

Why We Use The 3rd Edition, Revised Basic Text w/the original 4th and 9th Traditions (“Baby Blue”)

The Third Edition Revised was in use until the end of 1987 when the WSO introduced the "Professionally Edited" Fourth Edition. The book was published without being sent to the fellowship for approval. This was no light editing, but a major rewrite of the Basic Text. Along with 100's of minor changes there were many conceptual changes and nearly 30 lines missing.

At WSC 1988 the Executive Director, Bob Stone said we could not go back to the 3rd Edition Revised as many Area's wanted because contracts with outside enterprises had been signed and money received. He suggested we "fix" the book by inserting the missing lines. The Fifth Edition was the “fix” that missed the point of the Fellowship's objections to the Fourth Edition. What about the conceptual changes? The 4th and 5th Edition were professionally edited and never submitted to the fellowship for the group conscience approval process.

The 4th and 9th Traditions were altered from their approved form by the addicts who control the printing and distribution of our text. They were put back in and then mysteriously deleted again without a recognized group conscience taken of the fellowship. This is why we feel the 3rd Edition Revised with the original 4th and 9th Traditions represents the last informed group conscience of the fellowship.

Following is a line-by-line comparison of selected differences between the 3rd Rev. and 5th Editions. There are many other conceptual changes and omissions that diluted our message and altered our philosophy in N.A. The point is whether any changes, no matter how beneficial, justify bypassing the established group conscience process. The Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous are **not** negotiable. -Ken D.

<u>5th Edition</u>	<u>3rd Edition Revised</u>
What Is The Narcotics Anonymous Program - 5 th paragraph: When we realize that we are not able to manage without drugs, some of us immediately begin experiencing depression, anxiety, hostility and resentment.	What Is The Narcotics Anonymous Program - 5 th paragraph: When we realized we are not able to manage on our own, some of us immediately began experiencing depression, anxiety, hostility and resentment.
10 th paragraph: Now, the question is: “If we are powerless, how can Narcotics Anonymous help?” We begin by asking for help. The foundation of our program is the admission that we, of ourselves, do not have power over addiction. When we can accept this, we have completed the first part of Step One.	10 th paragraph: Now, the question is: “If we are powerless, how can Narcotics Anonymous help?” We begin by asking for help, and this is accomplished by working the Twelve Steps. The foundation is the admission that we, of ourselves, have no power over addiction. When we can accept this, we have completed the first part of Step One.
Step Four - 5 th paragraph: We take the Fourth Step to grow and to gain strength and insight.	Step Four - 5 th paragraph: We take the Fourth Step to gain the necessary strength and insight which enables us to grow.
6 th paragraph: To have the faith and courage to write a fearless inventory, Steps One, Two and Three are the necessary preparation. It is advisable that before we start, we go over the first three steps with a sponsor. & Now we start the Fourth Step and let go of the fear.	6 th paragraph: It is advisable that before we start, we go over the first three steps with a sponsor. These steps are the preparation necessary to have the faith and courage to write a fearless inventory. & Now we are going to start this step, not letting it frighten us.
Step Five - 2 nd paragraph: We looked at our wrongs, examined our behavior patterns, and started to see the deeper aspects of our disease.	Step Five - 2 nd paragraph: We have looked at our wrongs, have seen patterns on paper, and have begun to see deeper aspects of our disease.

