

# The Foundations of the Philosophy of Human Dignity and the Law

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My lecture points out a few basic problems of the philosophy of human dignity. First a short introduction is given on various meanings of dignity and on the notion of human dignity; then an outline is drawn on the major traditional interpretations of human dignity. Since according to certain views the notion of human dignity is vague, I take a closer look at several critical remarks. This is followed by my attempt to answer the question why it is important today to create a philosophy founded on human dignity. On this ground, only a moral-philosophical theory can be the one against whose backdrop it is essential to have a “minimal” image of man. The principle of respecting human dignity is discussed within the framework of discourse ethics, after which certain aspects of the possible interpretation of this principle are drawn.

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