

Living on the terms of others

Imagine that you again feel forced to participate in a party. You do not wish to take part, but you must be present because someone or something requires you to participate.

Conversation. Small talk in all its facets: The government, positive comments about the host. Everybody can participate in the discussion about the weather.

You play your role and everyone seems happy. You are present - but you miss yourself.

Imagine an island community at the back of beyond. A community which plays its role and everyone seems happy. The small community is present out here in the vast sea - but it cannot find itself.

To live on the terms of others is the premise for a lot of small communities. The dependence on the external stifles any initiatives. Decisions taken in offices in distant cities often stifle the natural contexts and the solidarity in these small communities.



Southwest of the town Thurso, Northern Scotland, March 2017