



*Existential and spiritual needs of older cancer
patientse*

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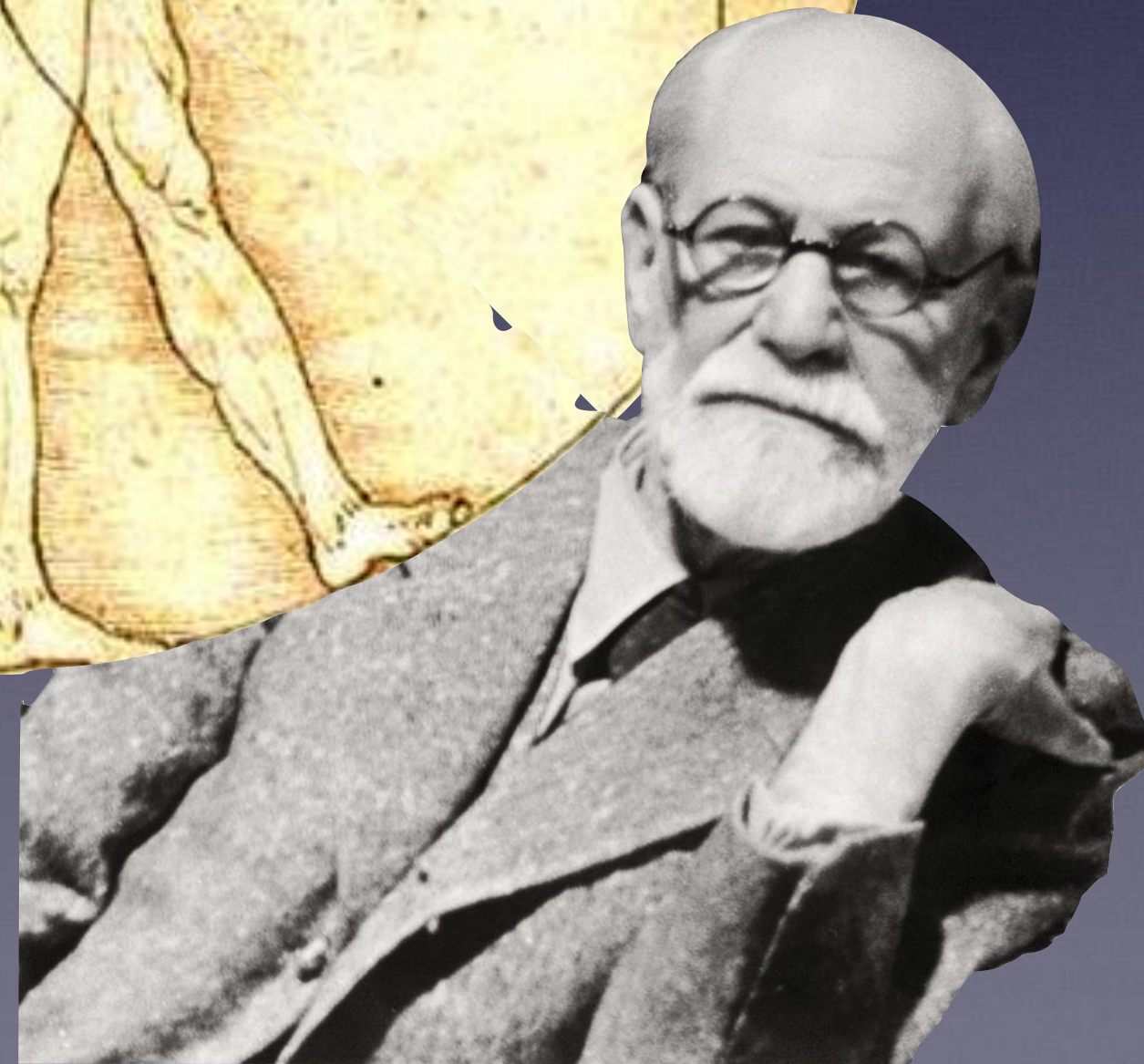
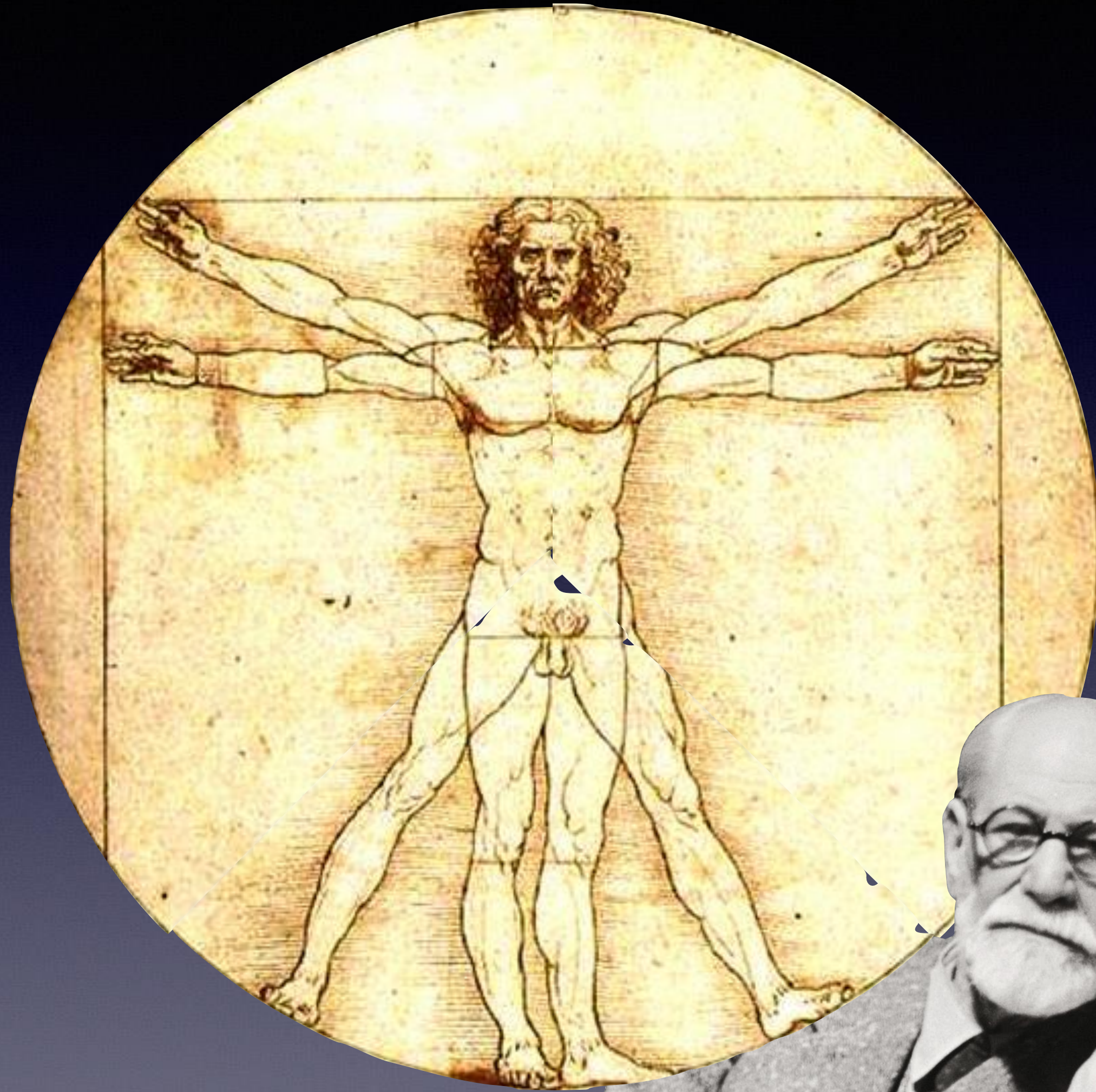
The hospital is one of the most scientific places in society

