

# 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous

The Twelve Traditions begin with the idea of DA Unity, and it is this principle which is one of the surest guides to a proper attitude in Service. The Traditions help us to put into practice the principles we have learned from the Steps, and enable us to live in harmony with our fellows.

- 1) Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon DA unity.
- 2) For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority--a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
- 3) The only requirement for DA membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt.
- 4) Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or DA as a whole.
- 5) Each group has but one primary purpose--to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers.
- 6) A DA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the DA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
- 7) Every DA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
- 8) Debtors Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
- 9) DA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
- 10) Debtors Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the DA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
- 11) Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
- 12) Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.