

Traditions Workshop - General Statement of Unity "An Agreement"

Tradition 1 Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

Tradition 5 Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* – that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Tradition 12 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.

Summary

Tradition 1 is an agreement among members; **Tradition 12** is about self sacrifice and service without expecting rewards other than spiritual. **Tradition 1 and 12** are the bookends of the traditions, they express our general objectives, and **Tradition 5** is the heart of the fellowship traditions defining our purpose. If you understand these 3 traditions, then the other 9 specifically refer to either 1, 5 or 12.

Traditions Workshop, 1980-1985 – Vic L. Archivist