

"...the transcendence of the face [of the other person] is not enacted outside of the world, as though the economy by which separation is produced remained beneath a sort of beatific contemplation of the other person (which would thereby turn into the idolatry that brews in all contemplation). The 'vision' of the face as face is a certain mode of sojourning in a home, or--to speak in a less singular fashion--a certain mode of economic life. No human or interhuman relationship can be enacted outside of economy; no face can be approached with empty hands and closed home. Recollection in a home open to the other person--hospitality--is the concrete and initial fact of human recollection and separation; it coincides with the Desire for the other [who is] absolutely transcendent."

-E. Levinas, TOTALITY AND INFINITY