

# Creating Space: Hospitality and Community

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# Hospitality

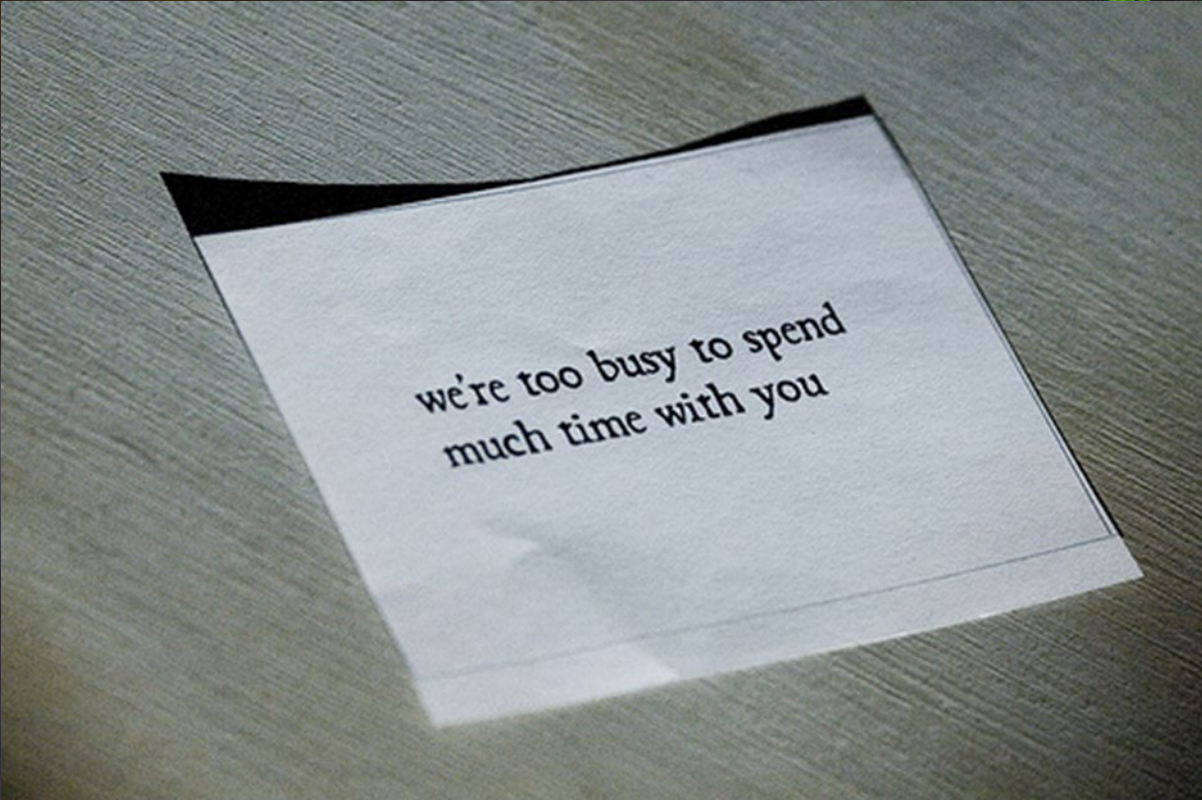
A close-up photograph of a green fern frond against a dark, blurred background. The frond is the central focus, showing its intricate, feathery structure with many small leaflets. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture and color of the plant.

Four Inquiry Questions to frame our reflection:

- What time is it?
- Who are we?
- Where do you see God?
- What shall we do now?



# Hospitality as Welcome of Guest and Stranger

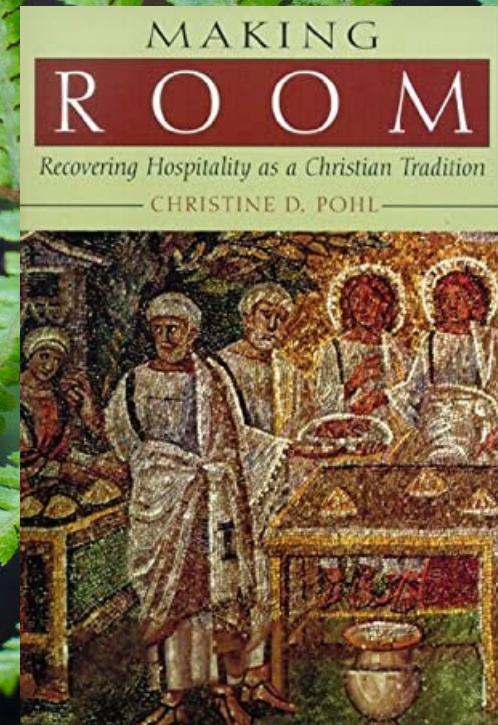


we're too busy to spend  
much time with you



# Hospitality as Welcome of Guest and Stranger

The first formative story of the biblical tradition on hospitality is unambiguously positive about welcoming strangers.





