

we have shamelessly treated land and community space as commodities, until it has brought us to this; there is simply nowhere to go.

there was once a time on this earth when nomads with no land or property of their own would demand sustenance from the rich not as an act of charity, but as a right. emancipated serfs in Russia were entertained with feasts from landed nobles, and this was not seen as an act of selfless philanthropy, rather it was considered compensation for the fact that nobles hoarded more than their share of the land.

The more one reads of history the more the relation between charity and land ownership becomes apparent. Here in America for example the pilgrims came with charitable offerings, and they also came with a clear and vicious intent to take the land.

My point is that we take more than we could ever give; we take the land itself. But objectively speaking one cannot justify 'earning' land as it is not a manmade thing. Besides this we are a cooperative species who form economies of cooperativity not necessarily ones of hard work and merit.

We do not EARN our right to inhabit land, it was given to us. If we are mark off every square inch as being 'owned' then yes, we OWE it to those remaining to give them a place to be next to those who are in the same boat, to clean up, to rest, and to simply be during the day, not just a place to sleep during the night. You got a mission here with a single day room that is comparable in size to someone's living room. Other than that, you got a library and Starbucks.

treating land and community space as commodities is the greatest of social diseases. With nowhere to go but an overpriced, claustrophobic, and probably dirty apartment, the alcoholic falls ever deeper into their dependency which becomes their one reprieve from some stark reality. Their sense of freedom and empathy will be the first things to go. their relations and family soon follow. I've watched this process play out in many I care about in this town from my childhood to this very day.

And I've seen it operate on those living outside. With no unifying places and nowhere to go but an isolated pissed on sidewalk people fall into loops of addiction. We know how unhealthy the environment is we've created, yet it can be said that we've made very little attempt to provide poor people with cultural institutions that do not center themselves on substance abuse, unless mcdonalds and 7-11 count.

Harbor of Hope and operation Nightwatch in Seattle and Portland are programs which focus on providing space for community and culture. People fight and people die over these things, so by what metric should they not be considered human needs?