

Mission Statement

The Fellowship of Reason® is an open, benevolent, and vital rational moral community in which we celebrate our lives, our freedoms, and our philosophy of reason.

The Sacred Individual:

"Good morning, Your Holiness"

You are a sacred being. A mission of the Fellowship of Reason® is to teach that lesson to those who don't already know it and to reinforce it for those who do. A corollary of that lesson is that **each of us is a sacred being.**

I feel fairly comfortable saying that many people (outside our moral community) don't think of themselves as sacred beings. I know this because people don't treat one another as if they were sacred—civilly, respectfully, seriously, with honor and esteem. If you truly think of yourself as sacred then you will generalize that conclusion to other people and you will treat them accordingly.

I'm not kidding about this—I mean kneel-down-on-the-ground sacred. That's how you should feel about yourself. That's how you should feel about your spouse, your children, and your friends. That's how you should feel about and treat others generally.

I'm not talking about a Kantian Categorical Imperative here. I am not talking about religious dogma. I am talking about a fact of reality that reasonable people can and should identify.

I met a very smart man the other day. He called himself a humanist. I think that he meant that human beings are, for him, ultimately important. He said that his wife couldn't call herself a humanist because human beings are not the only things in the universe, and humans are not, she thinks, the most important.

I claim that human beings are the most important (the most valuable) things in the universe.

You see, friend, "value" is in here in my head. "Value" is in your head, too. Value does not exist out there in the phenomenal world (to use Kant's word), the world perceivable by the senses. "Value" is your own appraisal or estimate of a relationship between you and something else.

As the standard of and vessel of all value, you necessarily are the ultimate value . . . for you. You, therefore, are sacred—the highest value. Each individual is, for himself, the highest value.

Some, mainly those who advocate "other" worship of various kinds, will jump to the crude conclusion that a sacred individual will regard his personal *survival* above all else. A human being is immensely and qualitatively more than mere survival. Sacred individuals are creators of values. *In fact, a human being is nothing more than the values he creates and may potentially create.* Many of the values individuals create are more important than life itself—children, spouse, friends, freedom, and honor. The creations of a sacred individual *are* that individual.

So, the next time you are in the world be aware of the gods—our fellow human beings—who are all about you and revere them. Insist, too, that others treat you as the sacred being you are.

September 2001 Celebration:

Welcome
Celebration of Freedom—
Celebration of Visitors
Celebration of Each Other
Celebratory Announcements
Celebration of Heroes
Celebration of Literature—**Ellen**
Celebration of Art—**Leanna**
Celebration of Talent—**Linda**
Oratory—"Personal Moral Progress, Part I: Moral Ambitiousness" by **Martin Cowen**
Celebration of Personal Mission—
Closing Quotation

Bring your Personal Mission Notebook to Celebration.

FOR's Potluck supper

Michaela will host this month's potluck supper on Saturday, August 25, 2001, at 7 p.m.

FOR's Café Conversation

Third Saturday Morning following Celebration:

No café conversation this month as we will be enjoying our potluck supper on this date.

FOR's Philosophy Tapes

Each Thursday Night: FOR is sponsoring a philosophy survey course that is free. We meet every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at Vera's house.

Celebration Schedule 2001

- Sunday, September 2, 2001—Personal Moral Progress, Part I: Moral Ambitiousness
 - Sunday, October 7, 2001—Personal Moral Progress, Part II
 - Sunday, November 4, 2001—Personal Moral Progress, Part III
 - Sunday, December 2, 2001—Felix the Cat is my God
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Contact information:

To receive e-mail from the Fellowship of Reason®, please subscribe to our Yahoo! Group by sending an e-mail to reason-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com

To receive this newsletter in the mail send your U.S. Mail address to mlcowen@mindspring.com

To talk to somebody about FOR call Vera at 404- or Martin at 770-471-9800.

Fellowship of Reason® is a non-profit, unincorporated, volunteer-supported association.

Our web address is <http://www.kindreason.com>