

UNDERSTANDING

RUSSIANS

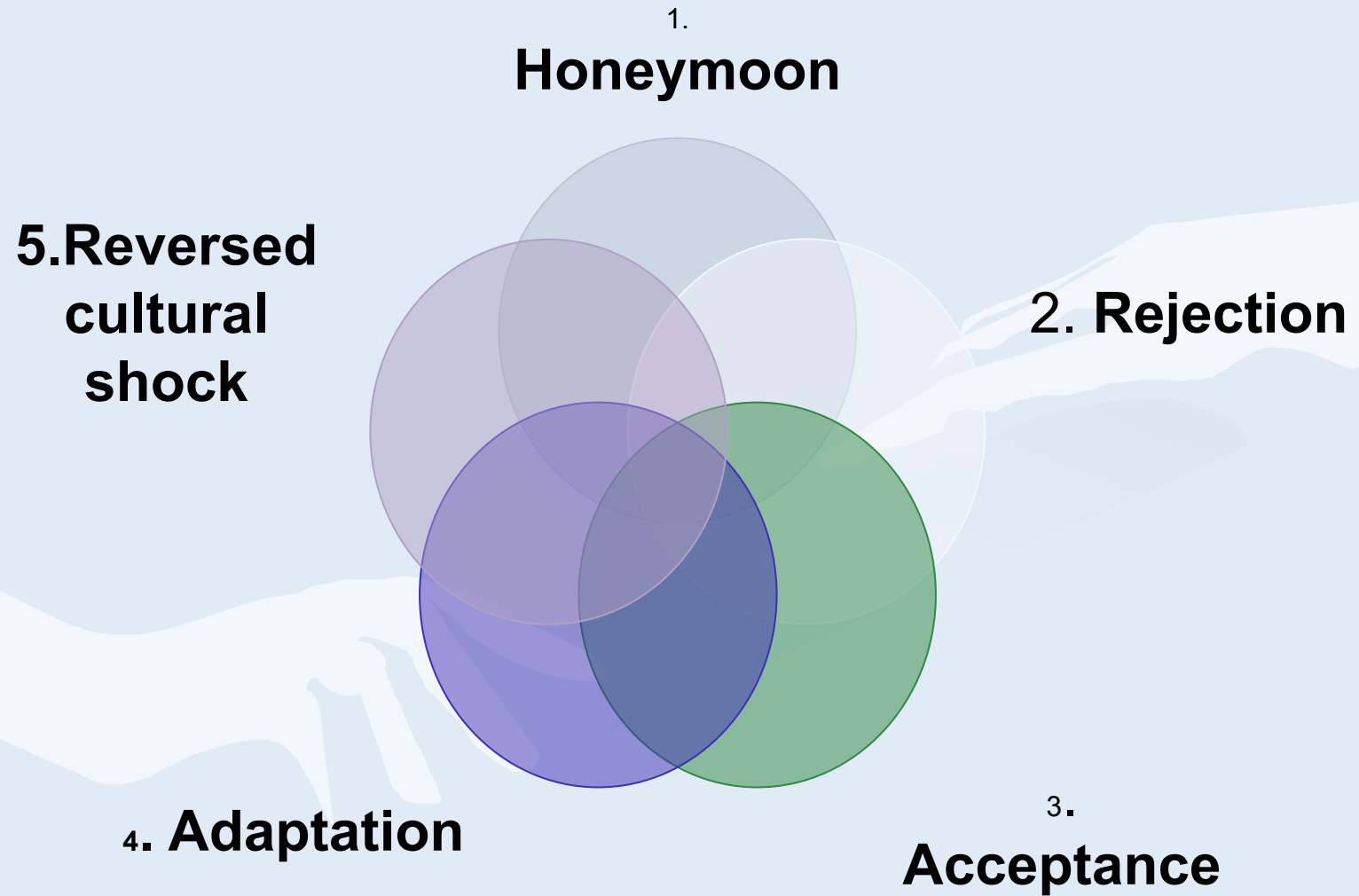


*"I HAVE NEVER MET
ANYONE WHO UNDERSTOOD
RUSSIANS"*

Grand Duke Alexandr Mihailovich



Cultural Shock



Honeymoon

- You like absolutely everything
- You are excited
- You feel special
- You are ready to explore and learn as much as possible
- It's great to be here!!!

