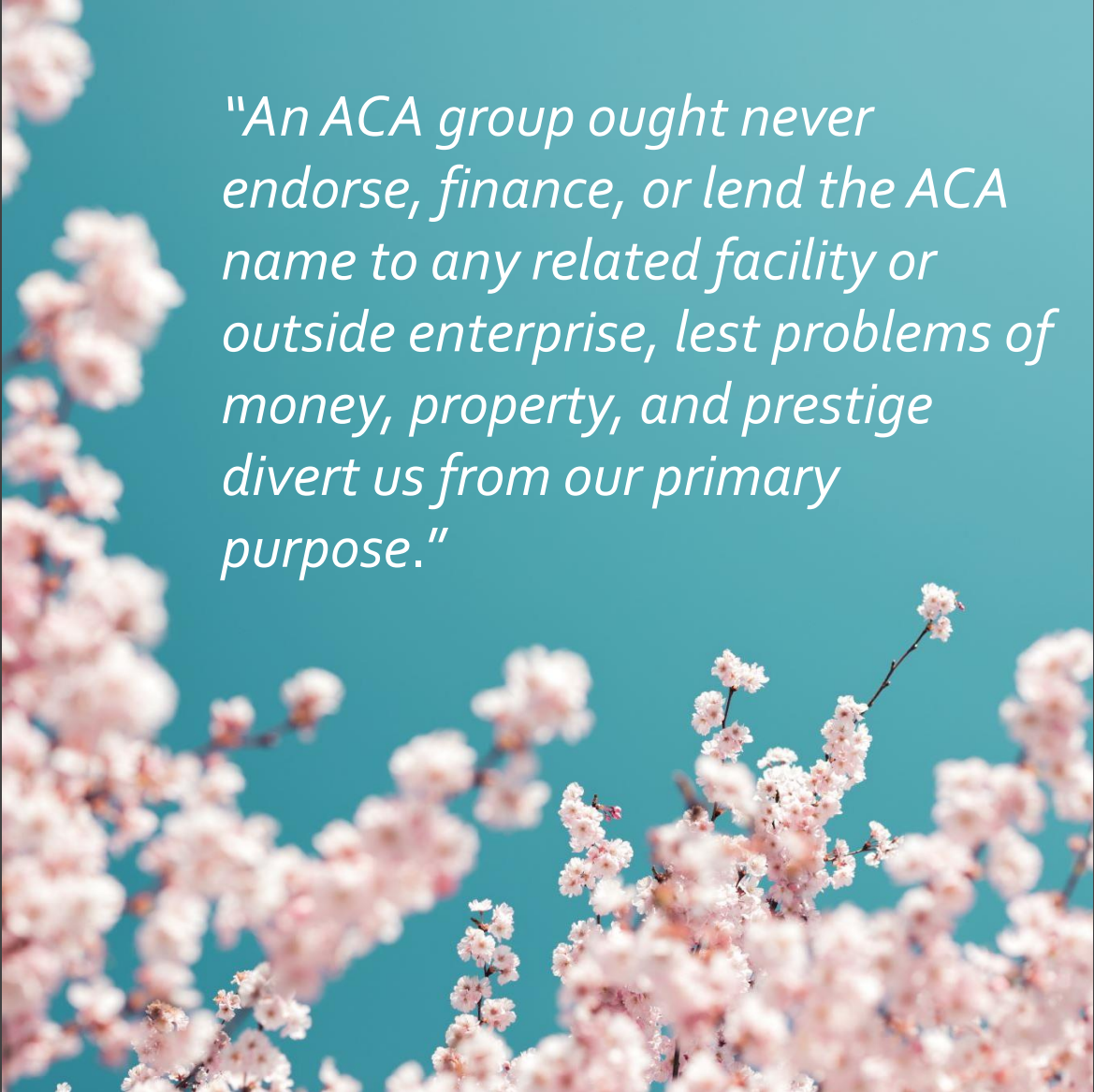


A GUIDE TO THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

TRADITION 6



"An ACA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the ACA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Welcome Fellow Travelers!

Thank you for joining us today for our workshop on ***Tradition 6*** of ***"A Guide to the Twelve Traditions!"*** workshop series.

"An ACA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the ACA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

This workshop is being recorded and the audio will be available at a later date. We kindly ask you to please rename yourself using your first name only.

Serenity Prayer

Higher Power,
grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Introduction of our presenters and tech hosts.

Agenda

- A. Workshop Mission & Intent of the Twelve Traditions
- B. Suggested Commitment to Service
- C. Workshop Guidelines
- D. Introduction of the Tradition
- E. Presentation of the Skit
- F. Discussion Questions
- G. Takeaways
- H. Close with the Tradition Meditation

Our Mission

To provide education and experience through a series of 12 workshops on how The Traditions work to keep meetings safe and recovery oriented by practicing spiritual principles.

Intent of the Twelve Traditions

BRB pp 489 - 490

The ACA Traditions outline fellowship unity, group autonomy, and the ultimate authority of ACA - a loving Higher Power - as expressed in our group conscience.

