

Tradition XII

SHORT: 'ANONYMITY IS THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF ALL OUR TRADITIONS, EVER REMINDING US TO PLACE PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES.'

LONG: 'AND FINALLY, WE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF ANONYMITY HAS AN IMMENSE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE. IT REMINDS US THAT WE ARE TO PLACE PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES; THAT WE ARE ACTUALLY TO PRACTICE A GENUINE HUMILITY. THIS TO THE END THAT OUR GREAT BLESSINGS MAY NEVER SPOIL US; THAT WE SHALL FOREVER LIVE IN THANKFUL CONTEMPLATION OF HIM WHO PRESIDES OVER US ALL.'

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

Home
Work
AA
Friends
Other

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

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

- For people to remain anonymous, I must not break confidentiality. Do I?
- For the sake of anonymity, am I willing to forego gossip, attention, and personal distinction?
- Am I willing to break anonymity where the benefits outweigh the risks?
- Do my actions ever bring AA into disrepute?
- When I do good, do I give AA and God the credit?
- Do I fill my day with anonymous service?
- Am I willing to sacrifice personal comfort and ambition to serve anonymously?
- Am I willing to sacrifice the personal gain that might flow from service without anonymity?
- Do I pay more attention to the substance of what people offer than the snazzy or off-putting packaging?
- Do I try to influence or manipulate using charm, flattery, bribery, threat, or am I willing to operate solely based on sound principles?
- Can I look past superficial good or bad personality to the God within each person?

Tradition XII ideas and quotations

We serve anonymously either through the beneficiary not knowing who has helped them or, where this is not possible, not telling others of our service.