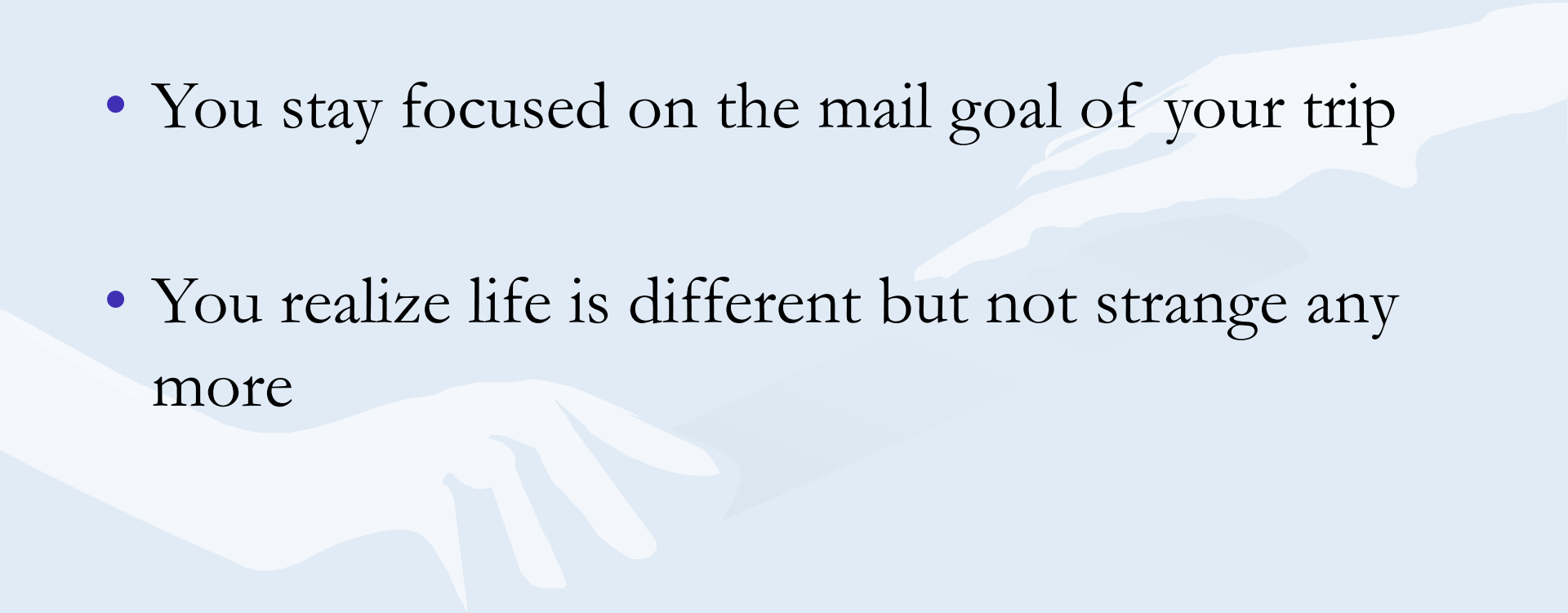
*(to be continued...*LOL*)*

Rejection

- They speak Russian here, EVERYWHERE!!!
- Food is not what I used to eat back home
- NO family, friends or even familiar faces
- I feel tired, ALWAYS.
- Inability to solve even little problems
- Avoiding others, unwilling to interact, being angry or irritable

Acceptance

- You are able to cope with reality
- You stay focused on the main goal of your trip
- You realize life is different but not strange any more

