

**English translation:**

Meron:

Our reception of guests has changed from era to era, but in the old days, when a guest went to someone's home, hosts would receive them by washing the guest's feet and hands. That isn't done anymore. Even so, when a guest goes to someone's home, it is customary to *megderder*<sup>1</sup> in Ethiopia. This means that when someone goes another person's house to visit them, he is offered food, or...you know, they offer him something. So when someone comes to the house they say, "Please eat something." Even if the visitor isn't hungry, he must eat because he'll be told to eat constantly and he'll receive a lot of food. When a visitor enters a house, everyone stands up for them. A guest is received warmly with embraces and kisses. Another thing relating to hospitality is *gursha*<sup>2</sup>. When the visitor is sitting and everyone is eating – in order to show love, to show that they accept someone- the family, or the people that are being visited, offer the visitor a bite, and they wait on him. He gets a lot of attention.

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<sup>1</sup> *Megderder* means to initially refuse an offer with the intention of accepting; similarly *magderder* means to continually put forth an offer, regardless of receiving a negative answer.

<sup>2</sup> offering a bite of food to someone by hand

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