that we need to lay aside our drive for personal gain and work together For our common welfare. In this way, we become unified because we know that personal recovery depends on NA unity. These are just some aspects of anonymity. I'm sure that much more could be said on this principle.

The point I really want to make is that through the Practice of anonymity we become humble. Through our humility, we become even more aware of our need for one another. Through this, we become unified. We work together for our common welfare, laying aside personalities. We truly live the principles. In this way, our message is carried clear and undiluted. With a clear message shared at our meetings. The newcomer who sustains us does not get lost in a barrage of mixed messages. Thus, we fulfill our primary purpose and truly grow together as a fellowship.

Creative action of the Spirit

“Creative Action of the Spirit “Creative action of the spirit is living God's will and doing God's work as we understand it. It changes us, and through it, one addict at a time, we change the world. The gems, the text, the people Greg P. touched seemed all to glow a little brighter under his hand. But that Creative Action he taught us about doesn't end when the touch ends, it's something that is bigger than we are, and that lasts longer than we do.



Action, Responsibility are the Keys.

The most efficient Prayer a man can offer to a God of any kind is helpfulness to those in need of help, for what you do for other men, Your God will do for You.

GP

HUMILITY

Humility is the opposite of Pride, which has been called the " deadliest sin. " It is indeed the subtlest of My defects of character. I find acting out of Pride to be the most easily justified sick behavior. It creeps up on Me and I think I'm doing OK when I'm isolating from others in the Fellowship-still going to meeting ,but not sharing My own feelings with others ,still doing service ,but out of Pride not Love.

According to our text, Humility is the necessary spiritual principle of step 7, which states "We Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings" Humility is the state of seeing yourself as You are, or living in Truth. Pride weaves a matrix of lies and illusions around us, which we cannot see through when we are caught up in them. We can see these illusions quite clearly in the lives of others, especially those we know well. That is one reason why we need each other to survive our ongoing disease. My recovery often depends on Your vision.

I believe steps 6 and 7 are the real change steps of our program , I can't even begin to change if I'm living in Pride which will not allow Me to admit the need for change. To maintain this illusion of being OK, I must isolate Myself from others in N.A. Because they will reveal the fallacy of My beliefs. The fellowship is a magic, multi faceted mirror which only reflects truth to Me never falsehood . N.A. Will not co-sign My bullshit, and for that I am grateful, It gives Me a chance to grow and not die in My disease.

PRACTICING THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR TRADITIONS

The program of Narcotics Anonymous is based on the spiritual principles embodied in the Twelve Traditions. Working the Steps forms the basis of our personal recovery and leads to a spiritual awakening. Part of our spiritual awakening may involve being of service to our fellowship. It is through service to Narcotics Anonymous that we begin to understand our Traditions.

Gradually, we learn we can use the Traditions in our everyday lives. The Traditions have much to teach us about simply getting along with one another. When we practice the principles of our Traditions in dealing with all people, our lives become more manageable.

This pamphlet represents the collective experience of a group of addicts trying to practice these principles in all our affairs. We would like to share our experience with you.

TRADITION ONE : Our common welfare should come first; personal Recovery depends upon NA unity.

Our personal recovery begins with an admission that we can no longer make it on our own. We come to recognize that our survival now depends on being part of a fellowship

of recovering addicts. We begin to see how each of us is part of a greater whole, both in and outside the fellowship. The focus of our lives shifts from “ me ” and “ mine ” to “ us ” and “ ours.”

As we experience sharing and caring for other people, our wall of isolation and false self-sufficiency crumbles. We find strength, hope and fulfillment in acknowledging our interdependence. Growing spiritually, we no longer base our actions on purely selfish motives. Our choices reflect the greater interest we take in the welfare of those around us. The spiritual principles of this tradition are acceptance, surrender, and honesty.



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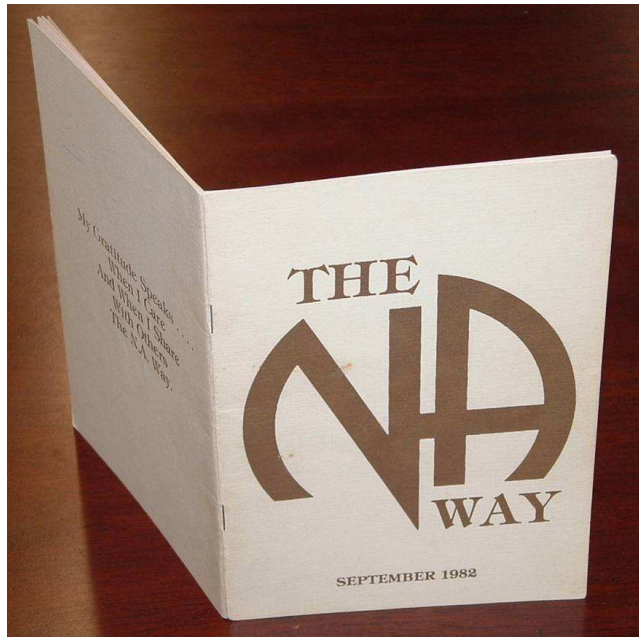
Dedicated to [true trusted service](#) for the NA Member, Group or committee who wants to effectively carry the NA message of total abstinence from all drugs and Recovery from Addiction to the addict who still suffers. We will be steady, reliable, non-political, and non-combative. We are guided by the [12 Traditions](#) of NA and [Directly responsible](#) to those NA Groups we serve.

Your Fellowship Magazine

*Share...
and be shared with...*

*Like it was when NA was new and young and
life-or-death intense:
You matter to us so we will tell you the truth as
we know it with nothing held back.*

“...so that no addict seeking recovery need ever die...”



*We publish your input—the opinions presented are not
necessarily those of the New/Old NA Way or
Anonymi Foundation.*