

**FOUR MEANINGS OF DIGNITY**

Type	Meaning	How is it acquired? Does it require personal effort?	Can it be lost or taken away from us and how?	Does it admit of degrees?	Who has it?
Dignity as honor	Having a high social status, being esteemed by others and society as a whole, or having certain privileges.	It is given to people by society, whether by personal effort, or belonging to a certain family or tribe. (e.g. by achieving success in something that society deems valuable).	Yes, a person who once had dignity can also lose it (e.g. a high government official gets fired because of corruption and loses the title ("dignitary") he once had).	Yes, some more successful or esteemed people are given these titles.	Persons who are successful and enjoy a high social status.
Dignity as well-being	Living well, enjoying material and psychological well-being.	It is acquired by having enough material goods and living a sufficiently comfortable life, either by one's own effort (by earning money, etc.) or with the help of others (inheritance, social welfare).	Yes, it can be lost if a person loses material security, undergoes psychological distress, etc.	Yes, people with more wealth and more comfortable lives have it more than others.	People with sufficient degree of material goods and psychological comfort.
Dignity as moral character and integrity	Being morally upright, having moral character, behaving with integrity.	It is acquired through our personal effort, which often implies struggle and hard work.	We can lose this dignity if we behave badly and unjustly. Persons who exhibit bad moral behavior are said to lack this kind of dignity.	Yes, people who are more virtuous and who have more integrity have it more than others.	People who are behaving morally upright, who are conscientious, honorable and just.
Human dignity	The universal, intrinsic, and inalienable value of human persons.	No one gives a person this dignity (society, political community, family, etc.)	No, it cannot be lost or taken away from us.	No, everyone is equal in human dignity.	All human beings.