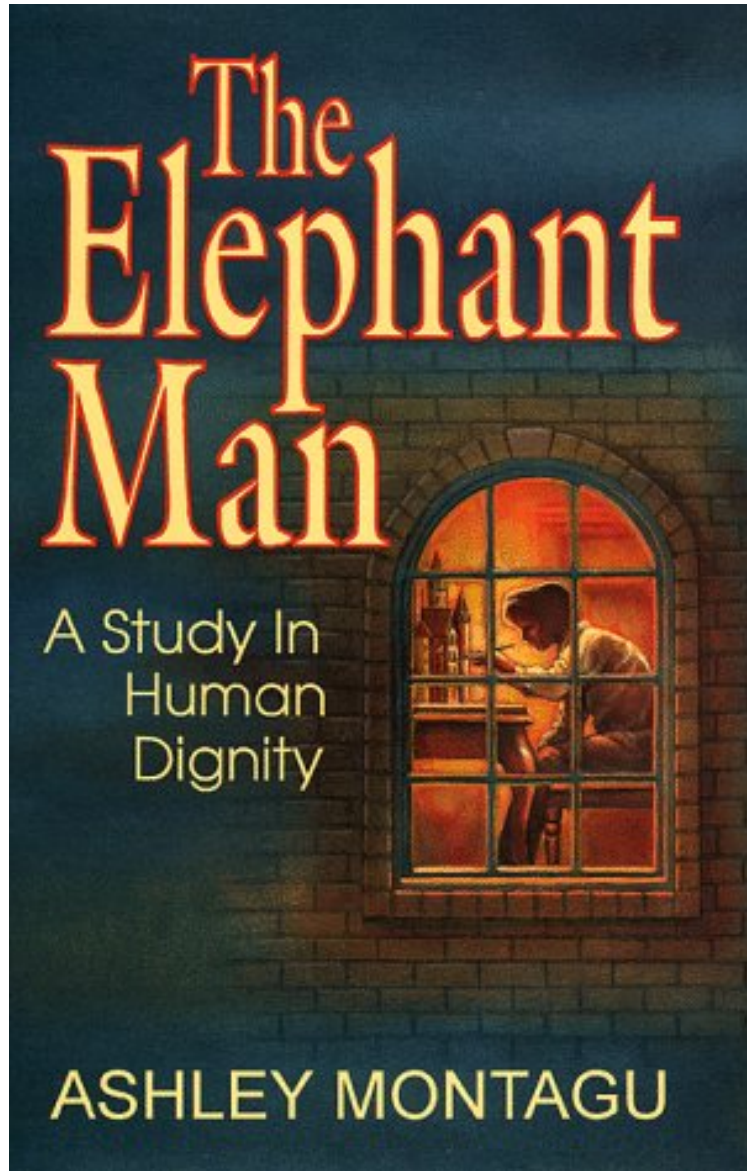


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The Elephant Man: A Study in Human Dignity

Ashley Montagu, Frederick Treves
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Ashley Montagu, Frederick Treves : The Elephant Man: A Study in Human Dignity before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Elephant Man: A Study in Human Dignity:

16 of 18 people found the following review helpful. The truth of the elephant manBy helpdeskdanUpon seeing the movie "The Elephant man" I was immediately possessed by an overwhelming urge to know how much of the movie

was true, and how much was false. I was pleasantly surprised to find that this book answered every question I had, and more. Ashley Montagu has researched the subject with such a tenacity that it truly boggles my mind that he was able to collect all this information. Though I respect the reviews of others here, I have to respectfully disagree with what some have said doubting the influence of his mother, for two reasons. The first and foremost being that Mr. Montagu gives more than enough information as to allow the reader to make their own informed decision, even if they do not agree with his views. The second reason being that the idea of Joseph's father being the shining beacon in young Joseph's life is very unlikely. Joseph Merrick's father let him be sent away to work at age 12. Keep in mind, a hip injury had left him practically lame, and he had almost no use of his right arm. One day his father beat him severely when he spent too much money, which money he earned himself, on food. There is no record of him making any attempt to recover Joseph when Joseph left home for good at the age of 14. (Mr. Treves thought Joseph's mother had sent him to the workhouses, however, Mr. Montagu proves this assumption wrong) I would say that Mr. Montagu places such importance on Joseph's mother simply because it seems quite impossible that such an importance could be ascribed to the father given the facts. To this day, I can not fathom Joseph Merrick; by all accounts, after everything that happened to him, he should have been bitter and spiteful to the core, yet he was instead a shining example of courage, dignity, and the human spirit. This book illuminates that undying spirit in a way that is hard to describe. I would recommend this book to everybody.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beauty inside the beast. By Edward G. Penniman A tragic and heroic documentary of a person's ability to prevail with grace over the most horrendous birth defect imaginable. I great read, I learned a lot.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book shows the tragedy in the life of Joseph ... By Josi Luiz Valentino The book shows the tragedy in the life of Joseph Merrick, carrying all his life, the deformities caused by the multiple neurofibromatosis. I'm looking for this book of Ashley Montagu, for more than 20 years.

