

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

Please read Concept One 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 One. 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 One: “The ultimate responsibility and authority for Debtors Anonymous World Services should always remain with the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship as expressed through the DA groups.”

- 1) Who (or what) is ultimately responsible for DA World Services? Who (or what) is ultimately responsible where I work? (HINT: It’s not you.)
- 2) Who (or what) has ultimate authority for DA World Services? Where I work?
- 3) How are responsibility and authority expressed in DA? How are they expressed where I work? Am I familiar with DA’s “inverted triangle”?
- 4) What does the Higher Power have to do with Concept One?
- 5) How does frequent, clear communication support responsibility and authority?

Let’s pause for a moment to talk about the Concepts in general, and their place in our service and recovery structure. Our Steps are usually aligned with our Recovery; that is, they help and guide us in becoming the people we want to become. Our Traditions are usually aligned with our Unity; that is, how we behave in group settings, both in and out of the DA and BDA program. To practice the Traditions as intended, and in alignment with the Higher Power’s will for us, a complete and intentional trip through DA’s 12 Steps is usually required. Our Concepts are usually aligned with our Service; that is, how and what we offer in service, both locally and globally, both in and out of the DA and BDA program. To practice the Concepts as intended, and in alignment with the Higher Power’s will for us, a complete and intentional trip through DA’s 12 Steps and a purposeful adherence to DA’s 12 Traditions is essential.

Concept One is one more exercise in surrender, especially surrender of control. No DA member, and no business owner, can be everywhere, see everything, make every decision. So responsibility and authority must be shared. Yet there must be a point where “the buck stops here.” For DA, that’s the World Service Conference (WSC). For individual members to participate fully, we must send our best representatives.

At minimum, we should want them to have taken the Steps in DA and BDA at least once — yes, all 12 Steps — WSC service is 12th Step service. Let’s have our spiritual awakening before entering a space where our character liabilities will come to life in new and painful ways. Painful for us, painful for committee and caucus members, painful for our GSB Liaisons, and vice versa on all counts. We also want representatives who have a successful service record of completing service commitments, doing what they say they will, and cooperating with others. Last but not least, we want representatives who can and will listen to us and carry the message of our groups to WSC. If we take the selection of our representatives seriously, we will have contributed much toward our responsibility to DA’s World Services. We can exercise our authority in selecting the best possible people at work too. Then we can trust them to do their jobs, keep us well-informed, and support us in running our businesses.