# Hospitality as Welcome of Guest and Stranger

It speaks to the very essence of being human. When you want to give high praise to someone we say, “Yu, u nobuntu”; he or she has ubuntu. This means that they are generous, hospitable, friendly, caring and compassionate. They share what they have. It also means that my humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in theirs.

Desmond Tutu



# Hospitality as Welcome of Guest and Stranger

There He was, homeless. Would a church take Him in today – feed Him, clothe Him, offer Him a bed? I hope I ask myself that question on the last day of my life. I once prayed and prayed to God that He never, ever let me forget to ask that question.

Dorothy Day



# Hospitality

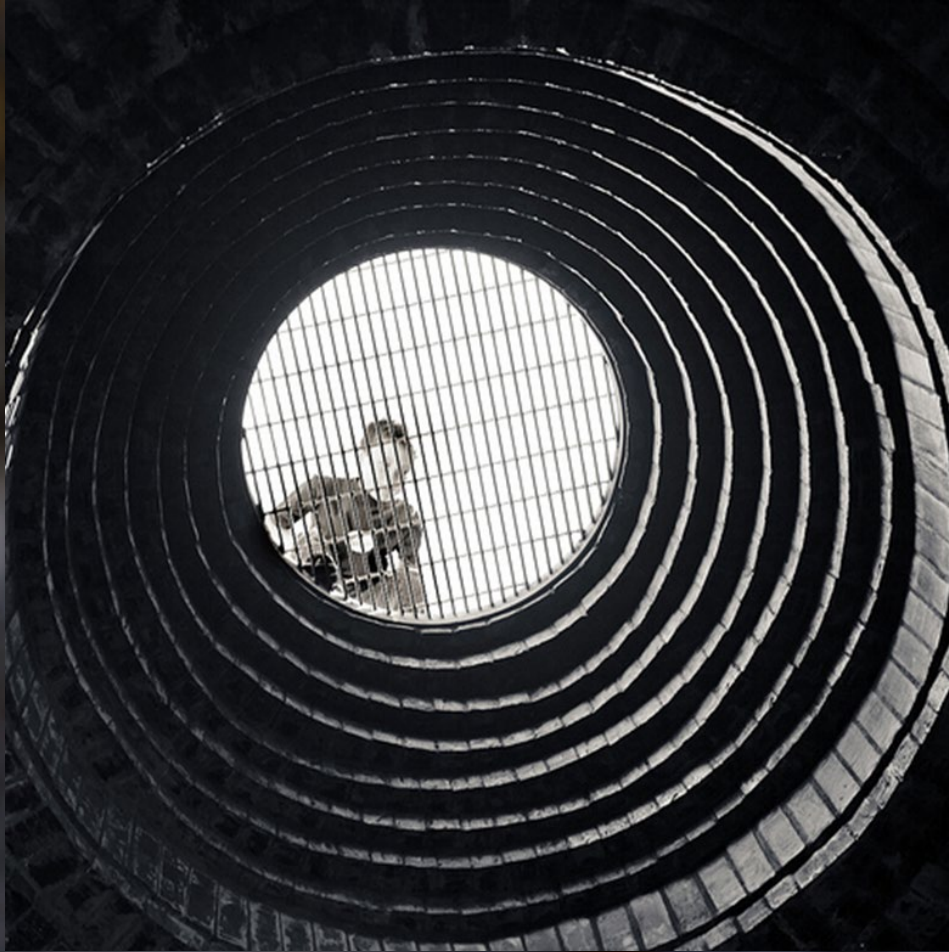
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# Hospitality as Seeing the Other