After more than a century, the mystery of "The Elephant Man" has been solved. This fascinating story, which has touched the hearts and imaginations of readers throughout the world for over a century, is now complete. The mystifying question has been answered: How could this poor, deformed fellow, so cruelly treated by his fellowman for so long, turn out to be such a gentle, loving creature? Read about it in the new Third Edition of *The Elephant Man* by Ashley Montagu -- the book whose first edition inspired the movie and the Tony Award-winning play by the same name.

For many years Joseph Merrick, terribly deformed due to a genetic disorder, earned his living by being exhibited as a curiosity in traveling freak shows and would be known to generations as "The Elephant Man", the source of a stage play, a film, and a number of books and articles, both scientific and popular. Merrick was a figure of tragedy and a testament to the power of the human spirit. Ashley Montagu defines and solves the mystery surrounding Joseph Merrick's personal transformation from a frightened, withdrawn, inarticulate creation into that of a cordial, conversant, gentle, and inspiring human being. *The Elephant Man: A Study in Human Dignity* carries a special bonus in the form of an Ashley Montagu bibliography featuring his editorial work as well as his primary writings. -- Midwest Book About the Author

ASHLEY MONTAGU, internationally renowned anthropologist and social biologist, has spent a lifetime examining and exposing some of the most widely held myths concerning humankind. Born 28 June, 1905 in London, he came to the United States in 1927 to begin graduate studies at Columbia University in New York. He taught anatomy and anthropology at New York University in the 1930s, received a Ph.D in anthropology in 1937 at Columbia, and was professor of anthropology and chairman of the Department of Anthropology at Rutgers University from 1949 to 1955. He also taught at Harvard, Princeton and the University of California at Santa Barbara. In a prolific book-writing career that has spanned six decades, Montagu has ventured into the controversial areas of race, child-rearing and relations between the sexes. Against a solid background of scientific evidence, he has shown the theory of racial superiority to be fallacious, has dismantled the notion that man is naturally superior to woman, and has been emphatic about the tremendous importance of proper child-rearing, socially, biologically and psychologically. *The Natural Superiority of Women* (1953), *The Elephant Man* (1971), *Touching* (1987), *Man's Most Dangerous Myth: The Fallacy of Race* (1971), and *The Human Connection* (1979) are among his best-known books. Others include *On Being Human* (1950), *Life Before Birth* (1964), *Immortality, Religion and Morals* (1971), *The Nature of Human Aggression* (1976), and *The American Way of Life* (1967). Dr. Montagu was the principal officer responsible for drawing up the UNESCO Statement on Race, the director of the Department of Child Growth and Development at New York University, the director of the New Jersey Commission for Physical Health and Development, and one of the scientists who drew up the bill for the formation of the National Science Foundation. Current Biography points out: "During the 1950s Montagu was perhaps the best-known anthropologist and one of the most popular university professors in the United States." Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

LOVE: The Secret Name of All the Virtues "The love a mother gives her child constitutes the pattern and the basic patent by which we are designed to grow and develop all the days of our lives. Love is characterized by a wisdom that not even wisdom can replace. It is this love that made Joseph Merrick -- in spite of the dreadful physical deformities from which he suffered -- the loving

spirit that he became, for when one is loved one grows spiritually. "Love is the greatest gift that one human being can make to another, and this is undoubtedly the gift from his mother that made Joseph Merrick what he became. "By love is meant the ability to communicate to the other, by demonstrative acts, one's profound involvement in their welfare, such that you give them all the support, succor, stimulation, and encouragement for their healthy growth and development; that they can always depend upon you standing by; that you will never commit the supreme treason of letting them down when they are in need; that you will always be there to respond to their need; that you will help them fulfill themselves by nurturing and encouraging them to realize all the potentialities that are within them for becoming good and loving human beings, who will live as if to live and love were one, loving others more than one loves oneself." -- Ashley Montagu