

Haunted*

[**hawn**-tid, **hahn**-]

adjective

1. inhabited or frequented by ghosts: *a haunted castle*.
2. preoccupied, as with an emotion, memory, or idea; obsessed: *His haunted imagination gave him no peace*.
3. disturbed; distressed; worried: *Haunted by doubt he again turned to law books on the subject*.

Synonyms:

1. Obsessed
2. Preyed upon
3. Visited by

Related words:

1. Ghostly
2. Magical
3. Bewitched
4. Charismatic

*[HAUNTED Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/haunted)

Diversity*

[dih-**vur**-si-tee, dahy-]

noun, plural di-ver-si-ties.

1. the state or fact of being diverse; difference; unlikeness: *diversity of opinion.*
2. variety; multiformity.
3.
 - a) the spectrum of individual differences and the corresponding group memberships and identities that human beings have in society: *A functioning multicultural society celebrates the diversity of its people, but diversity can also be problematic for the maintenance of a cohesive national identity.*
 - b) the inclusion of individuals representing more than one national origin, colour, religion, socioeconomic stratum, sexual orientation, etc.: *an initiative to increase diversity in the workplace.*
4. a point of difference.

Synonyms:

1. Diversification
2. Dissimilarity
3. Multifariousness
4. Unlikeness

Related words:

1. Assortment
2. Changes
3. Contrast
4. Difference

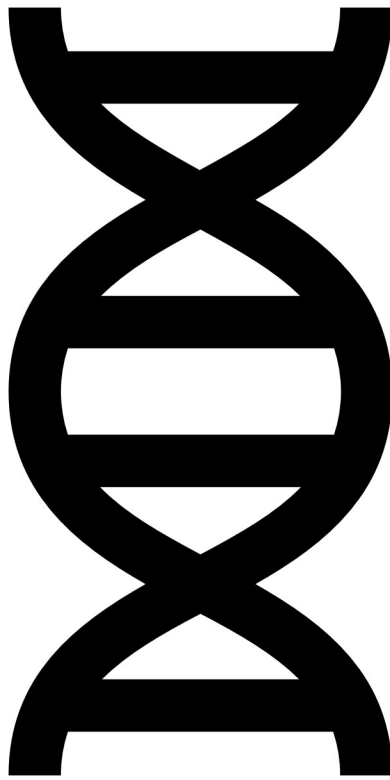
*[DIVERSITY Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/diversity)

I am different.
My diversity is haunted.
Change me if you can!
Welcome to my house.
I will be your ghost.
I know you are afraid.
There is a 50% chance that you will like me.
And there's another 50% chance that you will hate me.
For sure, there are zero chances that you will stay
neutral.
Because I am not you and never will be.
And because I am the same as you, in a way.
Same, same.
But it's very different!
I will master my fears.



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**I am as I am... It is me and my inner self... It is in my
blood... In my genes... You cannot change my
nature... You are not God or a genetic scientist... You
are just afraid of my traits... And it is OK!**

1. Introduction to the Already Known – Take Off!

Nobody likes differences. We are all used to our own habits and always try to stay within the same limits in life. Cozy and easy. No turbulence, no adrenaline. Do not touch me when I sleep, and do not take food from my plate while I eat. Simple! Right?

Well, I don't know.

This book is not about me, although people who know me will call it an autobiography. That's up to you - I don't really care. All my life, I tried to do and say what other people wanted me to deliver. But I stopped. What really happened? Aging, I guess.

One day, I woke up, and I was 40. Today, as I start writing this book, it is my 45th birthday. So, for five years now, I have not given a f*** about what others think about me and my life.

I come from a country where people's opinions are very important. Come on, son, what will the neighbours say? Oh God, our cousins will have so much to say about you since you did such a terrible thing! And so on and so forth. I lived my life based on other people's opinions. But why? I wanted to make my family happy and my parents proud. I wanted to maintain a positive image of myself to every single person I ever interacted with. Oh well, that's a lot of energy and effort, for nothing.

