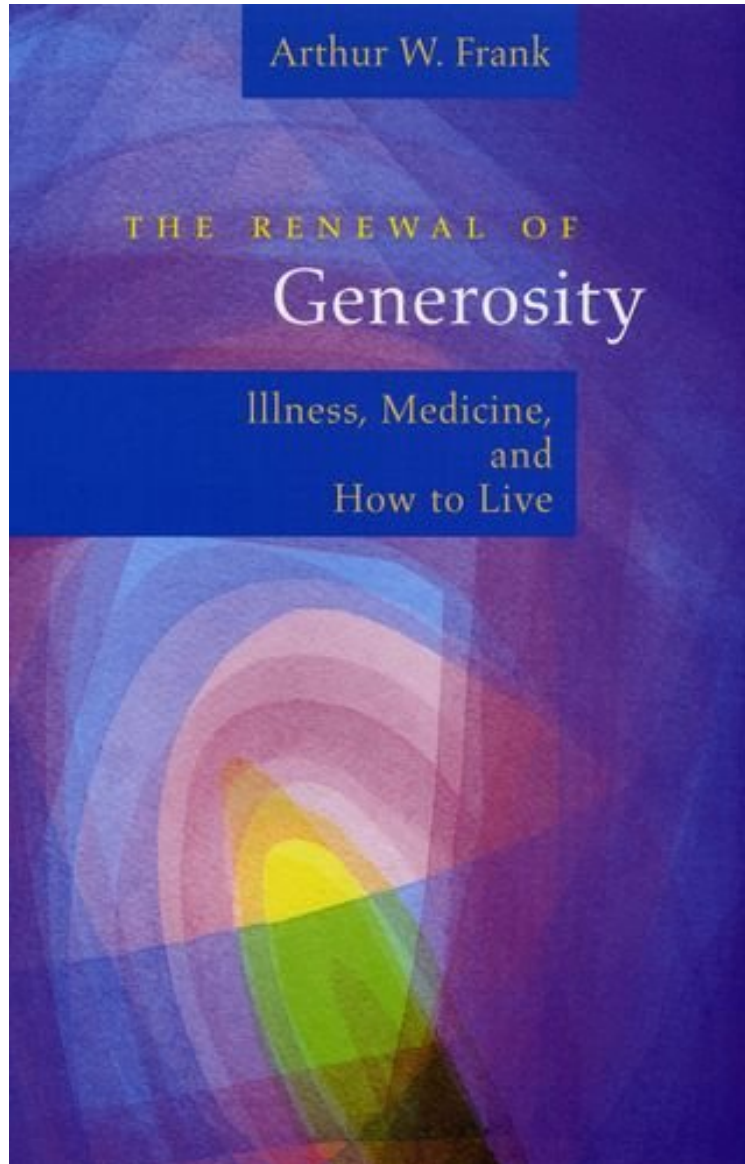


(Free download) The Renewal of Generosity: Illness, Medicine, and How to Live

The Renewal of Generosity: Illness, Medicine, and How to Live

Arthur W. Frank

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2831246 in Books 2004-05-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .82 x 5.86 x 8.82l, .75 #File Name: 0226260151166 pages | File size: 19.Mb

Arthur W. Frank : The Renewal of Generosity: Illness, Medicine, and How to Live before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Renewal of Generosity: Illness, Medicine, and How to Live:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Must-Read if You are HumanBy Sturdy ReaderEssential reading, not only for healthcare professionals and their patients and caregivers, but for anyone who is interested in how to have

deep and authentic dialogue with other human beings. Frank, (whose memoir of his own illness, *At the Will of the Body*, is also excellent) is merciless in his scrutiny of accounts by self-proclaimed "heroic" doctors vs. the stories of doctors, nurses and others who learn, through painful experience, how to relate to and truly speak with and learn from their patients. He writes of both the generosity of the ill, as well as physicians. He concludes, "Generosity is giving oneself to the suffering visible in the face and giving ourselves, no less, to joy." 0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. One Star By Roy Routson A very stiff and hard to read book, I wish I hadn't bought it. The title is misleading.

Contemporary health care often lacks generosity of spirit, even when treatment is most efficient. Too many patients are left unhappy with how they are treated, and too many medical professionals feel estranged from the calling that drew them to medicine. Arthur W. Frank tells the stories of ill people, doctors, and nurses who are restoring generosity to medicine; generosity toward others and to themselves. *The Renewal of Generosity* evokes medicine as the face-to-face encounter that comes before and after diagnostics, pharmaceuticals, and surgeries. Frank calls upon the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius, philosopher Emmanuel Levinas, and literary critic Mikhail Bakhtin to reflect on stories of ill people, doctors, and nurses who transform demoralized medicine into caring relationships. He presents their stories as a source of consolation for both ill and professional alike and as an impetus to changing medical systems. Frank shows how generosity is being renewed through dialogue that is more than the exchange of information. Dialogue is an ethic and an ideal for people on both sides of the medical encounter who want to offer more to those they meet and who want their own lives enriched in the process. *The Renewal of Generosity* views illness and medical work with grace and compassion, making an invaluable contribution to expanding our vision of suffering and healing.

