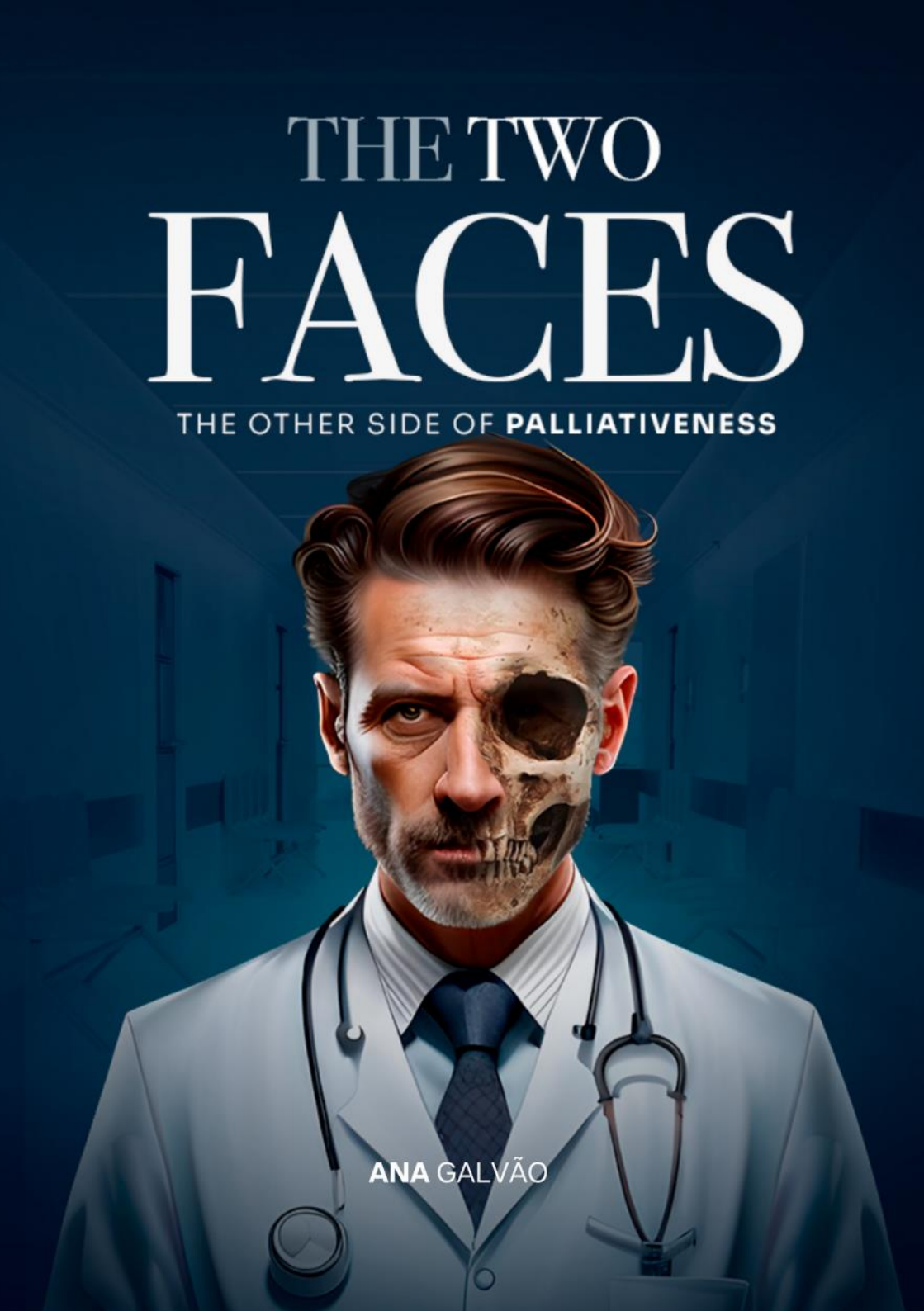
THE TWO FACES

THE OTHER SIDE OF **PALLIATIVENESS**



ANA GALVÃO

This book aims to provoke deep reflections in the reader regarding the topic of palliative care, which, when misused, causes harm and suffering to loved ones. It emphasizes that in both medicine and life, it's essential to respect each individual's beliefs. It acknowledges that God is the ultimate physician capable of unimaginable miracles, and that a patient's choice to be treated and have a chance should not be taken away.

Throughout the reading, we can observe that the author questions the fact that some doctors attempt to suppress the patient's autonomy, their right to choose, and their right to life, all based on the misapplication of palliative care. The book also highlights relevant points from the national legislation that allowed the development of palliative care in Brazil, but which do not authorize the suppression of the patient's autonomy.