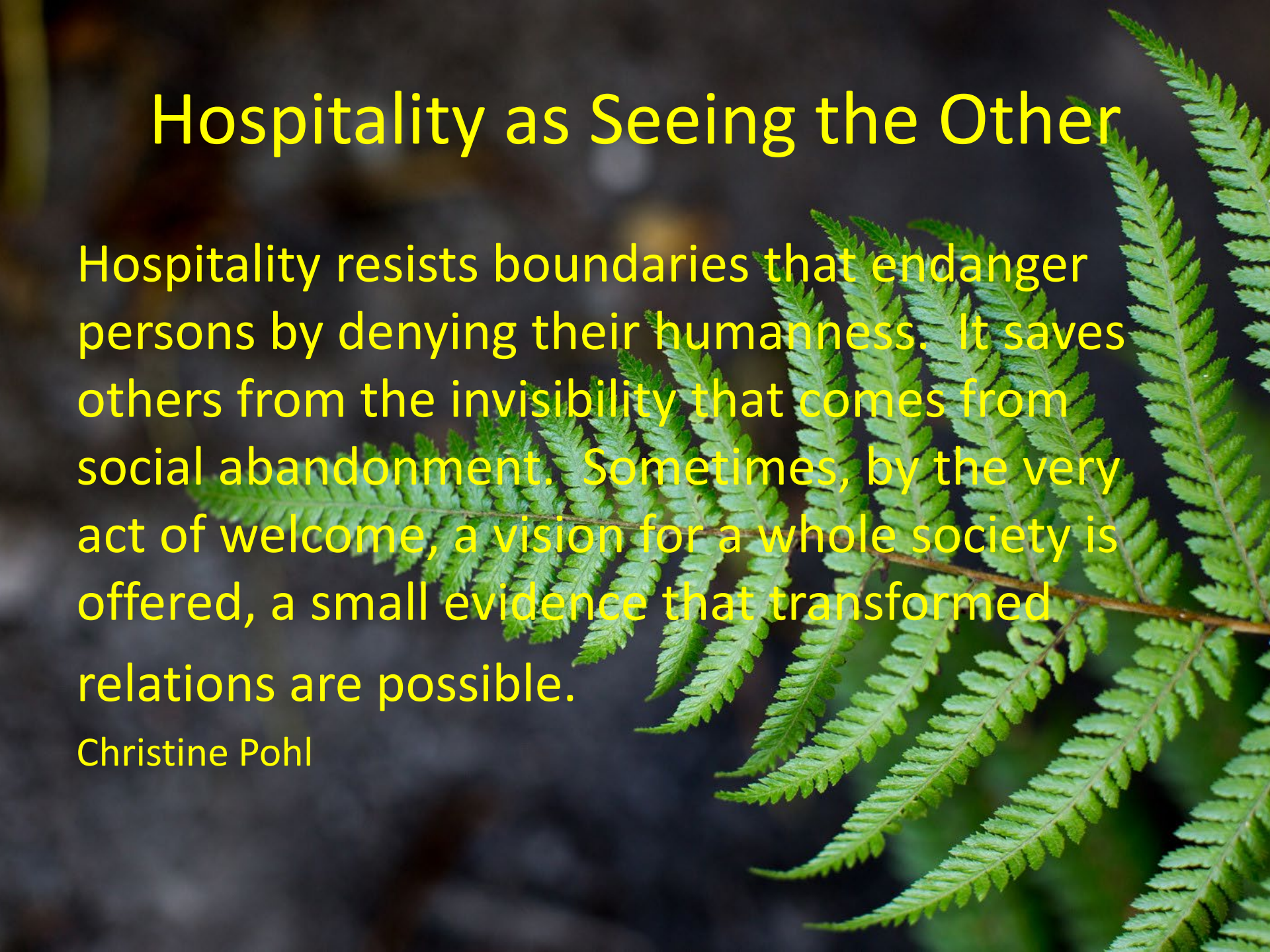




# Hospitality as Seeing the Other

Hospitality resists boundaries that endanger persons by denying their humanness. It saves others from the invisibility that comes from social abandonment. Sometimes, by the very act of welcome, a vision for a whole society is offered, a small evidence that transformed relations are possible.

Christine Pohl





# Hospitality as Seeing the Other

What kind of man would kill a baby? What kind of man?” He concluded after having experienced the hatred, the evil and the lack of recognition of the other’s right to exist, “What kind of man can kill a child? A man not born to hate but who has learned hatred. A man like you or me.

