

Serenity Prayer

***God, Grant us the Serenity to
Accept the things we cannot change
Courage to change the things we can
and Wisdom to know the difference.***



Introductions

*Hi my name is _____. I'm a picking addict
from _____. I am feeling _____ and
today I am grateful for _____.*

The OSPA Preamble

Obsessive Skin Pickers Anonymous (OSPA) Worldwide Fellowship is a community of people who have found their way out of Excoriation Disorder's grip by working the OSPA program and engaging with the community support of the worldwide group. The primary premise and foundation of OSPA is the concept of one skin picker reaching out to another with an attitude of love and support. Through giving back to others what we are freely given we are finally able to recover from this devastating illness.

Obsessive Skin Pickers Anonymous is a fellowship of people who seek to recover from Excoriation Disorder (Skin Picking) by working the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as adapted from AA. We seek abstinence from obsessive or compulsive skin picking, and physical, emotional and spiritual recovery. The only requirement for OSPA membership is the desire to stop picking. OSPA is entirely self-supporting, relying only on contributions from individual members and is free to all who need it.

Many of us who have now found OSPA truly thought we were the only ones in the world who engaged in this form of self-destructive behavior.

We seek to eliminate the shame we have felt due to this disorder by lifting each other up with love and understanding.

Welcome to OSPA – You are no longer alone!

The 12 Steps of OSPA

- 1. We admitted we were powerless over skin picking—that our lives had become unmanageable.**
- 2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.**
- 3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of our Higher Power as we understood that Power.**
- 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.**
- 5. Admitted to our Higher Power, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.**
- 6. Were entirely ready to have our Higher Power remove all these defects of character.**
- 7. Humbly asked our Higher Power to remove our shortcomings.**
- 8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.**
- 9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.**
- 10. Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.**
- 11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with our Higher Power as we understood that Power, praying only for knowledge of our Higher Power's will for us and the power to carry that out.**
- 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other skin pickers, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.**

The 12 Traditions of OSPA

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on OSPA unity.

2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving Higher Power as may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.

3. The only requirement for OSPA membership is a desire to stop skin picking.

4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or OSPA as a whole.

5. Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the skin picker who still suffers.

6. An OSPA group or OSPA as a whole ought never to endorse, finance, or lend the OSPA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

7. Every OSPA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

8. Obsessive Skin Pickers Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

9. OSPA as such ought never to be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

10. Obsessive Skin Pickers Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the OSPA name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.

11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

The Promises of Alcoholics Anonymous

If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are halfway through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us – sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.

OSPA Prayer

*As joined our hands of many shapes
So join our hearts of many faiths
And lift our eyes from suffering
So blindly trusting following*

*You lead from dark paths of despair
To the sunlit highway where
In your name we humbly pray
And thankfully receive your Grace.*