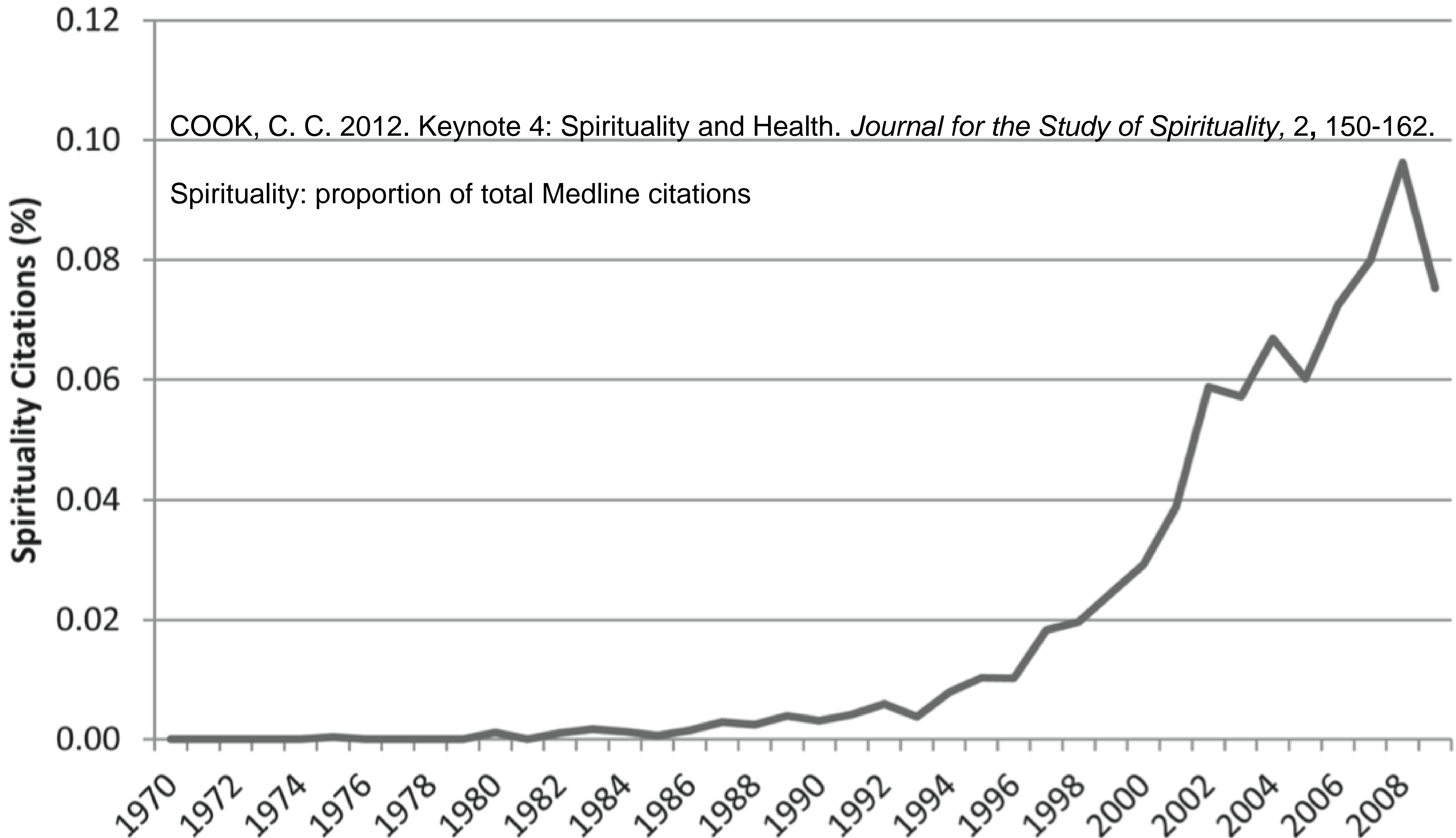
The hospital is also one of the most existential places in society



www.hvidt.com/dokumenter

www.faith-health.org





Results

1. Spirituality & risk of disease

THYGESEN, L. C., HVIDT, N. C., JUEL, K., HOFF, A., ROSS, L. & JOHANSEN, C. 2012. The Danish Religious Societies Health Study. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 41, 1248-1255.