Fergal Keane



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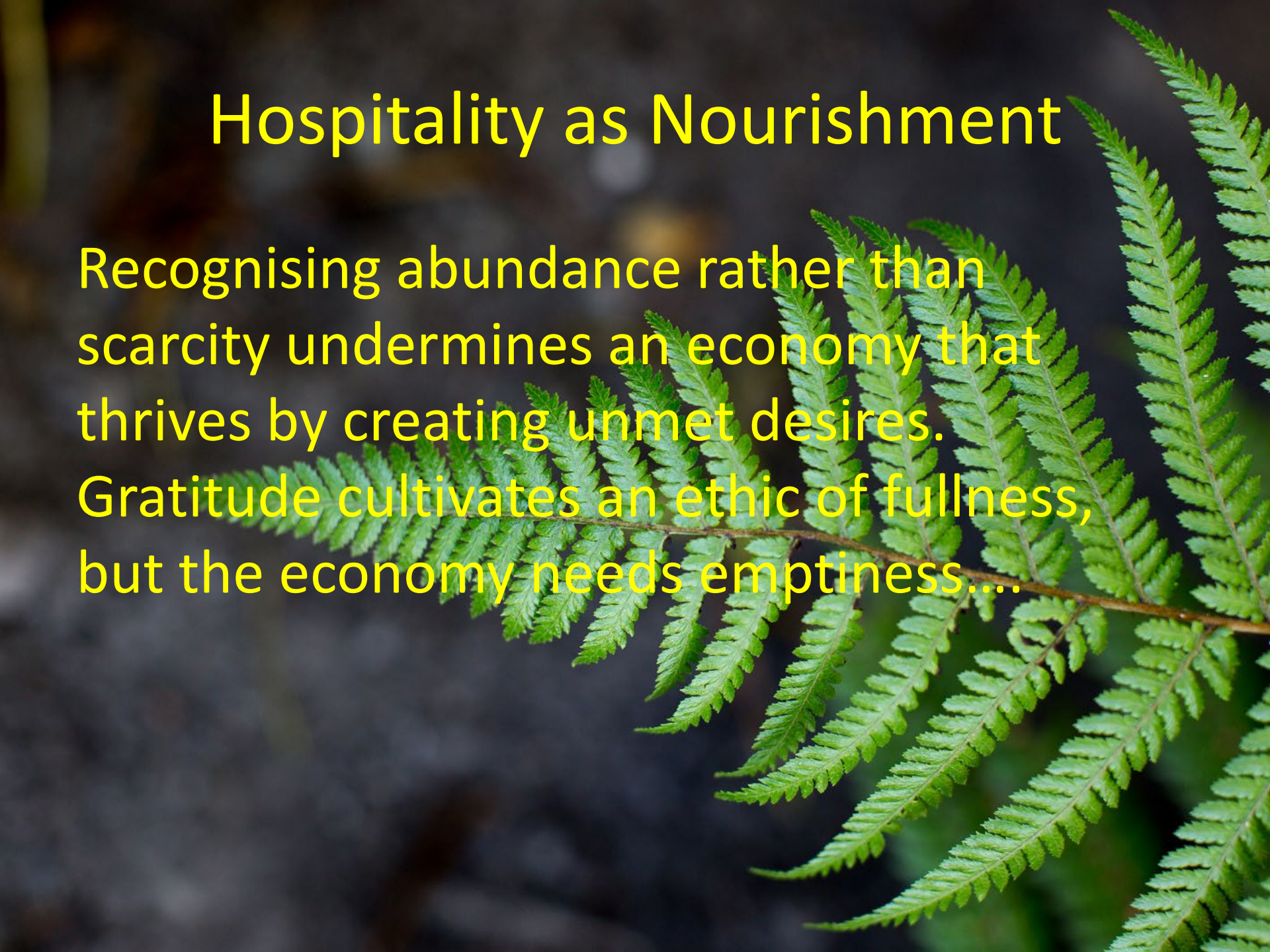
# Hospitality as Nourishment





# Hospitality as Nourishment

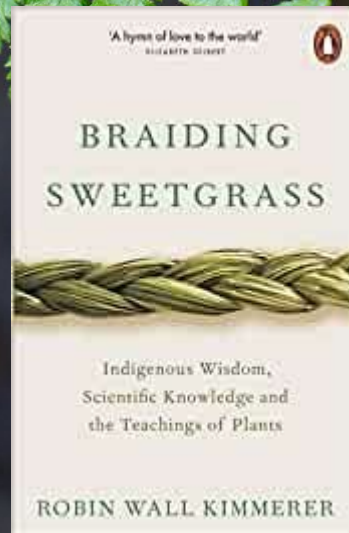
Recognising abundance rather than scarcity undermines an economy that thrives by creating unmet desires. Gratitude cultivates an ethic of fullness, but the economy needs emptiness....





# Hospitality as Nourishment

Gratitude doesn't send you out shopping to find satisfaction, it comes as a gift rather than a commodity, subverting the foundation of the whole economy. That's good medicine for land and people alike.





# Hospitality

A close-up photograph of a green fern frond, showing the intricate details of its pinnules. The frond is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its stem extending from the lower left towards the upper right. The background is dark and out of focus, highlighting the vibrant green color and texture of the fern.

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# Hospitality from or at the Edges





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What I experience in these journeys is replenishing the reservoir of compassion. I tend not to realise how hardened I've become until I get out there. And when I see someone mistreating the homeless – a professional – it's a prophetic voice. It's the most effective teaching method for me.



# Hospitality from or at the Edges

A guest is always a blessing, for a guest brings new ways of seeing and understanding the world... Guests also need to be sensitive to the fact that learning to accept hospitality gratefully and graciously is perhaps the best way to be of service to their hosts.

Stephen Bevans and Roger Schroeder



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# Hospitality as Creating Space





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Hospitality... means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place.

Henri Nouwen



# Hospitality as Creating Space

I saw a stranger last night. I put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place, and in the sacred name of the Triune, he blessed myself and my house and my cattle and my dear ones. And the lark said in her song, 'Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.'

AMEN.



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