

November 1956

The Twelve Traditions



OUR KEYS TO

SURVIVAL and GROWTH

IN AA, EACH ONE OF US HAS TWO PRIME OBJECTIVES. We want to survive and we want to grow. While we cannot demand happiness, we know this to be the only way that it may be achieved. In any case, growth in the image and likeness of the Creator is our primary purpose and the main reason for our existence.

For AA as a whole our objectives are exactly the same. AA must survive and then it must grow in maturity and finally it must carry its message of hope and joy to those who still don't yet know.

That is what AA's Twelve Traditions are about. They are first concerned with our survival as a fellowship and then with our ability to grow in maturity and in numbers. Based on vast experience, they suggest to us how this can best be done.

With every passing year, I find myself more and more confident that AA will always survive and grow, no matter what perils and temptations the future may hold.

This I believe . . . because in following the Twelve Steps, each of us will find the right way, and in following the Twelve Traditions, all of us will find the right destiny.

In response to many requests for a return to the custom of paying special attention to AA's Twelve Traditions in the November issue, we have grouped several articles with this theme here, in the heart of the magazine, beginning with a brief statement by Bill W. written especially for this issue, followed by the Traditions themselves: Bill's Foreword to the original edition of the first pamphlet setting forth the Twelve Points of AA Tradition; and three articles by AAs who wrote us in recent weeks on one or another of the Traditions.