OBJECTIVES

1. To reflect on the importance of respect and dignity for older adults, their families and the healthcare professionals.
2. To reflect on professional practice that promotes a person-centered approach to care.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Healthcare professionals and/or health professions students, either in a group or online discussion group.

EXERCISE

1. Begin by reading the poem aloud. One person can read it to the group, or the group can read it together.

When a horse is sold in the marketplace
When a horse is sold in the marketplace
No one asks the horse-soul
if it will allow a strange hand
to open the horse's mouth,
to touch his limbs.
They set my shamed flesh
before the dragon of science
without asking my soul.

Ten heads of the lofty dragon
observed my misery
without asking my soul

2. Discuss the following questions for reflection:
   a. What does this bring to mind for you?
   b. Have you ever felt like you were the horse in the marketplace?
   c. Have you ever seen a person receiving healthcare who was treated in this manner?
   d. Are there times you may have acted in this manner towards other people?

Used by WAGECC for the interprofessional Master Faculty Scholars Program (geriatric and palliative medicine fellows, advance practice nurses, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, medical faculty, etc.) to introduce the person-centered approach to care of older adults. It resulted in a robust discussion.