Living conditions for persons with disabilities were brutal during this period. Some people were able to survive through acts of charity or as objects of curiosity, but most were not as fortunate. Intolerance, sickness, and disregard for persons with disabilities often meant death or a very low quality of life.

**Principle of the Least:**
"For he who is least among you all — he is the greatest." (Luke 9:46)

"disenfranchised" could include people with mental retardation, epilepsy, mental illness, leprosy, physical disability, or deformity.

**DISABILITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND WILL LIKELY ALWAYS BE, A PART OF THE HUMAN CONDITION.**

**STEREOTYPE:**
Holy Innocents: belief that individuals are special children of God, with a special purpose; seen as incapable of committing evil, and sometimes viewed as living saints.

**INVOLVEMENT BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:**
Objects of scorn or charity, survival as beggars.

**RESPONSES TO DISABILITY:**
Abandonment, exposure, mutilation.

"There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance." — Socrates

**SOCIETAL VALUES:**
Physical perfection, beauty, intelligence.