



In the name of love

The following is an excerpt of the message a member planned to share at the Saturday night meeting of WCNA-31. Because he was not able to attend the convention, he shared via telephone during World Unity Day.

My name is Mahmoud, and I am an addict from Iran. I would like to thank the members for this opportunity to share about the NA miracle in Iran.

After twenty years of active addiction, and having so many unsuccessful tries to stop using, I finally got to know NA in Iran about nine years ago. In those days, there were only twenty members, and only one group with three meetings in Iran. I kept going to the meetings, but it took me two more years to get clean. I always promised myself that, if I could get clean, I would do my best to serve NA in any way I could.

The miracle happened. I got clean and started service in NA, but in my own way. My way was to be self-centered and make everyone listen to me and do what I told them to do. I wanted to be the boss. All this self-centeredness, arrogance, and resentment affected our unity. It caused some members to relapse, and some newcomers didn't stay. And it caused our community and our government to be skeptical of NA.

After a long conflict that affected our NA community very badly, thank God we came to our senses and decided to try to learn how to be of real service. We contacted NA World Services, and then we started to learn how to work as a group. We began translating NA literature, and we learned to practice the spiritual principle of unity. The farther we got away from our personalities and character defects, the more we grew.

Now, after five or six years, as a result of our unity, we have about 2,400 groups all over Iran, with more than 29,000 members. Every day we receive more newcomers, and our nation has accepted us as a part of an international fellowship that can be respected. We have grown so much that NA World Services has now opened a production and distribution center in Iran.

I personally think the NA program works all over the world, and no borders can stop it. For example, two of us were going to join you at this gathering, but we were stopped due to geographical and political boundaries. But these limitations could not stop us from having a spiritual connection, because we are members of one family, and I really believe in "one fellowship, many friends."

I hope someday I can visit NA World Services and other meetings. The Iranian NA community is young and needs you all to help us keep growing and making the NA message of recovery available to more suffering addicts.

Mahmoud C, Tehran, Iran

