

COMMENTARIES ON THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF SCA

Tradition 2:

“For our group purpose there is but one authority – a loving God as may be expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

In SCA, we recognize that the ultimate guidance for the group comes from a loving God as may be expressed through the group conscience. The group conscience is formed by careful discussion, with decisions being made by a majority vote. Decisions are taken by members with the best interests of the group at heart. The group strives for consensus where possible. The leaders chosen to serve the group are not authorities, but trusted servants. They come and go with each new election or rotation. They are entrusted by the group to take care of tasks and carry out the group conscience.

The group conscience is taken when deciding anything from practical matters for individual meetings to fellowship-wide matters at the International Service Organization’s (ISO) annual conference. For example, at the meeting level, the group conscience would elect a new group Treasurer, or decide whether or not to time individual sharing at a meeting. At the ISO level, the group conscience would decide whether or not to approve a proposed new piece of literature for the Fellowship.

The principle of all members present having a voice and a vote in a group conscience decision, regardless of whether a member is relatively new or has many years of experience, is also an indication that we understand that no one person has it all figured out on any given issue, or a monopoly on wisdom. It may also be detrimental for groups and service bodies to become dependent on a small number of individuals who take service positions over and over again. Dominance of a meeting, intergroup or other service structure by any individual or group can soon lead to a loss of group harmony and unity,¹ as it will exclude some individuals and their experiences. Rotation of leadership chosen by group conscience has been of proven benefit to the welfare of a group.

Many of us at one time or another may have had the fear that if we did not somehow “take control” of a cherished meeting or service body, it would become unsafe or ineffective. The desire to protect our own recovery, which in many cases is vital to our own survival, may lead some of us to be tempted to try to mandate what we consider to be the “right” way to run an individual meeting or service board. Listening to others and being open-minded promotes spiritual growth in the individual and the group, and is a way of gaining access to a Higher Power. In

¹ “Four Obstacles to Success,” *SCA - A Program of Recovery* © SCA-ISO

trusting that the spiritual process of forming a group conscience will bring about a better decision or solution to a problem than we as individuals could arrive at alone, we forego seeking to impose our personal will on others.

(Extract from "The Twelve Traditions of Sexual Compulsives Anonymous" © SCA-ISO)