The only person who has the right to tell me what to do and how to do it is the one who:

- Pays my bills.
- Gives me a place to live.
- Ensures regular access to food.
- Organizes and pays for amazing vacations.
- Covers my health insurance.
- Provides me with the best mental care and understanding of my personality.

So, who is that magical person? The answer is ME. Myself. And I. Only I have the right to change myself because I want to, and to do things the way I like because I have the greatest thing in the world, independence.

Remember, only if you have independence can no one else influence your life. You are the king and the queen of your own kingdom. However, getting there is a long journey.

This book is the story of a boy born in a small provincial Serbian town to a poor family with no future, who spent 78 days in shelters during the NATO bombing of Serbia in 1999. From growing up in the communist era, where I was raised to be equal and not different in any way, to becoming a global citizen who has lived and worked in five countries and developed more than 500 people while developing myself as a leader.

And all this time, every single manager and boss I worked with focused on my weaknesses, pointing out how bad I was, but no one emphasized my strengths to make them even better. On the other hand, I worked with my direct and indirect reports by focusing only on their strengths to make them great and powerful. When you make and develop your strengths to be super powerful, your weaknesses almost vanish in the eyes of others. And that's why they called me an authentic leader, strict, thoughtful, disciplined, direct, open, analytical, but a human who cares. Give and take. That's the foundation of true leadership, not breaking people down, but lifting them up so high that their flaws become an afterthought.

I am not a native English speaker. However, to reach as many people as possible through my story, I made the decision to write it in English anyway. The book has been edited, and the grammar should be fine (don't blame me, blame the language editor/program), although the

language may not be as juicy and lovely as a British writer might make it. Hopefully, for all other readers, this will be an easy-going self-assessment and motivational book, no matter where you are in the world or how old you are.

This book is for all the boys and girls who are currently in shelters because of wars driven by corrupt political leaders. It is also for young students who dream of becoming global leaders in the corporate world. For parents whose kids are different from others in any way. And finally, for all leaders who work with people, to reflect on their own values and behaviours toward others and themselves.

If tomorrow my plane crashes, and I happen to be sitting in business class (who cares, but let's add some spice here), and my last moments are spent watching the gay love movie *Red, White & Royal Blue* while drinking a glass of very expensive champagne, who would really care that I'm gone?

Pause. Put yourself on that plane. Take a sip of great, sparkling, cold, and fruity wine. Think. Just think. Who will cry for you the next day? You probably have a list of people you believe in their tears, but you're wrong. Now, think again. Who from that list will cry for you every year on your death anniversary? Now you're left with very few people. The optimum number is five, and if you're lucky, maybe up to ten people, out of eight billion.

You will become gossip for 3–5 days in the environment where you existed (school, work, sports team, pensioners' club, etc.), and after a week, they will look for your replacement. Someone else will do your job, make people happy, and only the closest ones to you will remember you forever. And what is the saddest part of this story? We give the least time and attention to the most important people in our lives, because work and other "important" life topics take priority, but not family and real friends.

I was lucky to have many negative or better to say difficult moments in my life, which gave me the strength and lessons to reach a great point of independence and happiness.

To be able to lead others, you must first learn how to lead yourself. And to lead yourself and give positive energy to others, you need to love yourself and be happy with who you are, not with who you should be, according to others' expectations.

Now, it's time to go through the key events and stories of my life, from the age of 1 until today (age 45), which might help you find a better version of yourself and give more attention to the important things in life.

Buckle your seatbelt. Close the table in front of you. Pull up your seat. And enjoy the journey. Hopefully, we won't crash together from 10,000 meters, but you never know. Maybe you will be the one to survive even that fall and write an amazing book afterward.



Chapter 1: Learnings

- When you make and develop your strengths to be super powerful, your weaknesses will almost vanish in the eyes of others.
- To be able to lead others, you must first learn how to lead yourself.