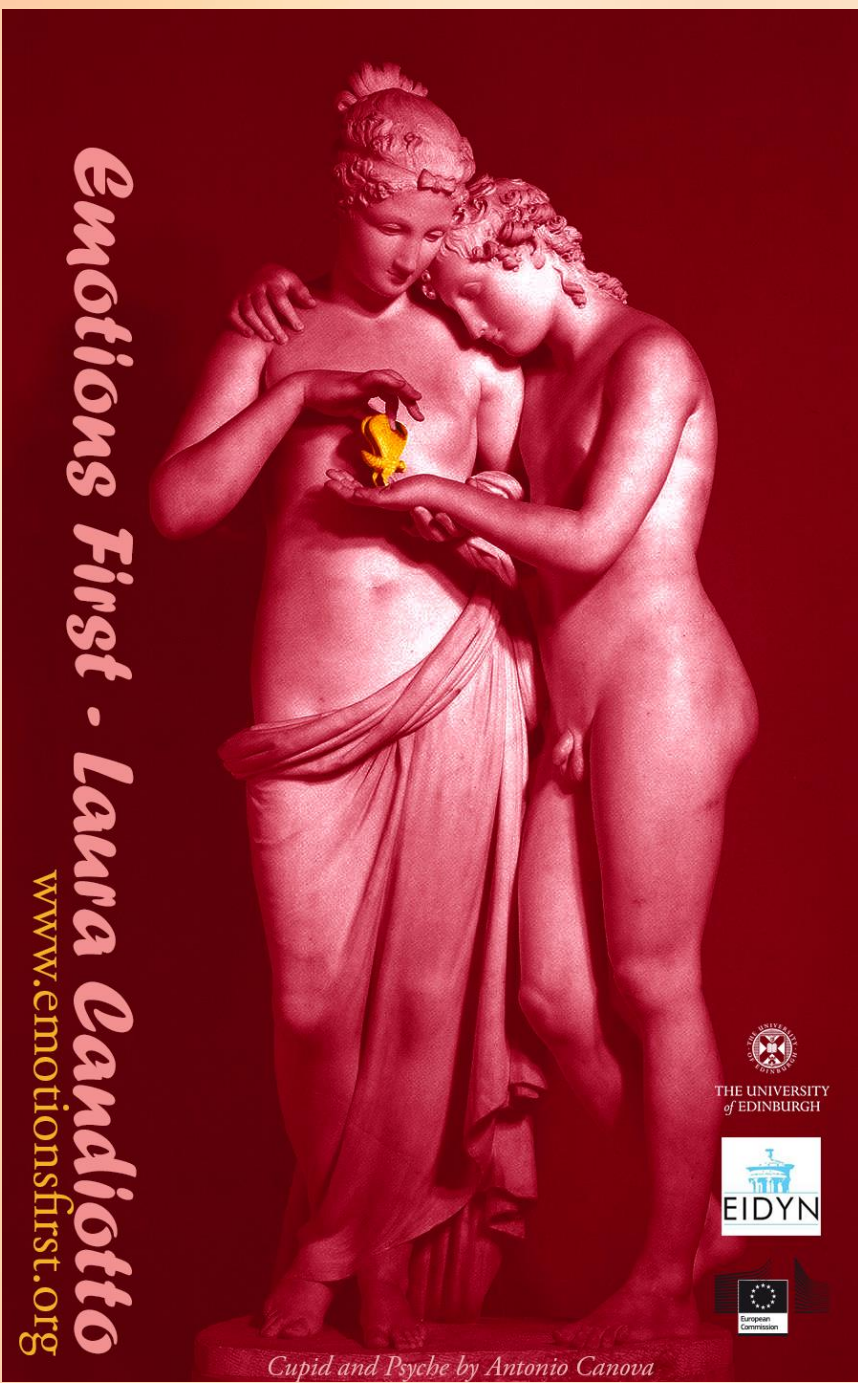


To be called by the suffering

Philosophy, spiritual awareness and compassion in healthcare

When Education Becomes Possible,
Edinburgh Chaplaincy
25th October 2017

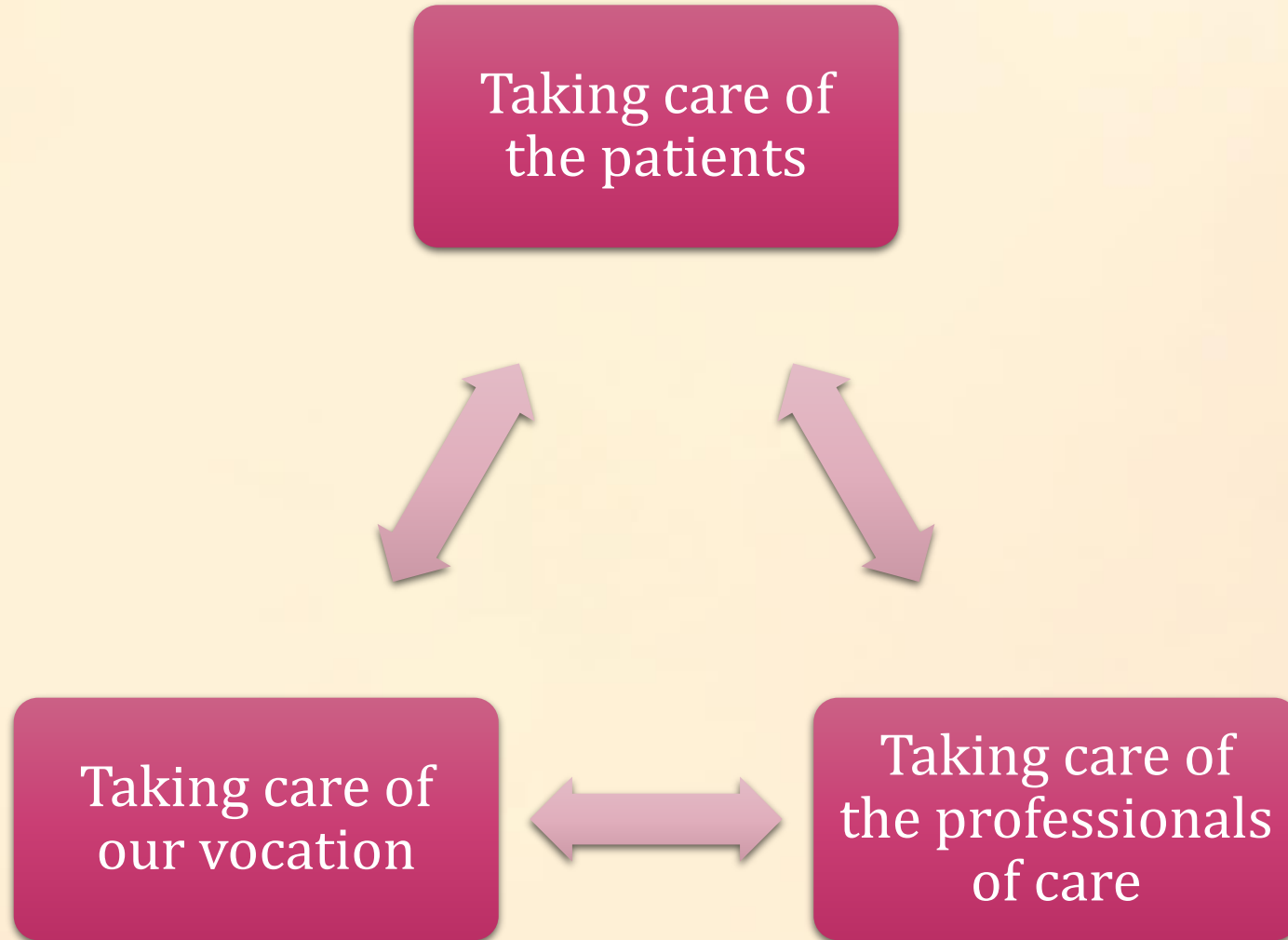


Cupid and Psyche by Antonio Canova

The story

- Philosophical training for the healthcare practitioners. My experience with the Venice Board of Medical Practitioners at Ca' Foscari University of Venice (2013-2015) and Libera Associazione di idee (local NGO). Some details: a group of 20 medical practitioners and philosophers; 5 seminars of 8 workshops (fall 2013, spring 2014, fall 2014, spring 2015, fall 2015); outputs (2 books, 3 Conferences, 1 theatre piece, public events)





Taking care of the healthcare system

Testimonies



“I would take care of people’s suffering as whole humanity; I would take care of myself. I would make sense of the suffering, and if this is not possible, to share my experiences with other men and women. Their gratitude will be rewarding, though I do not deserve it.”

“What could be more beautiful to have done something good for other people? I was able to heal the wounds of my friends and to apply several patches. I dreamt to heal the wounds of the people I met.”

“Looking at him [a patient] I started to tell him about human fragility [...], but also I told him that the human body is a perfect and harmonious machine, aesthetically wonderful. That the human mind is such an intriguing labyrinth.”

“Is there anyone ready to hear the truth about the doctors’ suffering?”



“In order to hear the vocation for caring, not much noise should be around. That's why, before even I could just pull over to myself, I had to be quiet, to start from the "cries" of my "soul." Vocation for caring is listening and then it is self-care. Only those who have learned to take care of themselves can hope to learn how to take care of others.”



