

Inner Uglinesses

“Ugly” is often a word used to describe a person's appearance, but inner ugliness exists too.

Unconscious Inner Ugliness

Some people need the approval of others so much that they behave contrary to who they really are. They alter their appearance, sometimes irreversibly, in attempting to be accepted. They come to espouse certain values, not because they believe or are committed, but because they want to be admired by those whom they admire. They may even come to believe in the values they virtue signal. Their need to be accepted is below their level of awareness, but still it has warped their behavior and personality. They, like Dorian Gray in Oscar Wilde's novel, look in their mirror and see only what they want to see, not what actually is. All appearance and awarenesses aside, they have become inwardly ugly.

Conscious Inner Ugliness

Other people, sometimes termed sociopaths or psychopaths or politicians, love being a villain. Like Iago in Shakespeare's *Othello*, they patiently manipulate with bad intentions. Their appearance or personality may be attractive, but this very attractiveness is the tool which their intelligence exploits to control others in often harmful or destructive ways. They might even consider their inner ugliness as beautiful.

It appears that both self-hatred and self-esteem can be ugly.