2. Spirituality & mortality

LA COUR, PETER, KIRSTEN AVLUND, and KIRSTEN SCHULTZ-LARSEN. "Religion and Survival in a Secular Region. A Twenty Year Follow-Up of 734 Danish Adults Born in 1914." *Social Science & Medicine* 62, no. 1 (2006): 157-64.

3. Spirituality & recovery

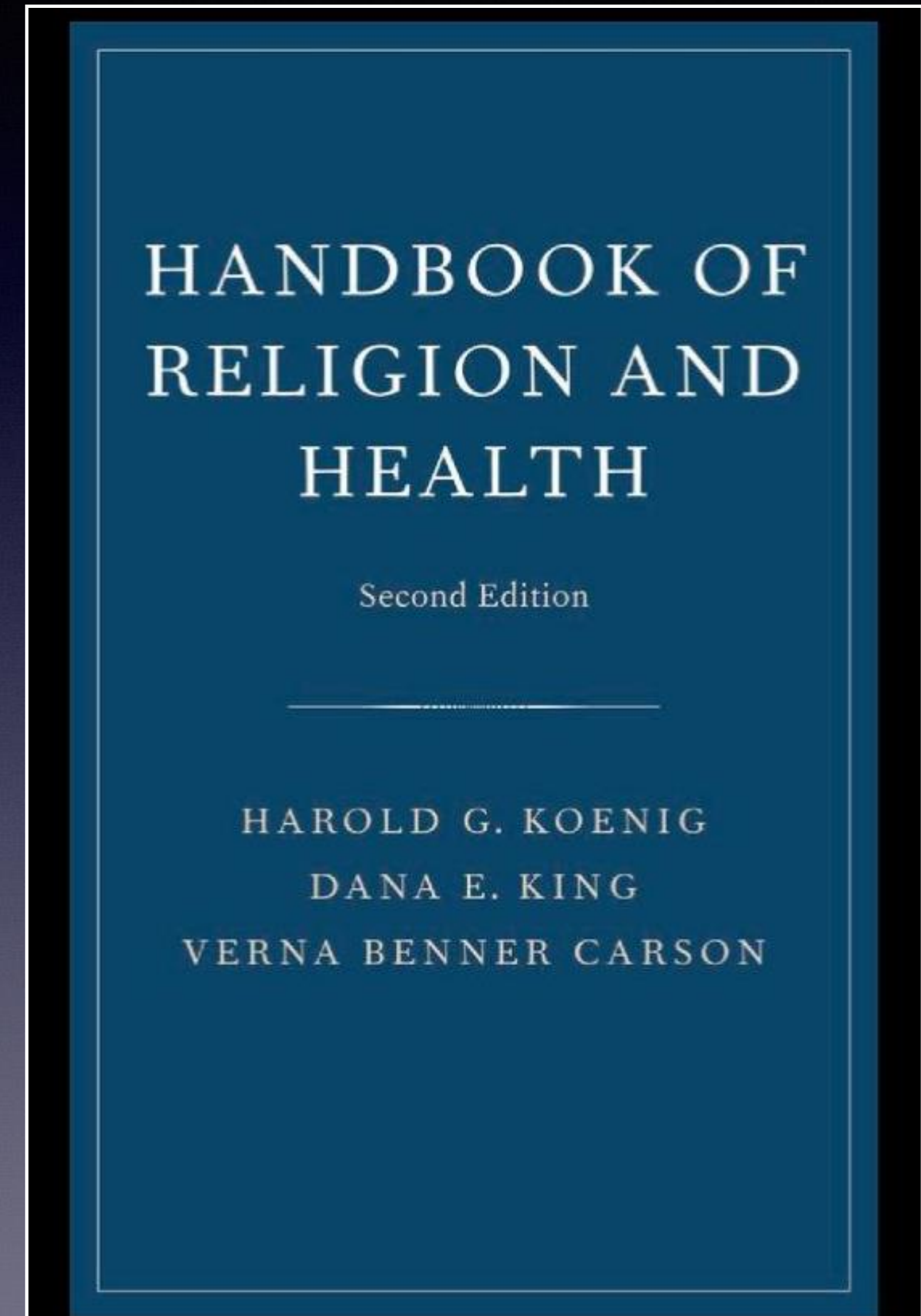
FALLOT, ROGER D. "Spirituality and religion in psychiatric rehabilitation and recovery from mental illness." *International Review of Psychiatry* 13, no. 2 (2001): 110-116.

4. Spirituality & quality of life

SELIGMAN, M, CSIKSZENTMHALYI, M, "Positive Psychology: An Introduction." *American Psychologist, Millennial Edition*. 2000;55(1):5-14.

5. Spirituality & coping with disease

PARGAMENT, K. I., KOENIG, H. G., TARAKESHWAR, N. & HAHN, J. (2001) Religious Struggle as a Predictor of Mortality among Medically Ill Elderly Patients: A 2-Year Longitudinal Study. *Archives of Internal Medicine*, 161, 1881-1885.



