

Tradition VII

SHORT FORM: 'EVERY AA GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING, DECLINING OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS.'

LONG FORM: 'THE AA GROUPS THEMSELVES OUGHT TO BE FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THEIR OWN MEMBERS. WE THINK THAT EACH GROUP SHOULD SOON ACHIEVE THIS IDEAL; THAT ANY PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF FUNDS USING THE NAME OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS, WHETHER BY GROUPS, CLUBS, HOSPITALS, OR OTHER OUTSIDE AGENCIES; THAT ACCEPTANCE OF LARGE GIFTS FROM ANY SOURCE, OR OF CONTRIBUTIONS CARRYING ANY OBLIGATION WHATEVER, IS UNWISE. THEN TOO, WE VIEW WITH MUCH CONCERN THOSE AA TREASURIES WHICH CONTINUE, BEYOND PRUDENT RESERVES, TO ACCUMULATE FUNDS FOR NO STATED AA PURPOSE. EXPERIENCE HAS OFTEN WARNED US THAT NOTHING CAN SO SURELY DESTROY OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE AS FUTILE DISPUTES OVER PROPERTY, MONEY, AND AUTHORITY.'

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

Home
Work
AA
Friends
Other

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

- Am I self-supporting financially—or do I depend on others?
- Do I accept substantial gifts—what is the price tag?
- Do I give substantial gifts—what is the price tag?
- Do I have or am I working towards a prudent reserve of saving one year's living expenses plus provision for a self-supporting old age?
- Do I accumulate excess funds—or do I give excess funds away to charities?
- Is money my servant or master?
- Do I engage in futile disputes about property, money, and authority?
- Am I dependent on God or on others or things of the world?
- Do I take responsibility for my spiritual condition or do I expect others or meetings or fix me?
- Am I more concerned with giving than getting?

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

Tradition VII ideas:

'Bare running expenses plus a prudent reserve would henceforth be the Foundation's financial policy.' (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Tradition VII)

'Everybody knows that active alcoholics scream that they have no troubles money can't cure. Always, we've had our hands out. Time out of mind we've been dependent upon somebody, usually money-wise.' (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Tradition VII)

'I learned that their money was no longer a symbol of prestige; it was a trust for the best use to which it could be put.' (LOTH, 235:2)

'My basic flaw had always been dependence—almost absolute dependence—on people or circumstances to supply me with prestige, security, and the like. Failing to get these things according to my perfectionist dreams and specifications, I had fought for them. And when defeat came, so did my depression.' (LOTH, 237:5)

'My stability came out of trying to give, not out of demanding that I receive.' (LOTH 238:6)

'If we examine every disturbance we have, great or small, we will find at the root of it some unhealthy dependency and its consequent unhealthy demand.'

If you're emotionally unstable, you're dependent on something unstable, in other words something other than God.