

Tradition VI

SHORT FORM: 'AN AA GROUP OUGHT NEVER ENDORSE, FINANCE, OR LEND THE AA NAME TO ANY RELATED FACILITY OR OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE, LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY, AND PRESTIGE DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE.'

LONG FORM: 'PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY, AND AUTHORITY MAY EASILY DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY SPIRITUAL AIM. WE THINK, THEREFORE, THAT ANY CONSIDERABLE PROPERTY OF GENUINE USE TO AA SHOULD BE SEPARATELY INCORPORATED AND MANAGED, THUS DIVIDING THE MATERIAL FROM THE SPIRITUAL. AN AA GROUP, AS SUCH, SHOULD NEVER GO INTO BUSINESS. SECONDARY AIDS TO AA, SUCH AS CLUBS OR HOSPITALS WHICH REQUIRE MUCH PROPERTY OR ADMINISTRATION, OUGHT TO BE INCORPORATED AND SO SET APART THAT, IF NECESSARY, THEY CAN BE FREELY DISCARDED BY THE GROUPS. HENCE SUCH FACILITIES OUGHT NOT TO USE THE AA NAME. THEIR MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THEM. FOR CLUBS, AA MANAGERS ARE USUALLY PREFERRED. BUT HOSPITALS, AS WELL AS OTHER PLACES OF RECUPERATION, OUGHT TO BE WELL OUTSIDE AA—AND MEDICALLY SUPERVISED. WHILE AN AA GROUP MAY COOPERATE WITH ANYONE, SUCH COOPERATION OUGHT NEVER GO SO FAR AS AFFILIATION OR ENDORSEMENT, ACTUAL OR IMPLIED. AN AA GROUP CAN BIND ITSELF TO NO ONE.'

Make a list of areas of your life, e.g.

Home
Work
AA
Friends
Other

Ask, with each of these areas (where relevant):

- Do I lend my name / attach my identity to anything outside me—job, social or economic status, appearance, abilities, etc.?
- Am I pursuing money, property, prestige, etc., in distraction from my primary purpose? (Clue: do I think about these matters more than necessary for the conduct of my activities?)
- Am I suffering the associated problems—worry, depression, low self-esteem?
- Do I treat my profession, business, or occupation—or any other activities—as separate endeavours that may succeed or fail without affecting my self-esteem?
- When my profession, business, or occupation—or any other activity or relationship—ceases to be an effective channel for service, do I freely discard it?
- Am I bound to anything or anyone? (Clue: what am I scared of losing?)
- Is my response to emotional disturbance a return to primary purpose?
- Do I use therapy, religion, philosophy etc. as a substitute for the programme?
- Do I pursue my primary purpose for its own sake ('for fun or for free') or is this a means to an end (money, property, prestige)?
- Do I take anything personally, other than God's love for me as His kid?

With each question, ask: (1) What is going on? (2) Where am I at fault? (3) What is my corrective measure?

Tradition VI ideas:

'The more AA sticks to its primary purpose, the greater will be its helpful influence everywhere.' (AA Comes of AA, 109:5)

'Reinforced by what grace I could secure in prayer, I found I had to exert every ounce of will and action to cut off these faulty emotional dependencies upon people, upon AA, indeed, upon any set of circumstances whatsoever. Only then could I be free to love as Francis had.' (LOTH, 237:7)