The ACA Traditions frame our leadership style in the language of being a trusted servant. We avoid a style of governance or authority over another.

Anonymity coming from love underlines all of the Traditions and our group conduct. *With the Twelve Traditions, we sustain ACA groups that allow the ACA Solution of reparenting one's self to emerge and thrive.*

The Suggested Commitment to Service

BRB p. 601

I perform service so that my program will be available for myself, and through those efforts, others may benefit. I will perform service and practice my recovery by:

1. Affirming that the true power of our program rests in the membership of the meetings and is expressed through our Higher Power and through group conscience.
2. Confirming that our process is one of inclusion and not exclusion; showing special sensitivity to the viewpoint of the minority in the process of formulating the group conscience so that any decision is reflective of the spirit of the group and not merely the vote of the majority.
3. Placing principles before personalities.

The Suggested Commitment to Service

BRB p. 601

4. Keeping myself fit for service by working my recovery as a member of the program.
5. Striving to facilitate the sharing of experience, strength, and hope at all levels: meetings, Intergroups, Regional committees, service boards, and World Services.
6. Accepting the different forms and levels of service and allowing those around me to each function according to their own abilities.

The Suggested Commitment to Service

BRB p.6o1

7. Remaining willing to forgive myself and others for not performing perfectly.
8. Being willing to surrender the position in which I serve in the interest of unity and to provide the opportunity for others to serve; to avoid problems of money, property, and prestige; and to avoid losing my own recovery through the use of service to act out my old behavior, especially in taking care of others, controlling, rescuing being a victim, etc.
9. Remembering I am a trusted servant; I do not govern.

Workshop Guidelines

We share in a general way. For our purposes today, we kindly ask everyone to focus on the topic being presented so that we may cover all the material. Please remember to employ:

- ✓ Principles over personalities
- ✓ Curiosity over criticism
- ✓ Progress not perfection
- ✓ Service coming from love
- ✓ HALT: Humility, Acceptance, Love, & Tolerance

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Spiritual Principle

Autonomy

Autonomy

“There are many fine community groups, treatment programs, or therapists who would like to link their programs or practices to the ACA program, but we must decline their offers. To accept could eventually lead us into controversy or link us to groups outside of ACA. To be associated with such groups in the public eye can confuse those seeking our help. We could turn people away by appearing to endorse or affiliate with an outside entity... It is an autonomous Twelve Step program grounded in spiritual principles.”

BRB p.520

Tradition Six Skit Introduction

The following represents a discussion at a business meeting for a group that holds their meeting in a counseling center.

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Tradition Six Skit

Drew: I ran into my therapist who told me about their annual event here and they would like to highlight ACA on their flyer and social media page.

Chris: Wow, that sounds like a great idea. It would help get the ACA name out and bring more people into the meeting. What do they need from us to do that?

Drew: I spent some time this afternoon and created a draft of a flyer, including the ACA logo. This won't cost us anything to participate, but it will help the Counseling Center get more clients, and like you said, it will help us get more people for our meeting. I think this is the least we can do, since we don't even pay any rent to use this space.

Lee: I'm feeling uncomfortable about this. Isn't there a Tradition or something that says we shouldn't do this?

Andy: I think Lee is right. I'm not opposed to having a table at their event where we can hand out our literature or something like that. Even though we have our meetings here, I think by being on their flyer with our logo we would be saying that this is a great place to get your counseling. I didn't HAVE that experience.

Chris: I think you two are overthinking this. I say we just go with it and see what happens.

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Discussion Question 1

Regarding the phrase “money, property and prestige,” in terms of online as well as in-person meetings, what are examples of how a meeting could run into problems if they endorse, or appear to endorse, a facility?

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Discussion Question 2

When a facility makes space available for a meeting, whether it's free or not, how does the group maintain its autonomy and independence from the facility?

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Discussion Question 3

How does an understanding of Tradition 6 guide us in our personal recovery with ourselves and others?

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Discussion Question 4

Looking at the Laundry List and Other Laundry List Traits on page 648-9, which traits might individually cause group members to try to influence the group to be diverted from this Tradition?

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Discussion Question 5

If we said that the behavior in the skit represented distorted thinking, what would that mean?

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Additional Thoughts & Takeaways

Resources

- Contact us at traditions@acawso.org
- Workshop recordings and slides located at:
<https://adultchildren.org/traditions-workshops/>
- Workshop dates and Zoom information found at:
<https://acawso.org/events/>

7th Tradition Contribution

"Every ACA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

Your contribution is a critical part of maintaining WSO services and delivering the message to the adult child who still suffers.

<https://adultchildren.org/7th-tradition/>

Closing

Tradition Six Meditation

Higher Power. Grant me the wisdom to know when a group project will carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer, or will direct group energy away from carrying the message. Guide us away from discussions about property, prestige, or endorsing causes that are not ACA. Give me the courage to speak clearly and thoughtfully for what I believe honors Tradition Six.

Thank You For Joining Us Today!