

BONUS — Concept Three — OPTIONAL meditation and writings for conference registrants:

Please read Concept Three in our “12, 12, and 12” book, then spend several minutes meditating on each of the questions below. We suggest answering every question we’ve posed; first in writing, then reading your answers aloud, sharing with a fellow BDAer or two. No long essays are necessary, just a paragraph or two in direct answer to a question. These questions are posed by the author and editors of the workshop materials based on our own experience, strength, and hope and a deep read of Concept Three. Most if not all of the questions below can be applied to our personal and business lives, as well as to our interactions with our fellow DAers.

Concept Three: “As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relationship between the groups, the World Service Conference, and the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, it is suggested that we endow these elements of world service with a traditional ‘Right of Decision’ in order to ensure effective leadership.”

- 1) Can the “Right of Decision” be earned?
- 2) On a scale of 1 to 10, how honest am I? At home? At work? In DA and BDA?
- 3) Am I able and willing to examine my motives, as well as my words and actions?
- 4) Am I able to process new information, especially when it’s unexpected?
- 5) Do I take time to evaluate the limits and boundaries on my various life roles? At home? At work? In service?
- 6) How strong are my communication skills? Could I improve my skills through regularly sharing my communication breakdowns or difficulties with a BDA sponsor?
- 7) Do I allow others to exercise their authority without fear of my criticism?

In the conference-approved text on Concept Three, there is an example given that GSRs and ISRs may go to WSC and receive urgent information they were not able to share with their groups or Intergroups before being required to place a vote. So far, so good, but we believe an important detail is being ignored or forgotten.

The trusted servant’s role remains that of “representative.” So, we believe that it is not the job of the representative to discern the “will of the Higher Power” in the situation described. We believe it is their role to discern the will of the group or Intergroup that sent them. It makes no sense to us that we would do the work of raising funds and sending a representative to WSC if they no longer represent us once they get there, or during the WSC service year that follows. A true representative knows their group or Intergroup well enough to know how they would vote after all the information has been considered.

In a more general sense, what we’re talking about here is a consistency in the roles we play in our lives and allowing others consistency in their roles. There is security and relief in consistency. Let’s not deprive ourselves or others of role clarity, whether we deprive them by micromanagement or by creation of unnecessary crises. Creating a crisis may put us back in the driver’s seat, but at what cost?