

Freethinker: Opening

Welcome to the Freethinker meeting, a bilingual meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. My name is _____ and I'm an alcoholic.

Before we get started, let me ask that you turn off all cellphones or put them on silent mode. Thank you.

The AA preamble states:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

(read in Japanese, [A Aの序文](#))

The Freethinker AA meetings have a tradition of free expression. We do not endorse nor oppose any form of belief or non-belief, but this is a secular meeting so there will be no prayers. Our only wish is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in A.A. without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own.

(read in Japanese)

フリーシンカーのAAグループは、表現の自由の伝統があります。私達はどのような信念や非信念を指示しないし、反対もしない。しかし、これは世俗的なミーティングですので、祈りはありません。静かな時間になっています。

At the end of the meeting we will hold hands and repeat the Responsibility statement.

We start this meeting with a short quiet time, followed by an opportunity to share. Please use this moment of silence to do with what you wish.

Starting now.

(silence)

Okay, now let's go around the room and introduce ourselves by first name. If you are a newcomer to AA or a visitor to Tokyo, feel free to say so although this is not a requirement.

This is a topic discussion meeting. Does anyone have a topic for today's meeting? The floor is open.

Unfortunately it appears we are out of time. The Seventh Tradition states that each AA group is self-supporting through its own contribution.

In closing, may all those who wish to join hands.

I will now quote from the declaration made at the 30th anniversary International convention of Alcoholics Anonymous:

"I am responsible. Whenever anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help I want the hand of AA to be there. And for that, I am responsible."

Live and let live!

***“I am responsible.
Whenever anyone,
anywhere, reaches out
for help I want the
hand of AA to be there.
And for that, I am
responsible.”***