Physical

Pain due to disease location
Other symptoms, eg nausea
Physical decline & fatigue

Social

Relationships with family /
carers
Role in family
Work life
Financial issues

Pain

Psychological

Grief, depression
Anxiety, anger
Adjustment to condition

Spiritual

Existential issues
Meaning of life and illness
Personal values
Religious questions

WHO Definition of Palliative Care

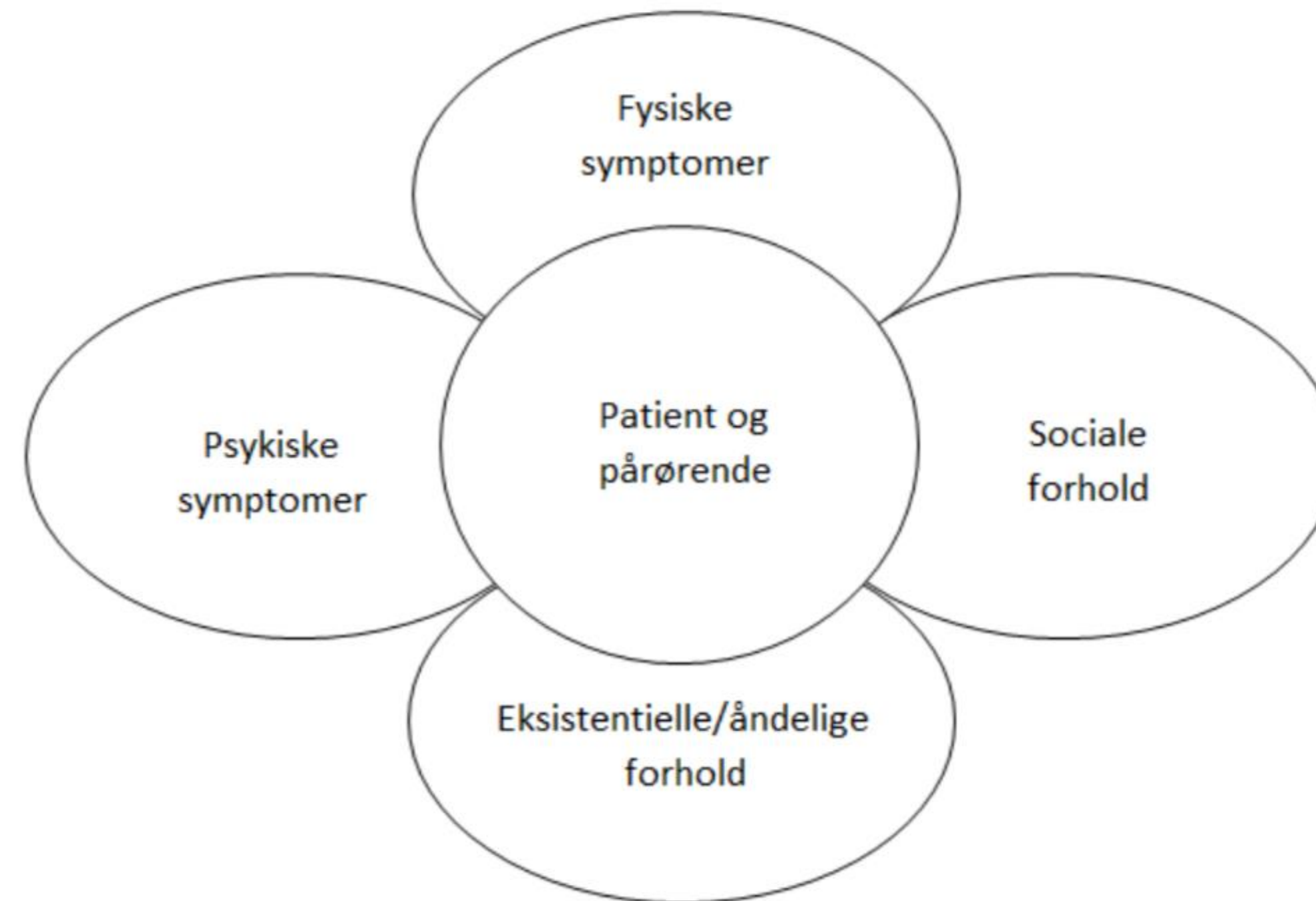
Palliative care ... integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of patient care.



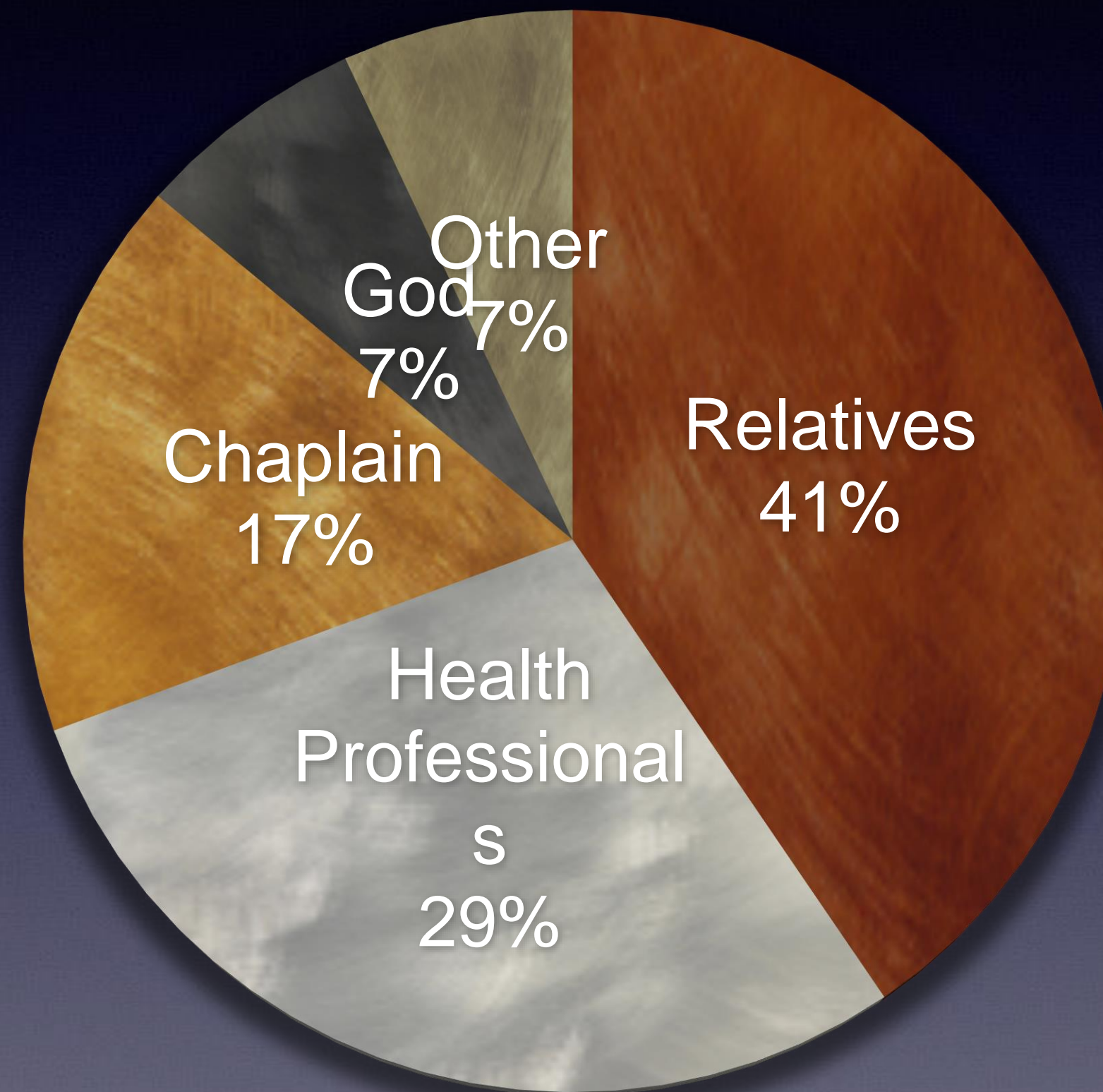
4.1 Den helhedsorienterede palliative indsats

