HOSPITALITAS : FROM HOSPES TO HOSTIS

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Abstract

Hospitality was in ancient Rome a matter of the greatest importance and it played a legal role in order to maintain different peoples and societies together and to prevent their destruction. As Rome naturally grew, it gradually became involved to such an extent that hospes or hospitality, a term which had its origin in the early days of Rome, which stands for a friendly relationship between two citizens of different communities, was replaced by the term hostis. Nowadays we use the term hostile to refer to an enemy. Originally in order to establish a friendly relationship between citizens of two communities, the members of each community had to consider them as equals with a view to maintaining a mutual relationship by treating citizens of another community

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