The main purpose of this study is to increase knowledge of pride and its significance to nursing. The objective is to acquire a deeper understanding of pride and make its role visible in caring science. The main research questions are: What is pride according to nurses? How does pride relate to caring?

The theoretical perspective of the thesis is based on Eriksson’s caritas –idea, which is the ethos and core value of Åbo Academy’s caring science tradition. The ideas of human dignity and uniqueness of every human being are the base epistemological and ontological assumptions of the study. The methodological approach of the thesis is hermeneutical and the material was interpreted with a method inspired by Gadamer’s hermeneutical model. The research material is comprised of 11 stories written by nurses, and 8 journals written during five working days.

The results shows that pride brings with it a lot of good and makes this good grow and become visible. Pride is described as a feeling that one “gets to give” and to take part in the caring work. The pride nurses feel is connected to human dignity and to the idea that all lives have a meaning. It has great significance to the nurses themselves and to the work community, as well as to the care the patients receive. It is a powerful feeling within a person. It affects their attitude and thinking, and shows in their bearing, actions, and discourse. Even though the feeling of pride can be intensified and strengthened the results indicate that it can also be damaged or shattered by different means, or it can even remain unseen and invisible.

Pride is connected to caring in a definitive way, as nurses have an aspiration to care ethically and aesthetically, in line with the old head-hand-heart –model. The import of the thesis is in the deeper understanding it brings into the significance of pride. The results have significance to the caring science as pride can be seen as an important part of caritas thinking. The gained knowledge can be used to advance the professional development of nurses. Because the thesis shows that pride brings with it a lot of good into the working life and to caring itself, the challenge for further research would be to find out how to increase and strengthen the feelings of pride.