Den palliative indsats tager udgangspunkt i et helhedsperspektiv på patientens og de pårørendes behov og problemer i forbindelse med livstruende sygdom. Dette kan illustreres i nedenstående figur 2.

Figur 2: Palliative behov hos patienter med livstruende sygdomme og deres pårørende

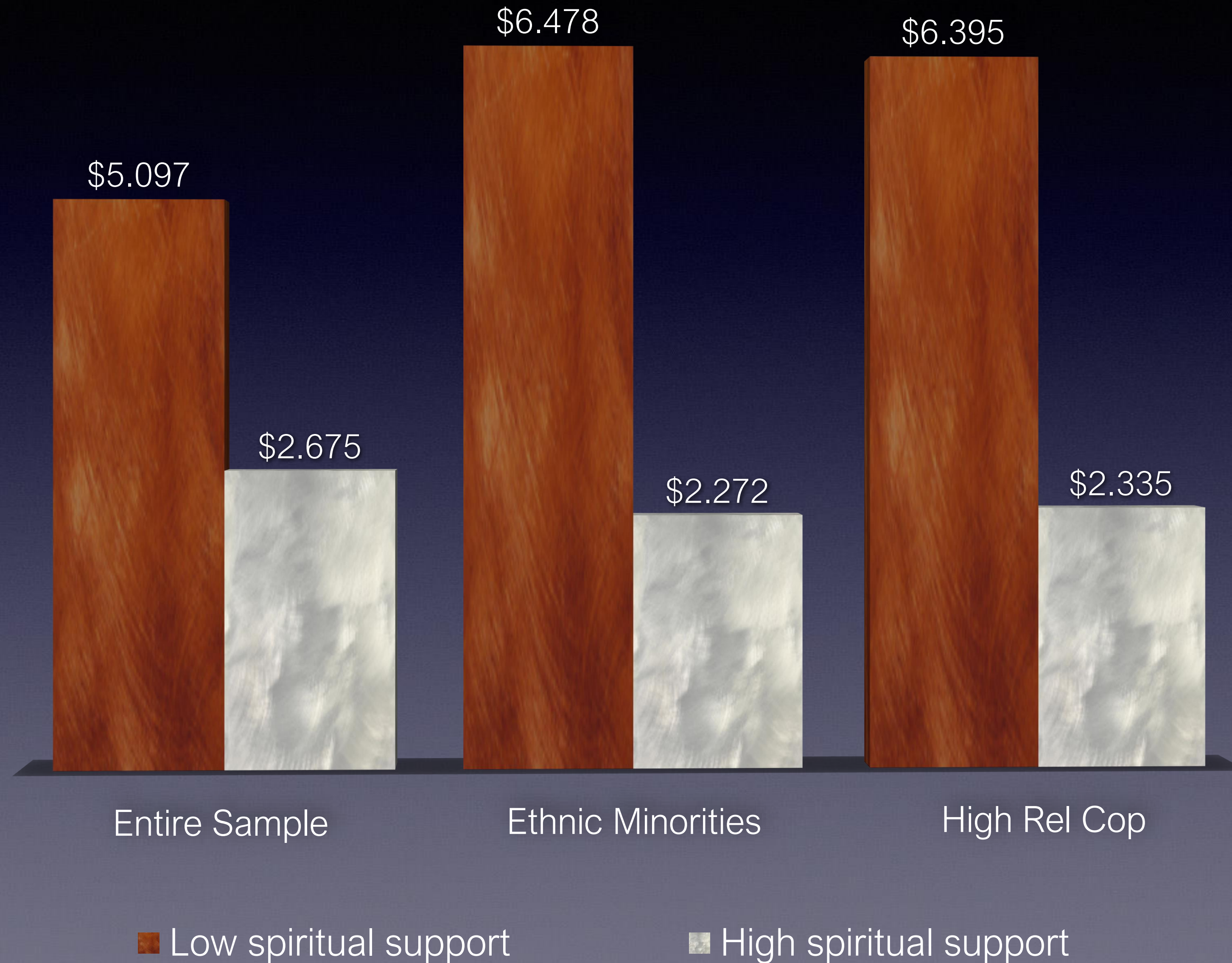


Do patients even want spiritual care?



