



Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Values (journal)

"Darwinism and Human Dignity"

Dixon, Ben

Dixon, Ben. "Darwinism and Human Dignity." *Environmental Values* 16, no. 1 (2007): 23–42.
[doi:10.3197/096327107780160300](https://doi.org/10.3197/096327107780160300) .

James Rachels argued against the possibility of finding some moral capacity in humans that confers upon them a unique dignity. His argument contends that Darwinism challenges such attempts, because Darwinism predicts that any morally valuable capacity able to bestow a unique dignity is likely present to a degree within both humans and non-human animals alike. I make the case, however, that some of Darwin's own thoughts regarding the nature of conscience provide a springboard for criticising Rachels's claim here. Using Darwin's thoughts regarding conscience, I begin the project of grounding a revised account of human dignity in the human tendency to enshrine products of conscience within institutions. Specifically, I argue that this new account of human dignity is partly contingent upon humans creating institutions morally respectful of the values present within non-human nature.

— Text from [The White Horse Press](#) website

All rights reserved. © 2007 The White Horse Press

Download:

PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_16no.1_dixon_ben.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
<http://www.ericademon.co.uk/EV/EV1602.html>
- The White Horse Press
<http://www.ericademon.co.uk/>

Websites linked in this text:

- <http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327107780160300>
- <http://www.ericademon.co.uk/EV/EV1602.html>