The aim of this caring science study is to gain a deeper understanding of what may contribute to human dignity being considered or ignored while the human being affirms or acts against her own values. The main research question of the study is: What is the testimony of dignity about actions of human being based on her values? The starting points of the study are the fundamental assumptions developed by the caring science tradition of Åbo Academi University, which concern the holiness of human beings. Human dignity entails the human calling, to serve in love and to be there for the other. The human being is an entity of body, soul and spirit.

Methods used in this study are literature review, search and processing of texts. This study consists of Sofi Oksanen’s literary work Purge, and Aristotle’s philosophical work Nicomachean ethics. The methodology of the study is hermeneutical. The process of interpretation begins with reading the texts separately as a whole, and then they are read again in the light of the research questions of the study. The light fell on meaningful entities that created themes. The themes from the two texts had a dialogue which resulted in six theses. The result from the interpretation is then reflected toward the caring science perspective and highlights a deeper understanding of what may contribute to human dignity being considered or ignored when the human being embraces or acts against her own values.

The result of the study emphasize what contributes to dignity being considered is whether one consider the various dimensions of dignity, find a balance in the relationship and recognize the good. The result show that in order to comply with the basic values, it is important to affirm the responsibility as a human being and to have the freedom to act in ways we believe are striving for the good. The human being can have goals with milestones that make her go against her values. For example, if a human being is deprived of her freedom and sees hope of something better, she can go against her values in order to achieve that goal. The result show that feelings of betrayal, bitterness, envy, disgust and being unable to withstand external demands and circumstances may lead to the human being going against her values.