In a moment when the topic of palliative care is prominent, this book titled "The Two Faces" brings an alert to another aspect of palliative care in which medical professionals assert control over the patient's right to choose and their right to life.

When discussing palliative care, it's crucial to consider that it emerged to prevent the adoption of treatments that the patient themselves did not want, thereby avoiding abandonment by medical and healthcare teams. It certainly did not intend to allow medical professionals to suspend treatment for those who wish to be treated, based on their statistics and opinions.

This book serves as a reminder that there is a path of disrespect, arrogance, and unfortunately, economic interests interfering in the doctor's decision to persuade the family that the patient is palliative ("palliate"? Then just inform the family and suspend everything!).

"The Two Faces" is a book that questions imposed palliation in the form of non-treatment and violates the rights of those who wish to receive treatment.

Pedro Galvão

EDEN EDITORA



Ana Galvão

If facing the sinister side of the coin, what one sees is the imposition of palliative care onto the patient and their family members, on the other side we find advocates of palliative medicine who uphold the patient's autonomy to choose palliative care.

Many argue for a shared decision-making where it has already been determined that the patient is nearing the end of life, and their only option is to accept the sentence given by the doctor without any recourse, having autonomy only to accept the doctor's decision and the palliative measures imposed by them. This shouldn't be how palliative care operates.

The purpose of this book is to serve as a warning and to provoke reflection on whether the principles of palliative medicine are truly being upheld or if there is something that needs to be reevaluated and restructured in this aspect.

I am Ana Galvão, born in Espírito Santo in 1970, a physician and economist.

Guided by the lessons of my father, I learned faith in a God present in adversity, respect for others, and the importance of extending a helping hand.

His teachings valued each individual, reminding me that there are no two alike in this vast universe.

A life and classroom teacher, my father instilled in me a love for books and the courage to question, advocating for just ideas.

As a citizen, I believe in values such as honesty, respect, charity, and fraternity.

My medical journey underscores respect for the patient and family, rejecting labels and impositions. Medicine, which is not exact, deserves to offer choices and chances for life.

In the economic realm, I advocate responsible management, as life cannot be replaced by numbers. My conviction led me to embrace this book, shedding light on the disregard for the patient's will in palliative care.

I firmly believe that the dark side of palliative care cannot be concealed, disregarding medical and economic interests.

Recognizing such reality is our duty, and remaining silent would be unforgivable.

ANA GALVÃO

THE TWO FACES

THE OTHER SIDE OF **PALLIATIVE CARE**

1ª EDITION

EDEN EDITORA



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"Keep moving forward if you're on the right path;

step back if you're on the wrong one."

"The soul has no secret that behavior does not

reveal."

Lao Tzu (604-517 BC)

