

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. We study ethics.

Magnificence¹

Picture the Mall in Washington D.C. during the Cherry Blossom Festival or Vincent Van Gogh's *The Starry Night*. Hear Modest Musorgski's *Pictures at an Exhibition* or Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*. Imagine the smell of your grandmother's kitchen on Easter Sunday or a whole field of lavender in Provence. Imagine the taste of a Chateau Mouton Rothchild or a fresh Caesar salad made tableside at a fine restaurant.

All of these imaginings are rich with colors, textures, sublime forms, melody, rhythm, aromas, flavors, and other divine sensations.

Eudaimonism—the philosophy of the Fellowship of Reason®—is the philosophy of human flourishing. A human being flourishes when he utilizes all of his faculties in accordance with virtue. A person is flourishing when his life is rich with family, friends, communities, careers, health, fitness, hobbies, education, travel, good deeds, heroic acts, achievements great and small, and other multifarious creations of self.

Let us consider how these values are achieved. Values are achieved by virtues. A virtue is a practice or habit of character necessary to achieve a value. We need to determine Eudaimonism's fundamental virtue.

Faith is the fundamental virtue of Christianity. Humility is the fundamental virtue of Buddhism. Rationality is the fundamental virtue of Objectivism. Courage was the most important virtue in Ancient Sparta.

¹ Aristotle identifies magnificence as a virtue in his *Nicomachean Ethics*, II, vii. Aristotle inspires my use of this virtue, though his sense is different.

Eudaimonism's ultimate value is a clue to our fundamental virtue. **A flourishing life is the ultimate value according to Eudaimonism.** All of the virtues are necessary to achieve a flourishing life: rationality, productivity, pride, independence, integrity, justice, honesty, persistence, courage, passion, healthfulness, athleticism, benevolence, civility, sensitivity, generosity, prudence, and moderation. The one word that captures all the virtues is magnificence. **Magnificence is the fundamental virtue of Eudaimonism.** A person who has all the virtues and who has a flourishing and multifarious life as a consequence is magnificent.

Like *The Starry Night* or the field of lavender in Provence, a person, too, can be magnificent.

The magnificent person is who we—Eudaimonists—aspire to be. The magnificent person is our ideal. There! Finally, I have discovered and named our ideal person.

The moral insights of Eudaimonism: Know thyself. Become who you are. Find your personal mission in life. Follow your hero's journey. Be aware of your cultural and personal myths. Utilize all of your faculties in accordance with virtue. Be a passionate person who is master of his passions. Be the artist of your life. **Be, dear friend, magnificent!**

What you should know:

- The rich and multifarious, great and glorious works of man are a metaphor for the flourishing individual.
- Eudaimonism is the philosophy of human flourishing.
- A human being flourishes when he utilizes all of his faculties in accordance with virtue.
- A virtue is a practice or habit of character necessary to achieve a value.
- Human flourishing is Eudaimonism's ultimate value.
- All virtues are necessary to achieve human flourishing.
- Magnificence is Eudaimonism's fundamental virtue.

May 5, 2002 Celebration:

Welcome—
Celebration of Freedom—
Induction of New Members—
Celebration of Visitors—
Celebration of Each Other—
Celebratory Announcements—
Celebration of Personal Mission—
Celebration of Heroes—Chris
Celebration of Literature—
Celebration of Art—
Celebration of Talent—
Oratory—
Closing Quotation—

We need volunteers.

Celebration Schedule 2002

- Sunday, January 6, 2002
- Sunday, February 3, 2002
- Sunday, March 3, 2002
- Sunday, April 7, 2002
- **Sunday, May 5, 2002**
- Sunday, June 2, 2002
- Sunday, July 7, 2002
- Sunday, August 4, 2002
- Sunday, September 1, 2002
- Sunday, October 6, 2002
- Sunday, November 3, 2002
- Sunday, December 1, 2002

Youth Group Outing

FOR's youth group is attending the Renaissance Festival on Saturday, **April 20, 2002** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adults are invited.

FOR's Potluck

FOR's potluck is scheduled for Saturday, **April 27, 2002** at 7 p.m. at Randy's house.

FOR's First Election for Board of Trustees

The membership of the Fellowship of Reason, Inc. met on Sunday, April 07, 2002, and elected a new Board of Trustees consisting of **Dan, Vera, Chris, David, and Martin.**

The new Board of Trustees elected these officers: Dan Barber, President; Steve, Vice President; and Linda, Treasurer.

2002 Membership Information:

FOR, Inc. has 35 charter members as of 4-8-02, 1 newsletter-only subscriber, and 1 substantial donor.

- Regular membership: \$35 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2002
- Contributing membership: \$70 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2002
- Lifetime membership: \$700 per year if paid prior to October 31, 2002

Contact information:

To receive e-mail notice of FOR's activities send your e-mail address to mlcowen@mindspring.com

To receive this newsletter free for 3 months in the U.S. mail send your U.S. Mail address to mlcowen@mindspring.com

To participate in unmoderated e-mail chat, please subscribe to our Yahoo! Group by sending an e-mail to reason-subscribe@yahogroups.com

A subscription for 12 monthly issues of this newsletter is \$15 per year.

Bylaws and other corporate documents may be viewed online at www.kindreason.com

Fellowship of Reason, Inc. is a Georgia nonprofit corporation.