

TRADITION SIX: A CoDA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the CoDA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim.

6. A partner ought never single-handedly endorse, finance, or lend our name to any outside enterprise, nor shall we let our obligations or enterprises outside the relationship to divert us from the primary spiritual aim within the relationship. We do not allow problems of money, property or prestige to interfere with our relationship.

This tradition means that either partner can endorse things for themselves but not for the couple, though each partner takes care to be sure that no outside obligation or enterprise diverts them from their commitment to the relationship and the spiritual aim within it. Neither partner can make loans without the other's prior knowledge and agreement. Neither partner can say, "Come on and move into our house for awhile" without consulting the other partner first. We need to remember that we are a team and that we must always consider the other person's thoughts and feelings. Also, we need always be mindful of how our individual outside obligations may be impacting our partner and our relationship.

Personal Examples:

A situation with a former boyfriend illustrates what happens when the principles in Tradition 6 are not applied. My ex asked me to lend my financial credibility to solve his money and property problems. We had been dating for over a year and were living together before he came clean about being 2 million dollars in debt with his business, and in trouble with the IRS and foreign tax authorities. His credit was so damaged, that he was unable to qualify for any credit cards. He asked me to apply for a credit card in my name (my credit was stellar) and allow him to transfer a large balance over to it from one of his high interest credit cards and make payments on it to me. I refused, and he was insulted, insisting that I doubted his integrity and did not trust him (which was true already, and was made worse when he approached me about this). Ultimately, his outside money and property issues became a major obstacle to building trust and intimacy in our relationship and were ultimately major factors in my decision to leave the relationship.

In my current relationship with my husband, our financial life is very clean – we are both financially responsible for ourselves and solvent.

Another example: In my marriage neither one of us has had the primary responsibility over our finances. When my spouse relapsed in his addiction, he used our credit cards on the Internet to obtain addictive prescription drugs, without my knowledge or consent. This was a diversion and an interference with our primary spiritual aim and our marriage. The disconnect from our higher power as a couple

caused a break in our spiritual foundation. Thankfully, we were able to repair our relationship and work on this issue with our higher power's guidance.

CHECKLIST FOR TRADITION SIX:

- Do I consult with my partner before committing us as a couple to outside financial obligations? How about other non-financial obligations?
- Do I take the primary spiritual aim of my relationship and my commitment to my partner into consideration when I am making commitments for myself to enterprises outside of our relationship?
- Do my personal finances or my problems with money, property or prestige interfere with my relationship with my partner?
- Do I take responsibility for my own financial solvency and keep my side of the street clean in financial matters in our relationship?
- Do I expect my partner or our relationship to solve my financial problems for me?
- Do I prioritize the highest good for my relationship above other commitments? Work? Outside Friendships? Volunteering? Causes?
- As a couple, do we act as if we really trust that our Higher Power is our source in this relationship? Do we live **relying** on that source?