

Tradition 10

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

Long Form--*No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues--particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.*

How can AA be all inclusive and never exclusive or forbidding to the Alcoholic who still suffers?
Our AA experience has taught us that AA has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy. Tradition 10 is asking us to make some personal sacrifices to ensure EVERY Alcoholic has an equal chance for recovery.

Isn't it true that the Washingtonians, were as successful in keeping sober as we of AA? They were close to finding the rest of the answer to alcoholism but were split apart and no longer effective in reaching the still suffering alcoholic. Early members knew they needed to dedicate themselves to this sole aim, alcoholics helping alcoholics. The Washingtonians became over 100,000 strong with members alcoholic and non-alcoholic, people took notice of their size and wanted to know how they felt on the issues of the times: The abolition of slavery and the drinking habits of America. Members were split on these issues publicly and privately forcing them to detract from the sole aim. They lost their ability to reach the suffering Alcoholic when they became known for their temperance stance. The Washingtonians could not succumb to this tempting of providence, thus these outside issues destroyed them in a few years.

What did the early AA members learn from the Washingtonians experience?

To those now in its fold, Alcoholics Anonymous has made the difference between misery and sobriety, and often the difference between life and death. A.A. can, of course, mean just as much to uncounted alcoholics not yet reached. Therefore, no society of men and women ever had a more urgent NEED for continuous effectiveness and permanent unity. We alcoholics see that we must work together and hang together, else most of us will finally die alone.

The "12 Traditions" of Alcoholics Anonymous are, we A.A.'s believe, the best answers that our experience has yet given to those ever urgent questions, "How can A.A. best function?" and, "How can A.A. best stay whole and so survive?"

The AA Tradition, Appendices I

- a.) What is the importance of sticking to a single goal?**
- b.) How ego can use the forum for other purposes which interfered with the single spiritual aim?**
- c.) How important is it to avoid using AA for ANY OTHER PURPOSE?**

Will all this mean we need to set aside our own personal ambitions and require us to be self sacrificing?

We are not allied with any particular faith, sect or denomination, nor do we oppose anyone. We simply wish to be helpful to those who are afflicted.

Forward to the first edition, pg. xiv

We are careful never to show intolerance or hatred of drinking as an institution. Experience shows that such an attitude is not helpful to anyone. Every new alcoholic looks for this spirit among us and is immensely relieved when he finds we are not witchburners. A spirit of intolerance might repel alcoholics whose lives could have been saved, had it not been for such stupidity. We would not even do the cause of temperate drinking any good, for not one drinker in a thousand likes to be told anything about alcohol by one who hates it.

Working with others, pg. 103.

- a.) Working with others?**
- b.) AA ahead of personal wants and desires?**
- c.) Assuring we do not allow our meetings to be distracted by other issues, discussion ,or participation?**