



# 2023 Conference Committee on Literature

Item F

## Agenda Item F

**Discuss the new proposed agenda items (PAI's) regarding the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.**

- Agenda Item “F” for the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature is to discuss proposed Agenda Items Related to changes in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions approved by the 2021 General Service Conference.

The Changes are on Pages 66 and 117

The sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one, on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the 12 & 12, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change:

The text on page 66 which currently reads:

"No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."

Be revised to read:

"No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."

A revision to be made to page 117 in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

The text on page 117 which currently reads:

“Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made-spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way.

Be revised to read:

“Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made-spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way.



*In many of Bill's writings and in his 1960 address to the Conference he states: "So I cite that on good evidence, with the need clearly in sight, we are indeed ready to make all kinds of changes. Not that any great changes are in prospect, but I think we ought to stay open-minded on this matter of change. We reference the past and its lessons for so long as those teachings work. When they don't, we readapt and we re-shift. That has been our history." ("Our Great Responsibility" Section III – Transformation, page 104, A.A. in an Era of Change)*

**Decisions for the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous are made through the Conference process. Because it is this Conference process that gives us our current policy.**

# These are past advisory actions protecting Bill's writings:

## 1984 Conference (Literature):

The words "queers" (p. 140) in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions not be changed to "homosexuals and lesbians," recognizing Fellowship feeling that Bill Wilson's textbook writings be retained as originally published.

The 1986 Advisory Actions pertaining to sexist language in the Big Book and other Bill W. writings adequately address the issue:

"As the preface to the Big Book clearly states that the text was written in 1939 and that it has not been changed, no further explanation regarding out-of-date phrases and/or gender-oriented pronouns or chapter titles is necessary." (Advisory Action #31)

## 1995 Conference (Literature):

The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is.

The 2002 Conference unanimously recommended the Advisory Action that the text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published.



# QUOTES FROM Bill W

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"Though many of us have had to struggle for sobriety, never yet has this Fellowship had to struggle for lost unity. Consequently, we sometimes take this one great gift for granted. We forget that, should we lose our unity, the millions of alcoholics who still "do not know" might never get their chance."

-Bill W.

(Letter, 1949 "As Bill Sees It")

As sobriety means long life and happiness for the individual, so does unity mean exactly the same thing to our Society as a whole. Unified we live; disunited we shall perish." (*Letter, 1949, "As Bill Sees It"*)

"I wish every AA could indelibly burn the history of the Washingtonians into his memory. It is an outstanding example of how, and how not, we ought to conduct ourselves. In a sense, Alcoholics Anonymous has never had a problem seriously threatening our overall unity. Yet I notice that some AAs are complacent enough to suppose we never shall.... They had no capacity for minding their own business...."

-Bill W. ("A Reminder And A Warning...", Copyright © The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., July 1976)

What are your group's thoughts on setting a policy on how and whether to edit AA Founder's words in our **current** literature?



**Thank You**

**Brendan Q.**