Hanson, L. C., Dobbs, D., Usher, B. M., Williams, S., Rawlings, J. & Daaleman, T. P. 2008. Providers and types of spiritual care during serious illness. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 11, 907-914.

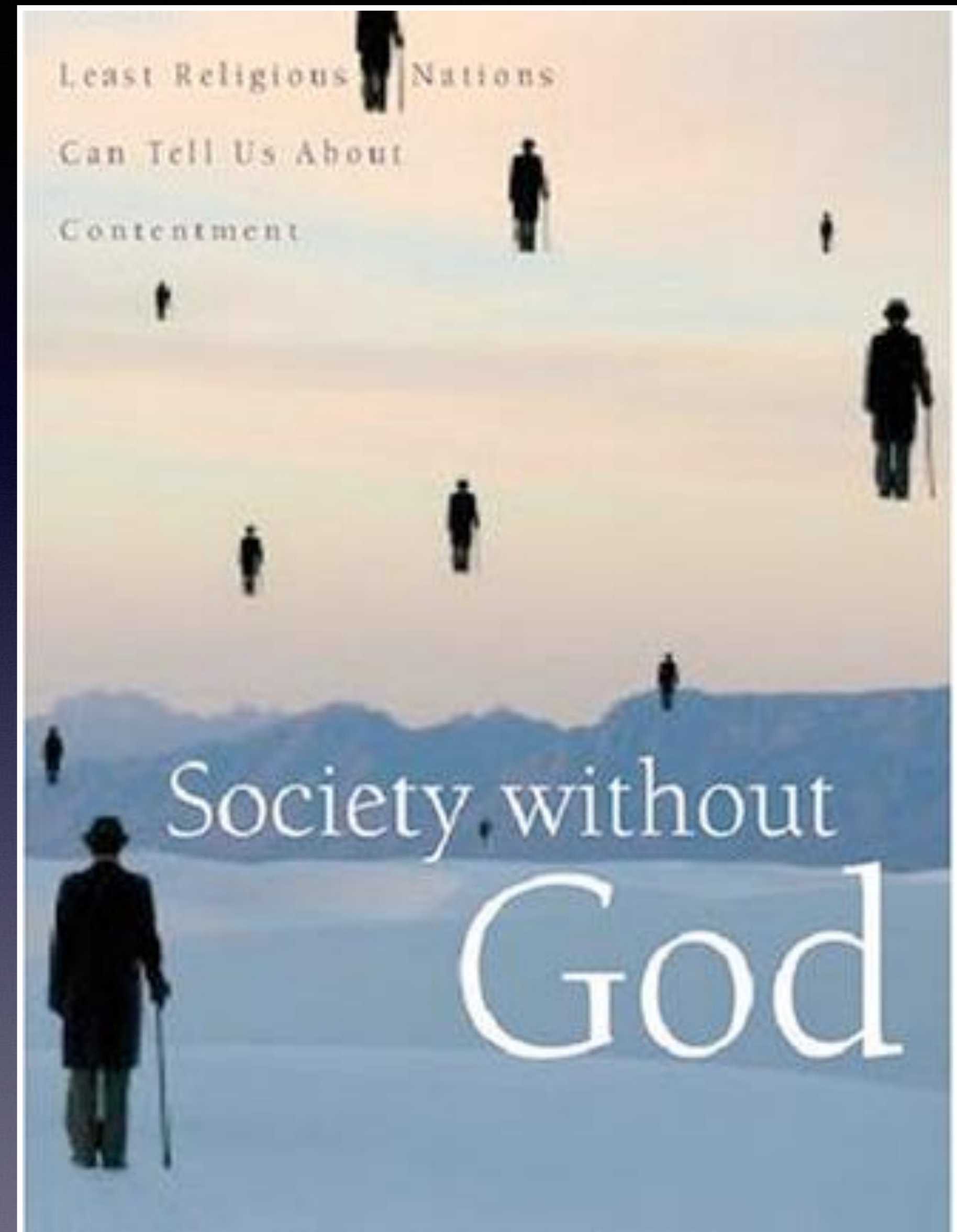
Can we afford ~~spiritual care~~ spiritual care?



What about Denmark?

Society without God?

Phil Zuckerman, *Society without
God? What the least religious
nations can tell us about
contentment*, NYU Press, 2008



Danmark is secular!

So why spiritual care in Denmark?!

Two answers to this question:

