

## **NAME THAT TRADITION!**

*(Three gameshow contestants sit at a long table, bells in front of them. The ANNOUNCER, overly energetic, comes out, cheery music plays. Everyone claps)*

### **ANNOUNCER**

Hi everybody and welcome everyone to our weekly, untelevised game show; Name That Tradition!

*(More applause)*

### **ANNOUNCER**

Before we introduce you to this week's contestants, let's give a big round of applause for the man who's living proof that our service centers really DO employ SPECIAL workers... the host of Name That Tradition; the one, the only, Mr. HUUUUUGH MILITY!

*(Applause, as the host enters)*

### **HUGH**

Hi everybody! Thank you! And thank you to our announcer for that very special introduction. Now, let's start off by meeting our contestants, starting on the right with Mr. B. B. Thumper!

*(More applause--Mr. Thumper waves to the audience)*

### **HUGH**

And next to him is our newest challenger, straight out of rehab Joe Newcomer!

*(Applause while Joe stands halfway, anxiously gripping the table)*

### **HUGH**

And last but certainly not least, all the way from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, please give a warm welcome to our first ever normie competitor Mrs. Norma L. Oblivious!

*(Norma stands and curtsies to the crowd then looks out into the audience like a sailor looking desperately for land. The host notices her searching)*

**HUGH**

What's wrong Norma? Did you lose something?

**NORMA**

Well, I'm looking for my husband, Ronny. He said he was going to be here but.....last time I saw him he was in the hotel lounge. He said he was just going to have ONE and then he'd meet me here. But I never can count on him doing what he says he's gonna do.

*(whispering to the crowd)*

He's an alcoholic, ya know.

**HUGH**

Well, Norma, your secret's safe with us and that brings us to our first challenge question; players ready?

*(They all say yes)*

**HUGH**

Which tradition states that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all of our traditions?

*(Mr. Thumper rings in)*

**HUGH**

Mr. Thumper?

**MR. THUMPER**

Tradition 12! You can find that on page 562 of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**HUGH**

That's right! Now for our second question. Who can tell me what the first tradition is?

*(Joe Newcomer rings in)*

**HUGH**

Mr. Newcomer?

**NEWCOMER**  
Uh. Number one?

**HUGH**  
Well, yes. Number one is our first tradition, but can you tell us what it says?

*(He scratches his head, not knowing)*

**NEWCOMER**  
I guess I don't know.

*(Norma and Mr. Thumper ring in. Norma wins)*

**HUGH**  
Norma? Can you tell us what the first tradition is?

**NORMA**  
I believe I can! The first tradition...in our house, anyway is....Thanksgiving day!

**HUGH**  
I'm sorry. That's incorrect, though it's a lovely tradition, we're talking about the 12 traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**NORMA**  
Well, it's a tradition for the alcoholics in MY family! It's their favorite one! All that wine!

*(Mr. Thumper rings in again)*

**HUGH**  
Mr. Thumper?

**MR. THUMPER**  
Again, on page 562, or 563 for the long form, tradition one says that our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. Unity. And on page.....

*(Host cuts him off)*

**HUGH**

Thank you Mr. Thumper. Mr. Newcomer, have you ever read the traditions?

**NEWCOMER**

No. I don't even know how I got here! My sponsor just said, "get in the car!" So I got in the car!

**HUGH**

Well, your sponsor will show you how important the traditions are. But don't just take MY word for it. Let's hear a word from OUR sponsors.

*(Three sponsors come out onto the stage)*

**SPONSOR #1**

Ever feel restless, irritable and discontent at a business meeting?

**SPONSOR #2**

Ever worry about what to do with all that money that was donated by your local church?

**SPONSOR #3**

Don't worry, there's help! You can find the answers to all of those nagging questions, and many more, right here in the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous!

**SPONSOR #1**

But wait! That's not all! If you order now, we'll throw in three, free A.A. pamphlets!

**SPONSOR #2**

Hey, aren't those free all the time?

*(Sponsor #1 shushes #2 and elbows her/him in the arm. Sponsor #2 acts very hurt, rubbing her arm and wincing)*

**SPONSOR #3**

Get one today from your local service center or home group!

You'll be glad you did!

*(The group leaves the stage, sponsor #2 still in pain)*

**SPONSOR #2**

*(as they leave)*

Assault and battery not included!

**HUGH**

Thank you sponsors. Now, let's get on with the game. Contestants, according to Tradition Five, what is the primary purpose of each A.A. Group?

*(Contestants ring in. Joe Newcomer wins)*

**HUGH**

Mr. Newcomer?

**NEWCOMER**

The purpose is to help keep me out of jail!

**HUGH**

No, I'm sorry.

Joe looks disappointed.

**HUGH**

Anyone else?

Mr. Thumper rings in.

**HUGH**

Mr. Thumper?

**MR. THUMPER**

The primary purpose of each group is to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

**HUGH**

That's right!

**NORMA**

I wish my husband would join one of those groups!  
When HE drinks, EVERYBODY suffers!

**HUGH**

Okay, we're down to our last few questions. Mr. Thumper,  
you're in the lead with three correct answers! Norma and  
Mr. Newcomer are tied with.....uh.....zero each. Players ready?

*(The contestants nod)*

**HUGH**

Who can tell me what the traditions say is the only requirement  
for A.A. Membership?

*(Mr. Newcomer rings in quickly)*

**HUGH**

Mr. Newcomer?

**NEWCOMER**

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking!

**HUGH**

That's right! Good for you!

**MR. THUMPER**

Yeah, but what page is it on?

