

In the 20th century the possibility of human cloning was a subject of speculation even among the scientific community. However it wasn't until the 1960s that cloning started to be taken seriously. Many scientists, including a Nobel Prize winning geneticist were suddenly taking interest in the once elusive theory that the human form could be cloned. This has sparked debate among many, especially those among the religious side. The debate only heated up when in 1996, scientists from Edinburgh successfully cloned the first mammal, dolly the sheep. As science continues to evolve we can assume it is only a matter of time before someone is able to clone an actual human being. This brings us to the frequently asked questions, What are the ethical implications of cloning? Does it take away human nature and dignity? To clone or not to clone?

To answer all those questions, we first have to explore cloning fully starting with the ethical implications. For example, human cloning can be good as it can be used to treat diseases such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes and also can be useful for people who need transplants. It can also help with reconstructive treatment for burn victims who get half their bodies burnt to an unrecognizable state. Instead of relying on donors, people could have organs just like that with no need for waiting lists or immunosuppressive drugs. On the other hand if we were to clone a human being would that clone have a brain or identity of its own? Would the clone be treated as another human with rights or would it just be considered a source for spare parts? Would we treat clones as part of our family or not? If we were to treat the clone as part of the family of the person they were cloned after, it would mess with families and generational lines. Also, before scientists could successfully clone the first mammal they had to experiment a lot and it would be the same for human cloning so they could be a lot of dead or dying babies before a human is successfully cloned.

The answers we give to those questions will determine if cloning will take away our human nature and dignity. If cloning does take away our ability to be humane, then it is not worth the risk. Also there are other risks involved with cloning as the world is split on half on the subject with the majority of the religious sect having already condemned cloning whereas others strongly believe it is the key to a better future. If cloning is successful, it would add explosives to an already blazing fire. The clones may not be safe either as extremists would go to any measure to do what they think is right. In view of all these issues, the United Nations has not remained silent on this matter either and in 2005 banned human cloning contrary to human dignity.

In conclusion, we cannot really decide on the issue of human cloning until a human is actually cloned as we have no experience whatsoever to draw upon. However, cloning does pose many risks. Do we really want to risk our humanity in the name of science? Humans are a unique life form. We are individuals who are different in every way and that is what makes us special. Cloning will make us a manufactured species. Do we really need, or even want that? In my opinion, I believe that human cloning is unnecessary for human life as man has survived thus far without cloning ourselves and will survive without it.

