

Reflections on Tradition 2

Tradition 2: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Nobody governs Emotions Anonymous. We have paid staff at our International Service Center. They are compensated to maintain the office; they make sure EA is available to all who need it. The rest of us are all trusted servants. There are currently 5 trustees; we act as guardians of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. There is several standing committees that any member can volunteer to serve on. At the group level, one could volunteer to serve as secretary, treasurer, or literature person of his or her home group. We are all EA members guided by our Higher Power… — Derita P., *EAI Trustee*

While Tradition 2 speaks of a loving God, and Step 2 speaks of a Power greater than ourselves it is very clear to me we each need to work toward a personal understanding and acceptance of what this means. I have no doubt that it is our Higher Power who is ultimately at work in our EA Program, in our Group Conscience, and each individual in the group, including the group leader. This Tradition speaks of the group leader who is in service to the group. A leader, yes, but not one who governs. I believe it is from the wisdom of our HP that the group is able to function... — Gus S., *EAI President*

In Tradition Two, one word stands out that is crucial to understanding the nature of the tradition, that word is leader. Leadership in EA is provided through the group conscience. The authority for decisions made always rests in group conscience decision-making. In having a conscience meeting, a group, committee, or the trustees can best sense how a power, greater than themselves as individuals, can guide the group in making choices. As the tradition says, our leaders are but trusted servant, they do not govern, only the groups through the group conscience process can do this... — Scott J., *EAI Vice President/Treasurer*