“Even when you will feel tired, discouraged or disheartened, you will found that this choice [the choice of being a doctor] is born from the depths of your heart [...]. And even when you will accompany your patient to the death, to pass the threshold, you will be there for a destiny that is also yours.”

*“And then, I had to see the death. You know that there are people who refuse to die? Have you ever heard a woman screaming, 'No!' when she is dying? I do. And I realized then, that I could not get used. I was young then. I became more modest. Simply, I am not always accustomed to see die. I do not know nothing.”
(Albert Camus, The Plague)*



- *“Dear patient, I'm not what you want, seek, expect. I do not look like someone. The doctor is often sought after and celebrated, has a robe of sanctity and charisma. I do not want to lie down on a myth, or create a new myth. [...] The company, science, pharmaceutical companies, healthcare companies, the union, the Order of Doctors make us so many seductive offers in terms of identity. I would say to you what makes me real: the voice that expresses what stirs within me. The voice that expresses my deep passion for the person, for taking care. [...] Perhaps I feel it every time I destroy any identification as I leave to grow in me the strength, the true passion of my soul [...]. By using the means that I have as knowledge...[...] I am not a magician, a robot, a god who gives eternal life, I am not a politician, a bureaucrat, a distributor of drugs, not Big Pharma, or Dr. House. [...] I'm just a man who studied medicine to stay close to you, standing next to you to take care of you and me, to make a stretch of road with you as good as possible, with the best possible health here and now, for both.”*



Thank you!

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