

The sojourner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the sojourner as yourself, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.
—Leviticus 19:34, NIV, trans.

הַכֵּנֶת אוֹרְחִים
(Dakhnasat orchim)

Ξενία
(Xenia)

Hospitium



Water was offered to the guest to drink and to wash hands or feet.

... since the spirit brought you here to me, do not try to please me nor spill me with lying words. It is not for that I will entertain and befriend you, but for fear of Zeus, the god of guests, and for my own pity."
—Odyssey, 14, 386-389

In Greek (Roman) tradition, all guests were under the protection of Zeus (Jupiter). In myths, the gods often visited homes in disguise.

Greek and Roman Rules



WELCOME ALL 1st-Century Hospitality



Households were multigenerational and often multifamily. Only the most wealthy would have separate quarters for guests. When visiting, you would be part of the family.



Greetings



Servants or members of the household would place all the food out before a meal.



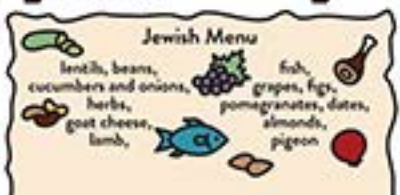
Bread (panis) was made from wheat, barley, or other grains and was prepared with salt. In cities, dough would be prepared at home and baked in communal ovens. The word for "bread" was interchangeable with the word for "food."



Simple courses were served by slaves, servants, or lower members of the household.

Nine was considered the perfect number of guests for a dinner party.

Men and women ate separately.



Bring your knife! Fingers were your primary utensil, but guests would bring their own knife to the table.

No chairs! People reclined when eating. Your place around a table reflected your social ranking and your relationship to the host.



Men and women dined together in Rome; children would also be included in special feasts.