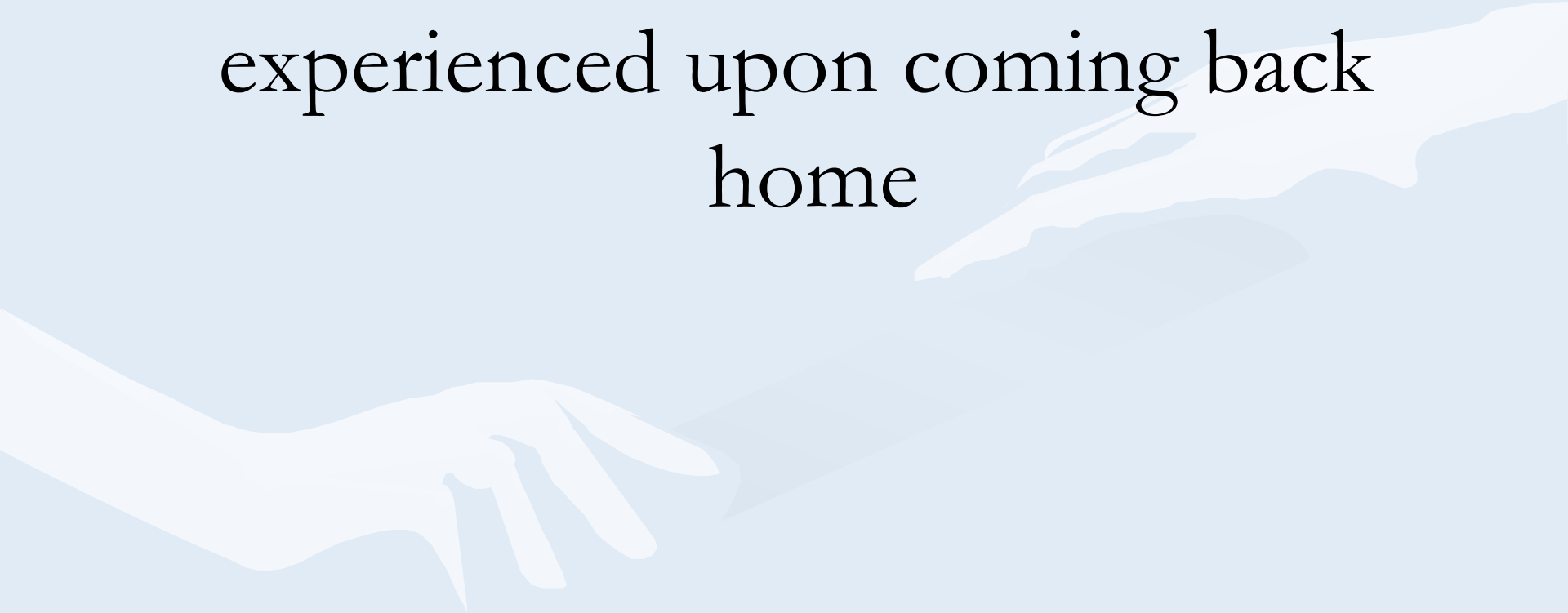


Adaptation

- You feel at home here
- Everything in this country makes sense now
- You realize you would like to spend here more time or to come back

Reversed Cultural Shock

All of the above
experienced upon coming back
home



There are two ways you can tell when a man is lying. One is when he says he can drink champagne all night and not get drunk. The other is when he says he understands Russians.

Charles E. Bohlen, former U.S. ambassador to Moscow

Stereotypes and Myths

- RUSSIA IS FULL OF MAFIA AND IT'S DANGEROUS HERE
- THERE ARE SO MANY CATASTROPHES AND BOMBINGS!
- THE ECONOMY IS DESTROYED AND RUSSIA IS A POOR COUNTRY WITH NO FUTURE
- MANY RUSSIANS ARE RACISTS

Stereotypes and Myths

- THE WINTER IS SO COLD HERE!
- RUSSIANS ARE DRINKING TOO MUCH...
- RUSSIANS ARE LAZY
- RUSSIANS DON'T SMILE

Different and Alike

- Political, educational, social systems
- Food
- Living conditions
- Behavior and conversation styles
- VALUES
- Hopes, dreams and wishes
- Attitudes to the main things in our lives
- We are both human and nothing human is alien to us *LOL*

Russians and Americans

You Russians and we Americans! Our countries so distant, so unlike at first glance – such a difference in social and political conditions, and our respective methods of moral and practical development the last hundred years; - and yet in certain features, and vastest ones, so resembling each other.

Walt Whitman, *Letter to a Russian*

ENJOY YOUR STAY!

- KEEP YOUR EYES AND MIND OPEN!
- FEEL FREE TO ASK IF YOU AREN'T SURE ABOUT SOMETHING
- EXPECT LIFE IN RUSSIA TO BE DIFFERENT, IT'S A DIFFERENT COUNTRY 😊