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On the Lost Virtue of Hospitality -or- Whose Home is this Hospital?

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Why Hospitality?

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Slide 3




Why Hospitality?

- Universal Virtue

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Why Hospitality?

- Universal Virtue
- Cardinal Virtue of Classical World

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Why Hospitality?

- Universal Virtue
- Cardinal Virtue of Classical World
- Our current situation...

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What is Hospitality?

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What is Hospitality?

- Latin *hospes/hostis* (*stranger*) + *polis* (*power*)
 - Hostel, Hospital, Hospes, Home, Hospitality
- Greek *Xenia* (*stranger*), i.e. (*Xenios Zeus*)
 - *hostis*, "stranger,"
 - *hostire*, "equalize"
 - protection
 - guidance

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The Virtue of Hospitality

Much like *eudaemonia*, hospitality is no longer recognized as an essential/fundamental moral virtue in society, nowadays passed off as etiquette.

Historically, hospitality was a central and near-universal cardinal virtue in the Western world both Hellenistic and Christendom, Vedic traditions, Islamic philosophy, Judaism, Chinese philosophy.


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Jupiter and Mercurius in the house of Philemon and Baucis"
by Peter Paul Rubens



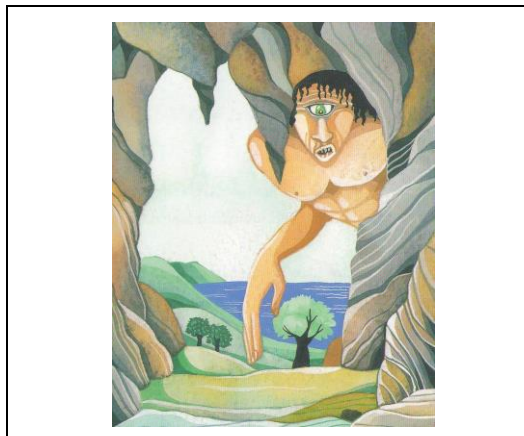
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Hospitality in the Odyssey

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Hospitality in the Odyssey

- As a prototype of anti-hospitality and thus uncivilized, inhumane behavior, Homer creates Polyphemus the Cyclops who, instead of feeding guests, eats them. With Polyphemus and his fellow Cyclopes, Homer provides the philosophical anthropology congenial to anti-hospitality. The Cyclopes prize social atomism, considering themselves as self-sufficient individuals.

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Cyclops Ethics or Virtue Ethics?

The Old	The New
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospitality• <i>Ethos</i>• <i>Eudaemonia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customer Service• Ethics• Principlism

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Hospitality Lost

- Modern "sedentary city mind" replaces the medieval "pilgrim mind"
G. Santayana
- "*homo viator*" (man the wanderer) becomes "*homo sedentarius*" (sedentary man)
G. Marcel

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Hospitality Lost

- Illich – True hospitality is lost when the burden of hospitality is institutionalized.

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Is True Hospitality Forever Lost?

That Depends on the Answers to Two Questions:

- What Is the Nature of Homo Sedentarius?
- Whose Home Is this Hospital?

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Lessons to rediscover:

- The foundation of modern healthcare is the lost virtue of hospitality:

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- Recall the first (Western) hospitals cared for pilgrims/travelers, the first healing orders attended to sick travelers (*Hospitaller*).

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Lessons to rediscover:

- The foundation of modern healthcare is the lost virtue of hospitality:
- Recall the first (Western)hospitals cared for pilgrims/travelers, the first healing orders attended to sick travelers (*Hospitalier*).
- Although as a society we have become *homo sedentarius* and trivialized hospitality, the patients we care for are essentially *homo viator*, travelers who share the same vulnerabilities and anxieties that true hospitality can assuage.

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- Patients are not consumers, nor are they customers. For the most part, they cannot chose whether to be treated nor what treatment they prefer.

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- Patients are not consumers, nor are they customers. For the most part, they cannot chose whether to be treated nor what treatment they prefer.
- What patients dwell most upon after a healthcare encounter is the nature of the care they received, not the treatment, but the care.

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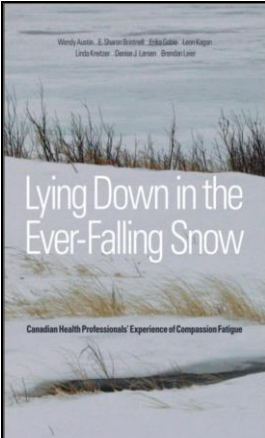
Levels of Hospitality

- The 'I': *Ethos* understood most properly as dwelling or habitat.
 - Does the hospitable organization protect its inhabitants?
 - Moral distress/compassion fatigue

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Wendy Austin, E. Sharron Bennett, Elizabeth Lovell, Lorraine
Linda Entlar, Denise J. Larson, Brenda Lator



Lying Down in the Ever-Falling Snow

Canadian Health Professionals' Experience of Compassion Fatigue

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Levels of Hospitality

- The 'I': *Ethos* understood most properly as dwelling or habitat.
- Unit/Service: Is this place my home?
- The Org?

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thanks!

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