



Importance of Anonymity

In accordance with Tradition 11, Clutterers Anonymous (CLA) members have always taken care to preserve their anonymity at the public levels of press, radio, television, films, and all other media.

Since stigma is attached to the term “clutterer,” a reluctance to be identified and publicized is easy to understand. We have come to know the positive values of anonymity.

First, we know from experience that many problem clutterers might hesitate to turn to CLA for help if they thought that others might discuss their problem publicly, even inadvertently. Newcomers should be able to seek help with assurance that their identities and what they say will not be disclosed to anyone inside or outside of the Fellowship.

Then, too, we believe that the concept of personal anonymity has a spiritual significance for us. It discourages the drives for personal recognition, power, prestige, or profit that have caused difficulties in some organizations. Much of our relative effectiveness in working with clutterers might be impaired if we sought, or accepted, public recognition.

While each member of CLA is free to make his or her own interpretations of the Traditions, no individual member is ever recognized as a spokesperson for the Fellowship. Each member speaks only for himself or herself.

Any CLA member may, for various reasons, break anonymity deliberately at the public level. Since this is a matter of individual choice and conscience, the Fellowship as a whole obviously has no control over such deviations from CLA Traditions. It is clear, however, that such individuals do not have the approval of the overwhelming majority of members.

CLA is indebted to all media for their assistance in strengthening the Tradition of anonymity over the years.