1. Danmark is secular - thus no need for spiritual care!

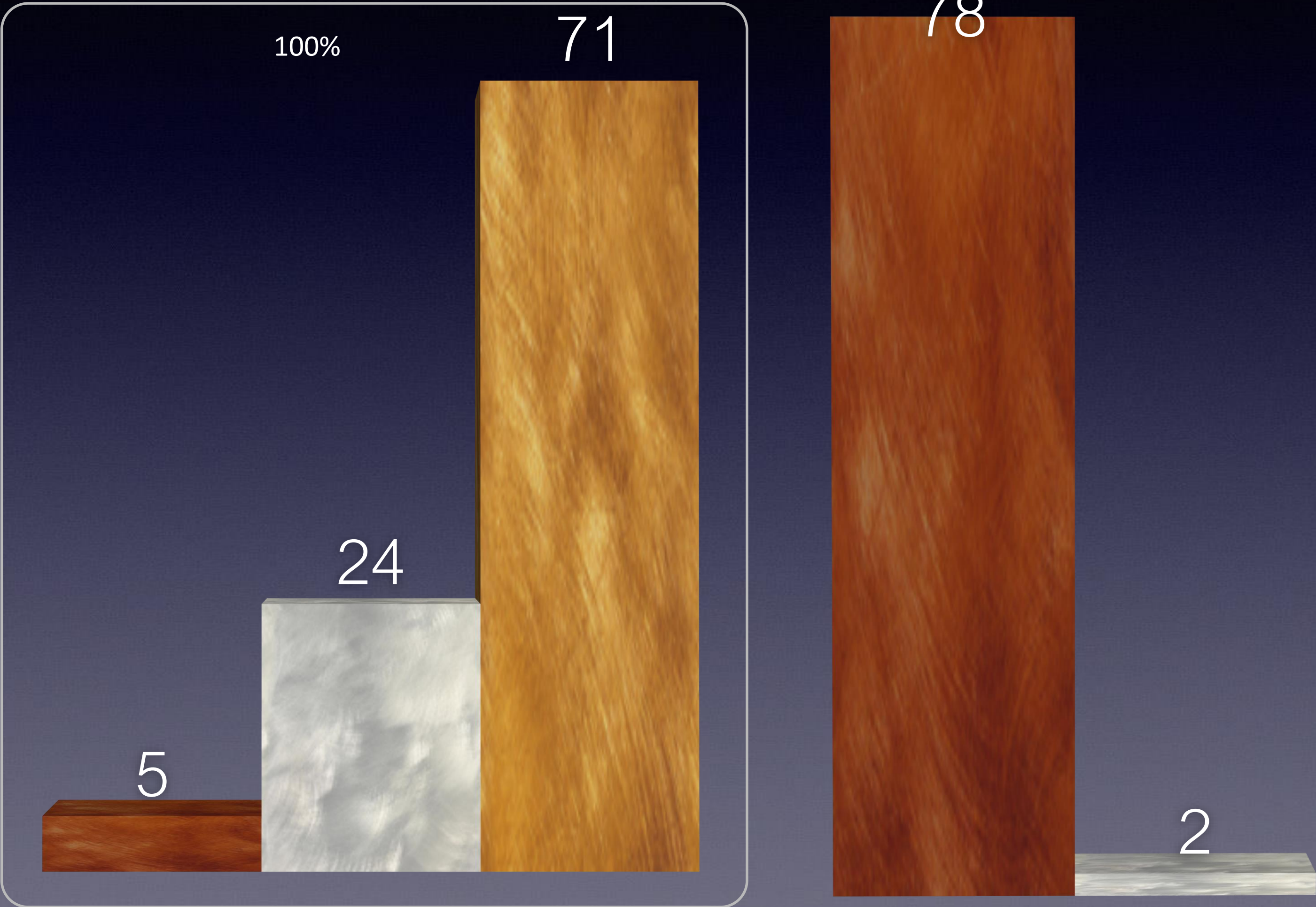
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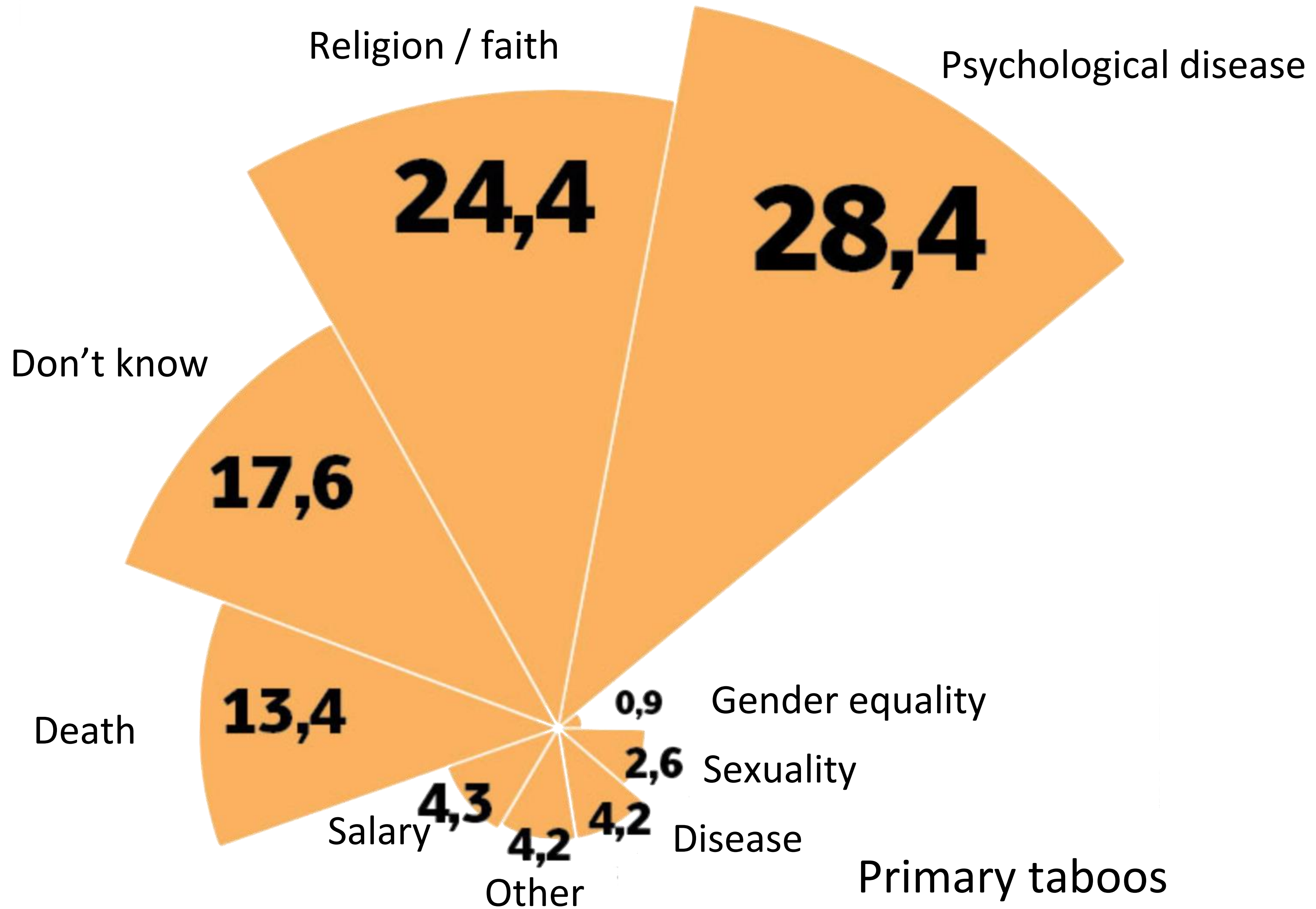
2. Denmark is secular - thus precisely need for spiritual care!

