

CultureTalk Ethiopia Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Treating Guests Well

English translation:

When we learn about the Bible, we learn that when Sarah and Abraham had a guest, they would argue saying, “No, I will be the one to wash his feet.” This demonstrates one of the biggest traditions in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, when one person goes to visit another, they always go with some item or gift, each according to what he can afford. Some might bring oranges, some might bring cake. But when one person goes to visit another, they never go empty-handed. Similarly, the person receiving the guest must respond in the same way. So when someone receives a guest, they must take good care of them. In this country, say a guest came to someone’s house, the husband and wife wouldn’t give him their bedroom. But in Ethiopia, hosts are expected to offer what they value most to their guests.

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