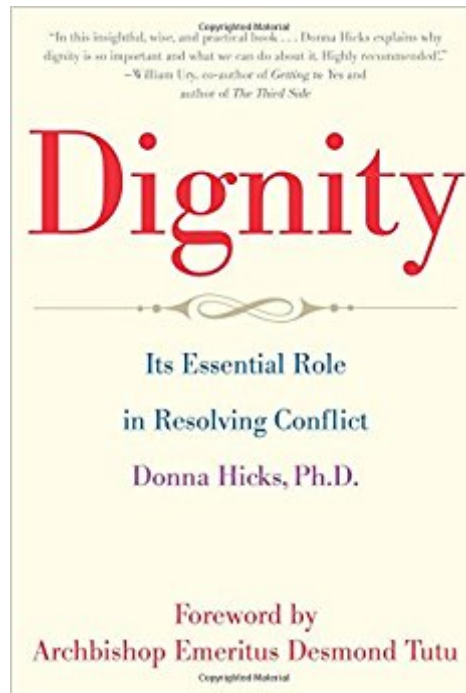




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# Dignity: Its Essential Role In Resolving Conflict



## Synopsis

The desire for dignity is universal and powerful. It is a motivating force behind all human interaction—•in families, in communities, in the business world, and in relationships at the international level. When dignity is violated, the response is likely to involve aggression, even violence, hatred, and vengeance. On the other hand, when people treat one another with dignity, they become more connected and are able to create more meaningful relationships. Surprisingly, most people have little understanding of dignity, observes Donna Hicks in this important book. She examines the reasons for this gap and offers a new set of strategies for becoming aware of dignity's vital role in our lives and learning to put dignity into practice in everyday life. Drawing on her extensive experience in international conflict resolution and on insights from evolutionary biology, psychology, and neuroscience, the author explains what the elements of dignity are, how to recognize dignity violations, how to respond when we are not treated with dignity, how dignity can restore a broken relationship, why leaders must understand the concept of dignity, and more. Hicks shows that by choosing dignity as a way of life, we open the way to greater peace within ourselves and to a safer and more humane world for all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In this well-organized, thoughtful book, Hicks presents a fascinating look at dignity—•a birthright and the baseline for positive human interaction. . . . With its accessible tone, pithy

observations and lessons, and Hicks's argument that the "quest for dignity is as common in the boardroom as in the bedroom; this book is a must-read for all."

— Publishers Weekly

"Donna Hicks presents an intriguing presentation on the power of dignity in achieving and keeping a certain degree of peace in our lives . . . anyone who understand the importance of personal feelings and their fuel for conflict should consider Dignity as a powerful advisory and motivational guide."

— The Midwest Book Review

"A beautifully written and profoundly important book. . . . It should be read and studied by any leader who cares about followers and who wants to elicit his or her employees' highest level of commitment and contribution."

— Ed Rehkopf, Club Resources International

"I highly recommend the landmark and definitive book Dignity: The Essential Role It Plays in Resolving Conflict by Donna Hicks, Ph.D., to anyone seeking an alternative and fresh approach to rebuilding relationships through the mutual honoring of human dignity. This book will change forever your views of how people respond to others, and how that response will enhance and improve all conflict resolution situations."

— Wayne Hurlbert, Blog Business World

"By helping individuals and groups understand the power of dignity and to learn how to make it a way of life, this book serves as a field guide to the peace we want: peace within us, peace in our relationships, and peace in the safer and more humane world we all wish for."

— The Montreal Review

"Original, soundly grounded in scholarship, and extremely important and timely!"

— Evelin Lindner, Founding President, Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies

"This book is a must read for those who want to experience peace in their everyday lives and peace in the world around them. Without an understanding of dignity, there is no hope for such change. If you want to find the weak links in a democracy, look for where people are suffering. You will most likely see a variety of violations. If you want peace, be sure everyone's dignity is intact."

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"No single factor is more critical, yet more neglected, in the successful resolution of conflicts than basic human dignity. In this insightful, wise, and practical book, illustrated by powerful examples, Donna Hicks explains why dignity is so important and what we can do about it. Highly recommended!"

— William Ury, co-author of Getting to Yes and author of The Third Side

"This book offers readers insightful observations, vivid illustrations, and practical strategies for anyone who wants to live a life that upholds and promotes the dignity of all people."

— Linda M. Hartling, Director, Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies

"With lucid and persuasive scholarship, Donna Hicks discusses a topic relevant for everyone: the desire to be treated well. Dignity is a must-read."

— G.A. Bradshaw, The Kerulos Center and author of Elephants on the Edge: What Animals Teach Us about Humanity

Donna Hicks, Ph.D., is an associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. During nearly two decades in the field of international conflict resolution, she has facilitated dialogue between communities in conflict all over the world and has worked as a consultant to corporations and organizations, applying the dignity model. She lives in Watertown, MA.

Donna did a great job with this book. As she makes perfectly clear, dignity is to human relations what oxygen is to air. Violations carry consequences, often ones that are deeply-rooted. It's no wonder that the source of so much international conflict is linked to 'dignity violations'. Her fascinating stories reinforce this point. This book is really well researched. Donna did her homework. If you think you know everything there is to know about 'dignity', think again. Bill Wiersma, Author The Power of Professionalism

In 1986 while I was working as a lab technician I met my future husband; an only child. He was from Canada where his parents lived and worked as forestry researchers. They were originally from India but had lived in Australia and Ghana until my husband was 15. While we were dating he was doing research in cardiology. I, on the other hand; had lived on a farm until 16 with my 7 siblings and 11 cousins. I began working as a lab technician at 18 for a number of years while also getting a degree in physical education. When we married it was with the full support of our parents and all my siblings. Many of the qualities the book addresses were at work here given our age, religion, educational differences and personal cultural backgrounds. I am hugely impressed by this book because it gets at the heart of so many of the psychological blind spots and fears societies hang on to that can no longer be ignored. The book is clearly written with great real life examples. I have placed the 10 elements that define dignity or violate it on my refrigerator. I think it would be well served in all educational settings from 1st grade and beyond. It can serve as a great moral compass.

This book helped me identify ways that I inadvertently denied dignity to my loved ones and myself. The first part of the book was a little slow getting through but once I got to the heart of the book it really grabbed me.

Must read by everybody. I learnt what dignity means and how to honor it. I am applying in my family

relationships and i found it works well. In this world of impatience, treating and seeing the other as a fellow and just and simple human being with his own spirit, is critical and essential. This is what i have learnt. Actually this book will provide a healing touch to the family relationships in the minimum and extended to higher levels.

Reading this book for a religious education class. Very good.

Well written and unique perspective on a universal human aspiration; thoughtful and persuasive on a rarely addressed topic. Have read and owned the book for several years and use it often as reference.

Donna does a great job with a difficult topic. She is able to bring the concept of dignity to a level that we can all relate to. The content is meaningful and is written in a very clear style.

Thoroughly enjoyed this very informative book. I suggested to my local priest that it should be required reading for couples planning to marry.

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