From *The New England Journal of Medicine* Although one might expect a book about generosity in medicine to involve a discussion of charity in health care, Arthur W. Frank engages the reader as a person who might alternatively be a patient or a physician. *The Renewal of Generosity* is about a seldom-discussed virtue; its subtitle, *Illness, Medicine, and How to Live*, defines its context and intent. The book offers no recipes or rules for living but engages the reader in a set of exercises that draw on a wide range of writers to show how generosity and gratitude are central features of any ethically sound practice of medicine. This reflection is starkly honest and never pedantic or condescending. Not only is it rich with both clinical and psychological detail, but it is filled with sensitive portraits of the complexities of meaning involved in the care of patients. Frank's mode of presentation is dialogue, which is more than a literary or sociological technique. It serves a methodologically effective function of engaging the reader in a project about the complexity and importance of generosity as a way of living with others. Although dialogue is the central theme, Frank clearly shows that verbal communication is just one form of the complex interactions that define what caregiving involves. Dialogue emerges in the empty space between two people. This empty space is an essential condition that medicine, with its technical and scientific mastery, cannot erase. Dealing with this condition demands an imaginative response that far exceeds the typical themes in common treatments of communication between physicians and patients. Frank rightly understands that communication gains its importance not in achieving a technical mastery, such as accurate conveyance of information, but in educating one to face difference, frailty, and limitation. Through a rich telling of stories and reflection on them, Frank conducts a complex symphony of ideas about medicine with writing from a wide range of authors that models how readers might enact and experience the complex, subtle meaning of generosity and gratitude in their own practices. Anchored in the context of contemporary medicine, this book is more about how one ought to live when facing the limits of action, communication, and understanding than it is about any topical issue. Through open engagement with another human being, generosity and the sometimes frightful situations that call it forth are revealed not only in complex clinical situations and actions (including avoidances), but also in the acts of speech that make up and surround caregiving relationships. Although it is accurate to say that this book is about communication, it is communication at a level that is seldom broached in the most common technical discussions. As Frank sees it, the world of physician and patient is not so much silent or filled with complex messages between sender and receiver as it is full of a nearly unspeakable meaningfulness that can help us to learn how to be better caregivers and how to live with others. Frank more often shows, rather than tells us, what must be done. He is not content to capture or express multifaceted acts of kindness or compassion but, rather, shows in dialogue how to live better. It is accurate to say that this book is brilliant, but its light shines more with subtle twinkles than with dazzling flashes of insight about the meaning and the value of generosity and gratitude in medicine. Physicians should rush to read this book, and I hope that patients will join them, because their partnership is unavoidable. George J. Agich, Ph.D. Copyright copy; 2004 Massachusetts Medical Society. All rights reserved. *The New England Journal of Medicine* is a registered trademark of the MMS. "Frank's vision of how a lost sense of story could be restored to medicine is both lucid and profound.... In his new book, *The Renewal of Generosity*, he examines clinical situations in which health care workers who do bring a sense of narrative to bear have transformative effects." - Melanie Thernstrom, *New York Times Magazine* "This reflection is starkly honest and never pedantic or condescending.... Through a rich telling of stories and reflection on them, Frank conducts a complex symphony of

ideas about medicine with writing from a wide range of authors that models how readers might enact and experience the complex, subtle meaning of generosity and gratitude in their own practices.... Physicians should rush to read this book, and I hope that patients will join them." - George J. Agich, *New England Journal of Medicine*"From the Inside Flap

Contemporary health care often lacks generosity of spirit, even when treatment is most efficient. Too many patients are left unhappy with how they are treated, and too many medical professionals feel estranged from the calling that drew them to medicine. Arthur W. Frank tells the stories of ill people, doctors, and nurses who are restoring generosity to medicine—generosity toward others and to themselves. *The Renewal of Generosity* evokes medicine as the face-to-face encounter that comes before and after diagnostics, pharmaceuticals, and surgeries. Frank calls upon the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius, philosopher Emmanuel Levinas, and literary critic Mikhail Bakhtin to reflect on stories of ill people, doctors, and nurses who transform demoralized medicine into caring relationships. He presents their stories as a source of consolation for both ill and professional alike and as an impetus to changing medical systems. Frank shows how generosity is being renewed through dialogue that is more than the exchange of information. Dialogue is an ethic and an ideal for people on both sides of the medical encounter who want to offer more to those they meet and who want their own lives enriched in the process. *The Renewal of Generosity* views illness and medical work with grace and compassion, making an invaluable contribution to expanding our vision of suffering and healing.