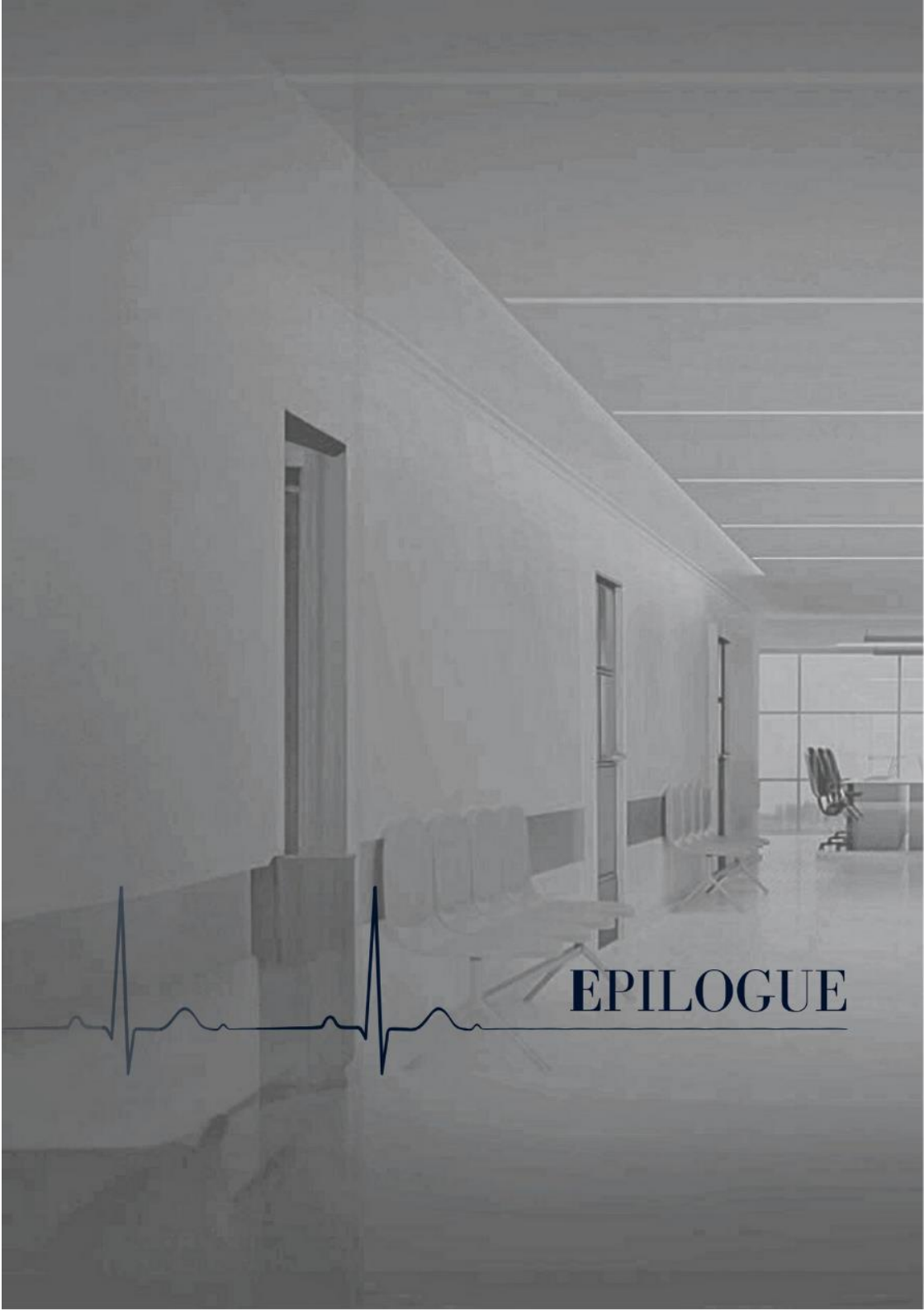
Chinese philosopher

Ana Galvão

Dedication.

This book is dedicated to those individuals whose will to live has been overpowered by disrespect, arrogance, and at times, greed.

May this book be their voice.



EPILOGUE

Ana Galvão

My name is Ana Galvão. I was born in the State of Espírito Santo in 1970, and I am a medical doctor and economist. I learned from my father, early on, to believe in a strong God even in those moments when it seems like He isn't by your side. I also learned to have respect for people and not to judge others, to extend a helping hand to those in need, to be honest, and to value life. My father always said that in this vast and infinite universe, we don't find two identical people, even if they are twins, and that each human being is unique.

My father, a teacher in the school of life and classrooms, also taught me to love books, question ideas, and not to be afraid to express an opposing opinion to ideas and actions that could cause harm, suffering, and injustice to anyone.

As a result, as a human being and a citizen, I believe in values such as honesty, coherence, and common sense, respect, charity, and fraternity.

