

## Humanistic ethics

(Extracts from: ["From historical Humanism to perennial Humanism"](#), A. Meneghetti, 2010, Ontopsicologia Ed.)

*"By humanistic ethics I refer to the values of the historical movement of Humanism as it appeared in Italy and especially Florence, which I regard as the highest point in the history of the development of humanist culture. Humanism encouraged the development of four values:*

*- Vital activity: to be active means to be valid; truth is not something that is believed in, hoped for or dreamt of, but something that is created through action within the present time. Man is made great by his achievements, not his thoughts.*

*- Social involvement: any individual, no matter how extraordinary, is a social being, and his personal evolution through life happens in the context of living with others. The deeper sense of social involvement has nothing to do with social welfare; it is not a matter of charity, but a matter of responsibility. Those in need must be assisted in their development; we should not replace them in their potential to be productive.*

*- Freedom: the limitation of freedom constitutes a great peril for the social involvement that every man has by nature.*

*- Dignity of man: this value is the foundation of all others. The authors belonging to the historical-civic movement of Humanism explicitly mentioned dignity as every man's duty toward any other - a duty of respect, of sacredness and transcendence.*

*This is the foundational meaning of historical Humanism, and the reason why I believe that the Humanism that blossomed in Italy in the 14th to 16th Century contains what are still seeds for today's future".*