



The Triangle

SEPTEMBER 2016

9TH Step: Made direct amends to such people, wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

9TH Tradition: A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

9TH Concept: Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

Step Nine: The Check's in the Mail

One afternoon during my college years, an idea on the order of a revelation came to me. I should quit my part-time tutoring job and push my way into the renting office of the building my family managed. My mother, my aunt, and my sisters had conspired to keep my father out of the business, but they wouldn't do the same thing to me. So my thinking went. In handling rent money paid by the tenants of the single-room occupancy, I could easily find a way to siphon funds for my own personal use. The justification for such an action continued to present itself to me.

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~ A.A. Needs Our Support! ~

To send your or your group's donations please use the following addresses:

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~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- District 9 Annual Chicken BBQ, September 18th at the Paris Town Park in Sauquoit, music by the “Defective Characters.”
- District Meeting at Our Savior Lutheran on Sept 28th, upstairs.
- The ‘No Booze Cruise’ boards September 23rd at 7pm. 20\$ per person, for more info call (845)282-9109
- Octsoberfest 2016 - At McCauley Mountain!!! Sunday, October 2nd from 10 to 4.

SAVE THE DATE: 2016 Spiritual Dinner will be on November 12th at the Roselawn in NY Mills.

~ Traditions Checklist ~

Tradition Nine

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all of the AA program – even if no one makes me do so – with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully – and profit thereby – when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

~ ON STEP 9 ~

The question of how to approach the man we hated will arise. It may be he has done us more harm than we have done him and, though we many have acquired a better attitude to him, we are still not too keen about admitting our faults. Nevertheless, with a person we dislike, we take the bit in our teeth, it is harder to go to an enemy than to a friend, but we find it much more beneficial to us. We go to him in a helpful and forgiving spirit confessing our former ill feeling and expressing our regret.

-A.A. Big Book, p. 77-

Ninth Step Prayer

Higher Power, I pray for the right attitude to make my amends, being ever mindful not to harm others in the process. I ask for Your guidance in making indirect amends. Most important, I will continue to make amends By staying abstinent, helping others & growing in spiritual progress.

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Hadn't I grown up with my mother's stories of how her sister, my aunt, had purchased the building only to fall victim to unscrupulous people, including the current owner, who took title to the property and kept us on as the managers? Wouldn't I, if I began to extract sums of money, simply be righting a long-standing wrong? Such was the epiphany that gripped me that afternoon.

Within a day I had situated myself, with my mother's permission, in the renting office. Twenty-one at the time, I thought I would just be staying on for a few months as a way to relieve my financial circumstances. I did not know that the sums of money I extracted would grow and grow any more than I knew my need for alcohol would sizably increase over these years.

Within a few years I had a daily reliance on alcohol. Alcohol was my friend. Unlike my girlfriend, it would never let me down. Nevertheless, some years later I came to Alcoholics Anonymous. I had progressed in my drinking to the point where blackouts were a frequent occurrence and the few people remaining in my life were more than a little tired of me.

One evening, as I sat at a meeting, the speaker shared that as part of his recovery, he had made financial restitution, including parking fines he had accumulated. I left the meeting completely rattled. The prospect of coming to terms with that part of my past terrified me. I called my sponsor and went over with him

that period of my life that involved the renting office, including the money I had taken. I began to try to justify my action. Hadn't the owner been taking more than his fair share of the income, according to my mother?

There is no particular mystery about the Eighth or Ninth Steps. By the time we arrive at them, there is some semblance of a relationship with a Higher Power that can move us from the posture of "no, never" to "not yet" to "okay."

Desperate to move forward, after checking with my sponsor, I called this man I had feared for so long. When I told him of my past activity and my plan of action in terms of repaying the debt, he said simply that I should do as I needed to do, but that he would not hold me to it.

And so, for over twenty years, I would send a monthly check to the address that the man had given me. I can only say that it felt good and proper to be amending a wrongful action in this way. Writing out these checks has been a way of acting myself into right thinking and has given me a sense of peace that I treasure.

David S.

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~ JUST FOR FUN ~

