

It is the essence of being human. It speaks of the fact that my humanity is caught up and is inextricably bound up in yours. I am human

discover our own human qualities action with our fellow human beings, that we and it is through this bond, through our inter- there exists a common bond between us all

Stephen Lundin- Ubuntu! cess of the group above that of the individual.” “Ubuntu is a philosophy that considers the suc-

the others exist. to the rest of the world. You only exist because it is a way of understanding one-self in relation that the truest form of a sincere kind of unity? what I am because of who we all are”² Isn't South Africa and can be translated to "I am Ubuntu philosophy. The concept comes from Another form of human hospitality is the UBUNTU

It is a selfless way of service that has found it's way in many aspects of Japanese society. They have a high sense of responsibility (sometimes so extreme they are afraid to take the responsibility and to make decisions) and try to anticipate others needs so they can respond in the best way.

Generally this word is a concept used for costumers. Japanese hosts would provide the costumers with the best service. However, after living in Japan for three months I realized this was nothing but surface. Japanese live by the rules and omotenashi is one of them. True, they are very kind and helpful. Though, when you look closer and long enough you notice that it is

In this world we are all interconnected. There- for understanding each other is of great impor- tance, in order to live together in harmony. Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu.³

Ubuntu through the eyes of The South African them.” still human despite all efforts to dehumanize ience, enabling them to survive and emerge are. The quality of Ubuntu gives people resil- are treated as if they were less than who they others are oppressed, diminished when others when others are humiliated, diminished when whole. They know that they are diminished from knowing that they belong in a greater they have a proper self-assurance that comes threatened that others are able and good, for be vulnerable, affirming of others, do not feel are open and available to others, willing to and generous, willing to share. Such people with Ubuntu is welcoming, hospitable, warm because I belong. It speaks about wholeness, it speaks about compassion. A person

CHAPTER HOSPITALITY

INTRODUCTION

What is hospitality?

To be more clear about the concept of omotenashi I questioned: What does hospital- ity mean? Is it the woman behind the counter in a restaurant, helping you with your order? Is it the man at the train station, almost missing his own train because he wants to make sure you catches yours? Is it the woman that promises to take care of you so you won't feel lonely? Or the colleague that speaks in Japanese to you, because they know you're studying it?

Is there a difference between hospitality ac- cording to rules and hospitality from the heart?

Humans help each other, no matter in which country you are, what language you speak or how much time and effort it takes, there are many forms of hospitality.

Hospitality is the generosity from one to the other. The charity for the people that are in need. The nobleness of lifesavers. Graciousness of a landlord, king or president.

Servicability in cafés, regarding size or profit. Unselfishness of the young child. Sociability of the colleague or fellow-student. Self-devotion of the artist. Even a striptease from the stripper or prostitute. It is the cordial friend, neighbour- liness, a warmth and welcoming family... It is all around you. ¹

Hospitality is about letting yourself be vulnera- ble and open for newness and change. To have an open-mind and non-judgement towards other cultures. To show trust, compassion and understanding. Trying to anticipate the need of others and do your best to provide them with the necessary.