Faith in Denmark



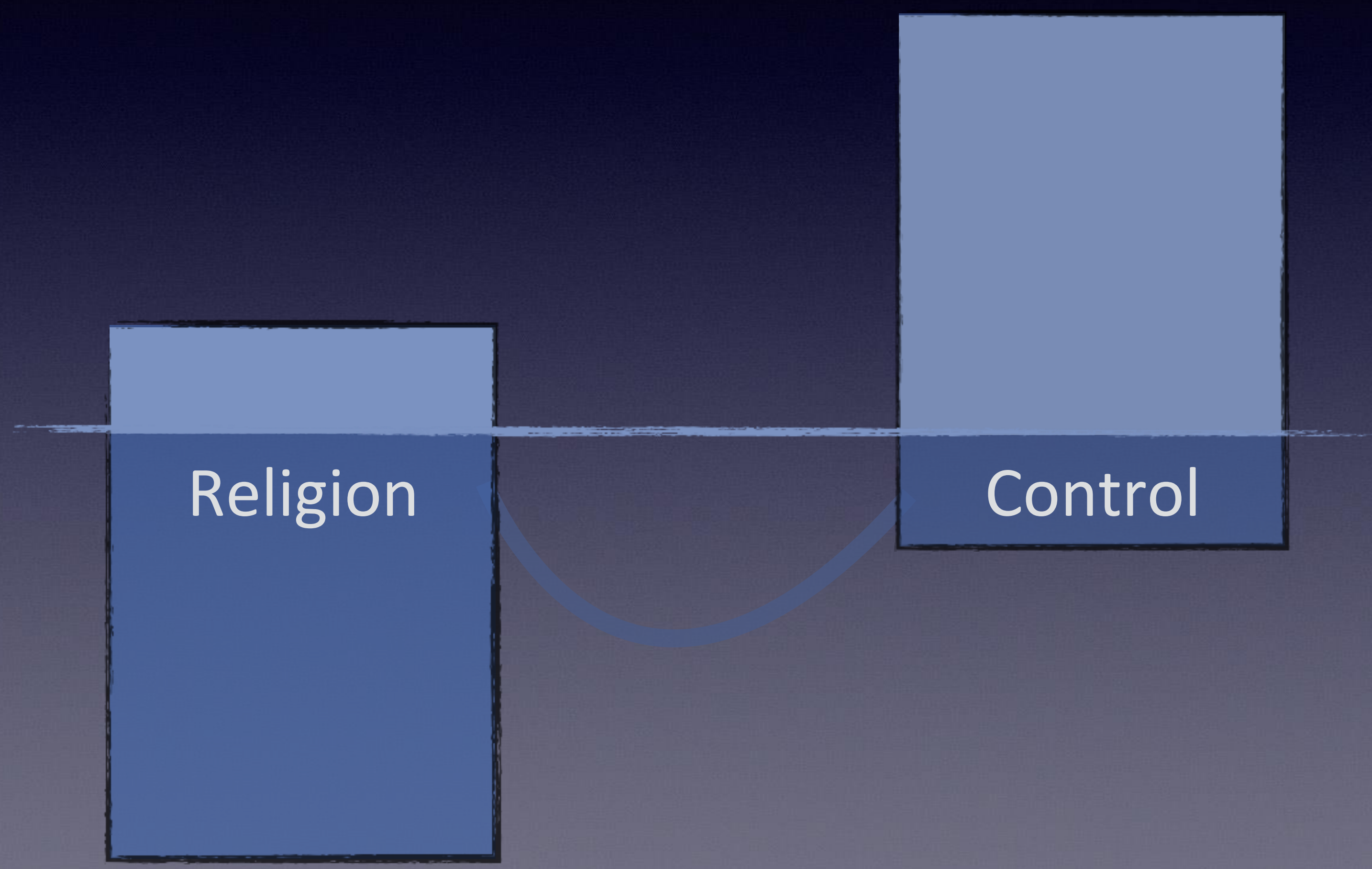
From basic to intervention research in Spiritual Care

- 20 PhD-projects on spiritual care themes in Denmark since 2008
- 10 ongoing or planned intervention research projects departing from the above



Primary taboos
Berlingske / Gallup 03.09.16





Mountains move faith!

The cancer counterpart to the dictum
“There are no atheists in foxholes” is
“There are no atheists in oncology
and bone-marrow transplant units”

Cavanagh ME. "Ministering to Cancer Patients." *Journal of Religion and Health*. 1994;33(3):231-41.

Many patients alone with their spiritual problems



Ambivalent and insecure religious coping - and care - in secular culture

It is difficult as patients or relatives to practice the existential, spiritual and / or religious *coping* one has not practiced!

Ambivalent and insecure religious coping - and care - in secular culture

It is difficult as health professionals to practice the existential, spiritual and / or religious *care* one has not practiced!

Mountains move faith

Summary

- Denmark is considered the world's least religious nation
- This is mainly because Danes experience control
- Denmark has the world's largest "passive church membership"
- Denmark has the world's lowest degree of religious practice
- "Crisis religiosity" activated with loss of control
- Existential and spiritual needs inarticulate and ambivalent
- Thus great need for existential and spiritual care

