

When is Breaking Your Anonymity Not an Anonymity Break
Part II

Q."What if I see public figures at a meeting, such as an actor or actress ,or the local chief of police?"

A."Like everyone else public figures should have the protection of anonymity to the extent that they deserve it"

Q."I saw an ad in the paper for an AA group. It told where the group was meeting and everything. Shouldn't you contact that group about breaking their anonymity at the public level?"

A."Suppose a sick alcoholic never has the good fortune to meet an AA member. How is such a person going to find us? The search will be difficult if the local group thinks it should be anonymous, too. The (Eleventh) Tradition is talking about 'personal anonymity,' remember? Alcoholics will not be attracted to AA if they don't know that it exists....(" The Twelve Traditions Illustrated")

Q."I'm not ashamed of my alcoholism and don't feel any need to keep my AA membership a secret. In fact, I think that my story will be able to help lots of others. I think that I should be able to use my full name in my book(or television interview, blog, Web site, etc) when I share my AA experience. Why should anyone else have a problem with that?"

A. Disclosing your AA membership at the public level, in any publicly accessible medium, is considered a break of the AA Tradition of Anonymity. Bill W. wrote, in an article in The Best of the Grapevine, Volume 1 p. 278, "The old files at AA Headquarters reveal many scores of ... experiences with broken anonymity. Most of them point up the same lessons. They tell us that we alcoholics are the biggest rationalizers in the world; that fortified with the excuse we are doing great things for AA we can, through broken anonymity, resume our old and disastrous pursuit of personal power and prestige, public honors, and money-the same implacable urges that when frustrated once caused us to drink..."

Q."Why do we say that 'anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all of our Traditions'?"

A."...anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all-pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes AA life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as AA members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity." (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Chairman CPC Committee: We'll folks that's all for 2015 , hope to see you next year. All the best for the holidays. Health and sobriety for 2016 wishes from all the CPC Committee. We now have eight hard working members spreading the AA news, but we always have room for more.