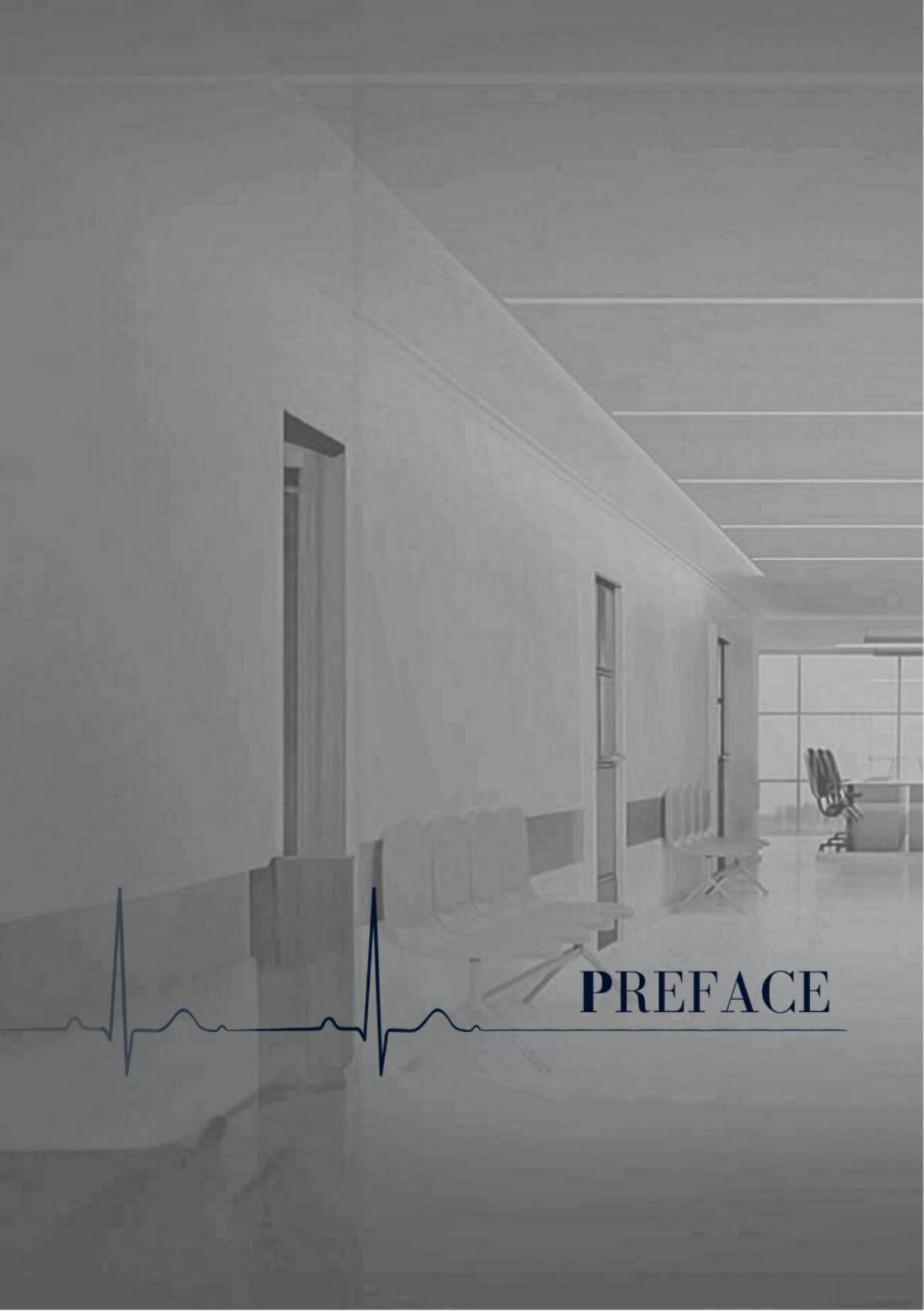
As a medical doctor, I believe that the patient and their family should be respected, and the patient should be treated appropriately. I believe that the ultimate goal of medicine is to care, comfort, diagnose, and treat, not to label patients and impose treatments or non-treatments. I believe that medicine is not an exact science and therefore patients should be given a chance at life, a choice!

As an economist, I believe that managing resources with a focus on economy at any cost violates the dignity of the human person when it disregards that a life is irreplaceable. It is acceptable to analyze only numbers and values and let the greatest good, which is life, perish in this tangle of costs and values.

Therefore, I took on the challenge of writing this book, bringing to light a seldom-discussed topic: the disregard for the patient's will in the context of palliative care.

I firmly believe that this subject cannot be concealed under the guise of the idea that palliative care is only a positive thing, that there are no manipulations and no interests from the medical profession and economic context that aim to not treat the patient.

I also believe that not acknowledging this dark side of palliative care would be an unforgivable omission!



PREFACE

Ana Galvão

In a time when the topic of palliative care is prominent, this book, "The Two Faces," brings an alert to another side of palliative care where medical professionals take hold of the patient's right to choose and their right to life.

When speaking of palliative care, it's important to consider that it originated to avoid the imposition of treatments the patient themselves didn't want, consequently leading to their abandonment by medical and healthcare teams. It certainly didn't come about to allow medical professionals, based on their statistics and opinions, to discontinue treatment for those who wish to be treated.

This book precisely reminds us that there's a path of disrespect, arrogance, and unfortunately, economic interests interfering with the doctor's decision,

convincing the family that the patient is palliative (fallen? Then just inform the family and suspend everything!).

The key aspects of reflection in this book revolve around the right to life and the imposition of death as a form of non-treatment.

The very title, "The Two Faces," makes reference to one side where the doctor practices their profession following principles of care and respect for life, and on the other side, there's the doctor dressed as the angel of death, choosing who lives and who dies, who is deemed palliative care and who isn't, who deserves to be treated and who doesn't.

The objective of this book is to provoke deep reflections in the reader regarding the topic of palliative care, which when misapplied causes victims and suffering

for loved ones. In both medicine and life, it's necessary to respect everyone's beliefs, recognizing that God is the ultimate physician capable of unimaginable miracles. The patient's choice to be treated and have a chance cannot be taken away.

Throughout the reading, we can observe that the author questions the fact that some doctors attempt to suppress patient autonomy, the right to choose, and their right to life, based on the misapplication of palliative care. The book also highlights relevant points from national legislation that have allowed the development of palliative care in Brazil but do not authorize the suppression of patient autonomy.

Another intriguing aspect of this book is the letters, particularly the letter to the patient, where the author outlines their rights.