**NEWCOMER**

*(to Hugh)*

Do I have to know that?

**HUGH**

No. You don't get extra points for knowing what page  
everything is on. It's just important that you know it. And you do!  
Congratulations! You have your first correct answer!

**NEWCOMER**

Cool!

**HUGH**

Now, for our last regular game question; Tradition 10 states that Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on what?

*(Norma rings in)*

**HUGH**

Norma?

**NORMA**

I know what this is. This is one of those trick questions. I know for a fact because every alcoholic I KNOW has an opinion on EVERYTHING! Am I right?

*(She tries to appeal to the audience)*

**HUGH**

I'm sorry Norma, that's incorrect. Anyone else?

*(Mr. Thumper rings incessantly on his bell. The host tries to overlook him)*

**HUGH**

Anyone? Anyone at all? Mr. Newcomer?

Newcomer just shrugs.

**HUGH**

Mr. Thumper?

**MR. THUMPER**

Tradition 10 states that Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. Name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

**HUGH**

Right again.

**MR. THUMPER**

*(glaring at Mr. Newcomer)*

And that can be found of page 562 and 563 of the Big Book

of Alcoholics Anonymous and on pages 176 thru 179 of the  
12 steps and 12 traditions!

*(An airhorn blows, signaling the end of the game)*

**HUGH**

Oh, I'm sorry. We've come to the end of regular play and it  
looks like we've got a clear winner; Mr. B. B. Thumper!  
Congratulations! But, before we go on to the Bonus Round, let's  
give a big hand to our other contestants! Mr. Joe Newcomer!

*(applause)*

**HUGH**

And Mrs. Norma L. Oblivious!

*She curtsies and waves, while everyone claps.*

**HUGH**

Now, Mr. Thumper, you've made it to the bonus round where  
you'll be asked one final question. But first, let's hear a final  
word from our sponsors.

*The sponsors file in again. Sponsor #2 is holding a board with writing on it.  
It reads; "YOU NEED A.A. NOW!"*

**SPONSOR #3**

All day long, we're told what to do; by our bosses, teachers,  
parents and spouses. We in A.A. know from experience, it  
doesn't work all that well with alcoholics. That's part of why  
tradition eleven is so important. "Our public relations policy is  
based on attraction rather than promotion."

**SPONSOR #2**

Attraction? Oh, okay.

She turns her sign around and there's a picture of a woman's body in a bikini.

**SPONSOR #2**

How's THIS for attraction?

**SPONSOR #1**

Not THAT kind of attraction, you ding-a-ling! It's the kind of attraction that comes from living our lives in a way that makes other people want what we have! It's in the book!

**SPONSOR #2**

There's something else in the book that I think you've forgotten about!

**SPONSOR #1**

Oh, really? What's that?

**SPONSOR #2**

Rule #62 from the Middleton Group. "Don't take yourself too damn seriously!"

**SPONSOR #3**

Actually, they're BOTH right. In the explanations of the traditions you'll be able to learn why each tradition is so important. Call your sponsor or home group member today and they'll tell you all about it!

**HUGH**

Let's hear it for our sponsors! Thank you, sponsors!

*(He starts clapping for them, as they file offstage. They all wave goodbye. One of the sponsors holds her pinky and thumb to her ear like a fake telephone and looks to the crowd)*

**SPONSOR #2**

Call me!

*(When they are gone, the gameshow hostess, holding a large, gold medal, ushers Mr. Thumper center stage. She hangs it around his neck. He's very proud of himself)*

**HUGH**

*(to hostess)*

Thank you Miss Givings.

She nods and steps back a few feet.

**HUGH**

*(continuing; to Mr. Thumper)*

Now, Mr. Thumper, we only have one question left. In this round you can double what you win or you could lose it all. Do you want to continue?

**MR. THUMPER**

Of course I do! I have a lot of confidence that I can answer any of your questions correctly.

**HUGH**

You're sure? You could lose everything. And bonus questions aren't like regular game questions.

**MR. THUMPER**

I said I was sure. Come on! Bring it on!

**HUGH**

Okay, it's a simple question really. We just want to know what you're going to do with your new-found fame, once you get back home.

**MR. THUMPER**

That's it? That's the question?

**HUGH**

Simple, isn't it? All we need is your answer.

**MR. THUMPER**

Well, when I get home, I'm sure they'll have a big party for me and everyone will want to take my picture. I'll probably need to have a photographer there, maybe the guy from the newspaper. He'll probably want to hear my story, since I've come such a long way in life from where I used to be....and maybe a radio interview..and...maybe....

*(The airhorn blows again. Miss Givings comes over and removes the medal from around his neck)*

**HUGH**

Awwwwww. I'm sorry. You were so close to winning it all.

**MR. THUMPER**

Why? What's wrong? What are you doing?

*(Miss Givings walks away with the medal)*

**MR. THUMPER**

Hey! That's mine!

**MISS GIVINGS**

Sorry.

**HUGH**

You forgot one of our most important traditions. Tradition 11 says that we must always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films. Sorry.

**MR. THUMPER**

Oh, man.

**HUGH**

Well, that's it for today, folks. Thank you for being here for Name That Tradition! Bye!

*(All the contestants gather center stage, sponsors too. The announcer comes back to the forefront)*

**ANNOUNCER**

Let's hear it one more time for our contestants and our host, Mr. HUUUUUUUGH MILITY! Join us next time when our players will be an ex-bartender, a sober judge and everybody's favorite contestant, the Seattle Slipper! Thank you everybody! Goodbye!

***THE END***