

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

Please read Concept Ten 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 Ten. 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 Ten: “Every DA service responsibility should be equal to its service authority as defined by tradition, resolution, or DA’s Charter.”

- 1) Who is the delegating authority for service positions in DA and BDA? In my business or workplace?
- 2) Before taking on a new service task or commitment, do I invite input from my sponsor, Higher Power, and fellow DA and BDA members? Are my sponsor and Higher Power part of my decision-making process for commitments in my business or workplace?
- 3) Have I ever been called out for overreaching, beyond my authority and responsibility, in DA and BDA? In my business or workplace? How did I react?

One DA and BDA member we know has had multiple experiences of feeling like an “untrusted servant.” He could have pointed the finger at his fellow members, instead he continued to “dig deeper,” taking responsibility for the lack of trust he’s experienced. This has been his reality not only in DA and BDA, but also sometimes in his businesses and workplaces, although almost never in his personal relationships. Over time, he has learned three ways to build trust:

Ensuring alignment between his words and actions: Integrity is at the center of trust. In ethics, integrity is defined as the honesty and truthfulness or accuracy of one’s actions. If our words and actions match, people notice; if they don’t match, people notice even more quickly.

Showing people that he genuinely cares: Spiritual and emotional connections are vital in service, especially in service leadership. If members can see that a trusted servant is sincerely interested in their story and cares about their well-being, they’ll almost always do all they can to help move towards achieving shared goals.

Taking a step back when necessary: Being successful in service can be intoxicating. At first, everyone was glad for his service, especially his service leadership, but they often became jealous or annoyed within two or three years. He could rationalize or justify his decisions to serve at his highest potential, but he’s found that’s not what the fellowship would want from him. They’d prefer that he do one or two things extremely well and leave other tasks and roles to other members. Humility in action is the best policy in helping to establish trust and a strong rapport with others. It’s also the path to awarded authority that’s equal to the committed responsibility.