<p>Step Six - 6th paragraph: This is a step of willingness. Willingness is the spiritual principle of Step Six. Step Six helps us move in a spiritual direction. Being human we will wander off course.</p>	<p>Step Six - 6th paragraph: This is a step of willingness. That is the spiritual principle of Step Six. It is as if to say that we are now willing to move in a spiritual direction. Being human we will, of course, wander.</p>
<p>Step Seven – 1st paragraph: Character defects or shortcomings are those things that cause pain and misery all of our lives. If they contributed to our health and happiness, we would not have come to such a state of desperation. We had to become ready to have God, as we understood Him, remove these defects.</p>	<p>Moved from 4th paragraph in 3rd Rev. and “<i>or shortcomings</i>” added, effectively making “character defects and shortcomings the same thing.</p>
<p>Moved to 1st paragraph in 5th Ed. and “<i>or shortcomings</i>” added, effectively making “character defects and shortcomings the same thing.</p>	<p>Would be between 3rd & 4th paragraphs: Character defects are those things which cause pain and misery all of our lives. If they really contributed to our health and happiness, we would not have come to such a state of desperation. We had to become ready to have God remove these defects.</p>
<p>Step Ten - 8th paragraph: In times of trouble, we can try the things that worked during the good times. We have the right to feel good.</p>	<p>Step Ten - 8th paragraph: In times of trouble we can try the things that worked before. We have the right not to feel miserable.</p>
<p>Step Eleven – 3rd paragraph: We need only make sure that we have a system of belief that works for us.</p>	<p>Step Eleven – 3rd paragraph: We need only to make sure we have a system of belief which works to provide for our needs.</p>
<p>4th paragraph: The experiences that some people talk about regarding meditation and individual religious beliefs don’t always apply to us.</p>	<p>4th paragraph: The experiences some people talk about in regard to meditation no more apply to us than do their individual religious beliefs.</p>
<p>What Can I Do - 9th paragraph: Line deleted from 5th Ed. Sponsorship is also a two-way street. It helps both the newcomer and the sponsor.</p>	<p>What Can I Do - 9th paragraph: Sponsorship is merely a way of describing the special interest of an experienced member that can mean so much to newcomers after they turn to N.A. for help. Sponsorship is also a two-way street, helping both the newcomer and the sponsor.</p>
<p>The Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous - It usually isn’t until we get involved with service that someone points out that “personal recovery depends on N.A. unity”, and that unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions. The Twelve Traditions of N.A. are not negotiable. Line deleted from 5th Ed.</p>	<p>The Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous - It usually isn’t until we get involved with service that someone points out that “personal recovery depends on N.A. unity”, and that unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions. Because we hear about “suggested steps” and “no musts” so often, some of us make a mistake and assume that this applies to groups the way it applies to the individual. The Twelve Traditions of N.A. are not negotiable.</p>
<p>Tradition Four – 2nd paragraph: One might ask, “Are we truly autonomous? Don’t we have service committees, offices, activities, hotlines, and other activities in N.A.?” They are services we use to help us in our recovery and to further the primary purpose of our groups. Narcotics Anonymous is a Fellowship of men and women, addicts meeting in groups and using a given set of spiritual principles to find freedom from addiction and a new way to live. The services that we mentioned are the result of members who care enough to reach out and offer help and experience so that our road might be easier. Lines in red were approved and were removed (without fellowship approval) in the 1st Edition. They only appeared in the 2nd Edition before they were removed again. Their omission has never been truly approved by the fellowship.</p>	<p>Tradition Four – 2nd paragraph: One might ask, “Are we truly autonomous? What about our service committees, our offices, activities, and all the other things that go on in N.A.?” The answer is that these things are not N.A. They are services we utilize to help us in our recovery and to further the primary purpose of our groups. Narcotics Anonymous is a Fellowship of men and women; addicts meeting in groups and using a given set of spiritual principles to find freedom from addiction and a new way to live. All else is not N.A. Those things we mentioned are the result of members caring enough to reach out and offer their help and experience so that our road might be easier. Whether we choose to utilize these services is up to the group.</p>

<p>Tradition Nine – 2nd paragraph: It says that we may create service boards or committees to serve the needs of the Fellowship. They exist solely to serve the Fellowship. Red lines were approved but taken out in 1st Ed. (without approval). See note in 4th Tradition.</p>	<p>Tradition Nine – 2nd paragraph: It says that we may create service boards or committees to serve the needs of the Fellowship. None of them has the power to rule, censor, decide, or dictate. They exist solely to serve the Fellowship, but they are not a part of Narcotics Anonymous.</p>
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