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**History's Corner, February, 2021 - Tradition 12 – Anonymity ( Revisited)**

The early founders of our society realized that without unity and anonymity it would almost be impossible to survive as a movement to help alcoholics recover from our addiction to alcohol. Anonymity takes on the problem of our tendency to inflate our egos to a point where the alcoholic can literally destroy themselves in their own self centered personality. It also addresses the collective ego of the society to curtail the belief that Alcoholics Anonymous can solve some or all of the problems in our world. The heart of the effort lies in the 5<sup>th</sup> tradition, helping alcoholics to recover from alcoholism. The 5<sup>th</sup> tradition is our heart, our mission, our objective and anonymity is the limit by which we dare not go further to ensure our survival. We cannot solve all the problems of either the alcoholic or the world's many problems. Below is Bill's message to the society written in the Grapevine in November, 1948      **Victor L. Decisions Group**

One may say that anonymity is the spiritual base, the sure key to all the rest of our Traditions. It has come to stand for prudence and most importantly, for self-effacement. True consideration for the newcomer if he desires to be nameless; vital protection against misuse of the name Alcoholics Anonymous at the public level; and to each of us a constant reminder that principles come before personal interest — such is the wide scope of this all-embracing principle. In it we see the cornerstone of our security as a movement; at a deeper spiritual level it points us to still greater self-renunciation.

A glance at the Twelve Traditions will instantly assure anyone that "giving up" is the essential idea of them all. In each Tradition, the individual or the group is asked to give up something for our general welfare. Tradition one asks us to place the common good ahead of personal desire. Tradition Two asks us to listen to God as he may speak in the group conscience. Tradition Three requires that we exclude no alcoholic from AA membership. Tradition Four implies that we abandon all idea of centralized human authority or government. But each group is enjoined to consult widely in matters affecting us all. Tradition Five restricts the AA group to a single purpose, carrying our message to other alcoholics.

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