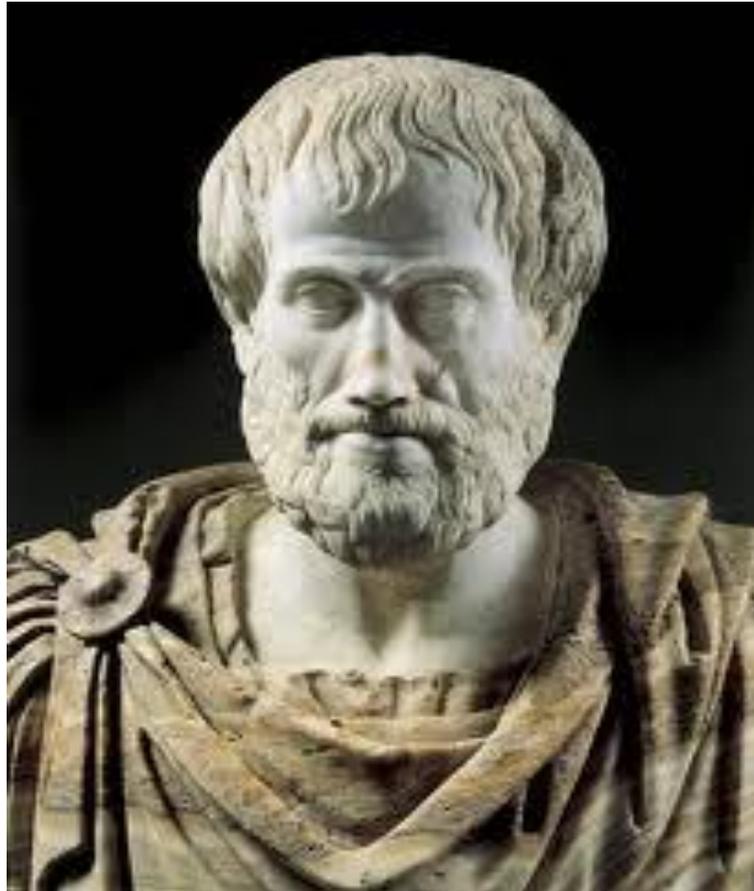


# The Ethics of Virtue

The Pursuit of Excellence



# *Arete*: Reaching Fullest Potential



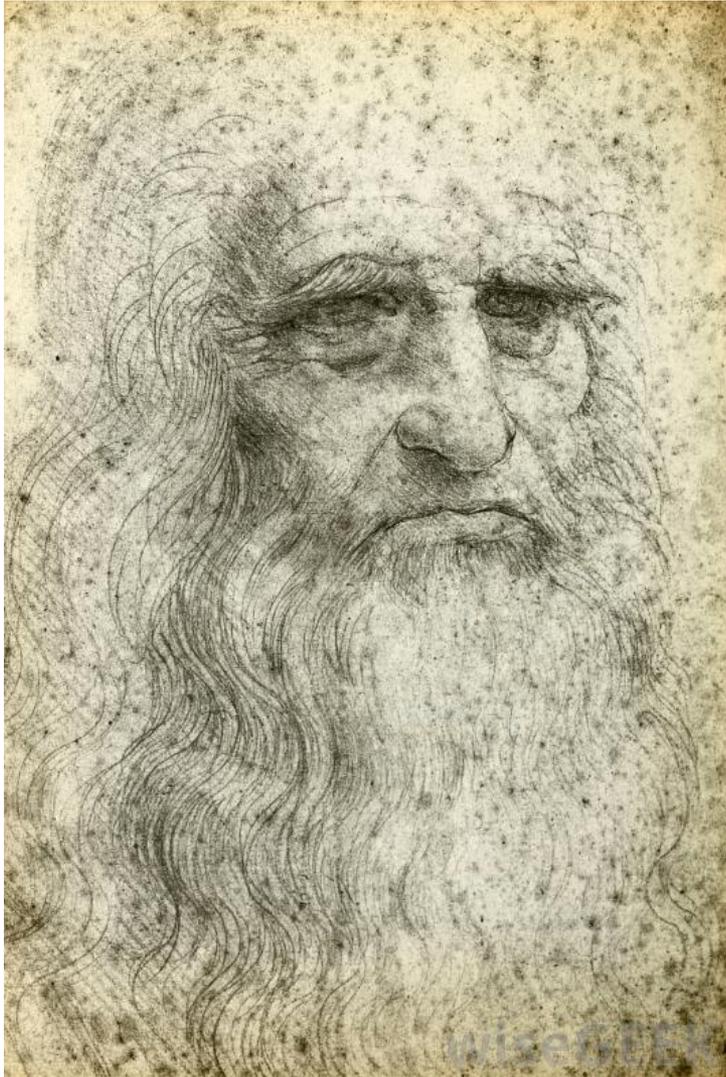
- According to Aristotle, *eudaimonia* is the goal of human life.
- Achieved by developing excellence in action.
- Excellence is not a singular act, but a habit.
- You are what you repeatedly do.



## **THE WARRIOR PAIDEIA – HECTOR, TROJAN WAR**

“Zeus, and you other immortals, grant that this boy, who is my son, may be as I am, pre-eminent among the Trojans, great in strength, as am I, and rule strongly over Ilion; and some day let them say of him: ‘He is better by far than his father’, as he comes in from the fighting...”

# Renaissance Man



Renaissance man/*polymath*  
-person skilled in multiple disciplines, with a broad base of knowledge.

Based on various artists and scholars of the European Renaissance, circa 1450+ CE.

For example, Leonardo Da Vinci: artist, engineer, anatomist, and master of many other disciplines.

# Aristotle on Omniscience

Every systematic science, the humblest and the noblest alike, seems to admit of two distinct kinds of proficiency; one of which may be properly called scientific knowledge of the subject, while the other is a kind of educational acquaintance with it.

For an educated man should be able to form a fair off-hand judgment as to the goodness or badness of the method used by a professor in his exposition. *To be educated is in fact to be able to do this;*

and even the man of universal education we deem to be such in virtue of his having this ability.

It will, however, of course, be understood that we only ascribe universal education to one who in his own individual person is thus critical in all or nearly all branches of knowledge, and not to one who has a like ability merely in some special subject.

For it is possible for a man to have this competence in some one branch of knowledge without having it in all.

# Capability and Virtue

## Human Capacities

- Speculative Intellect
- Practical Intellect
- Will
- Irascible Appetite
- Concupiscible Appetite

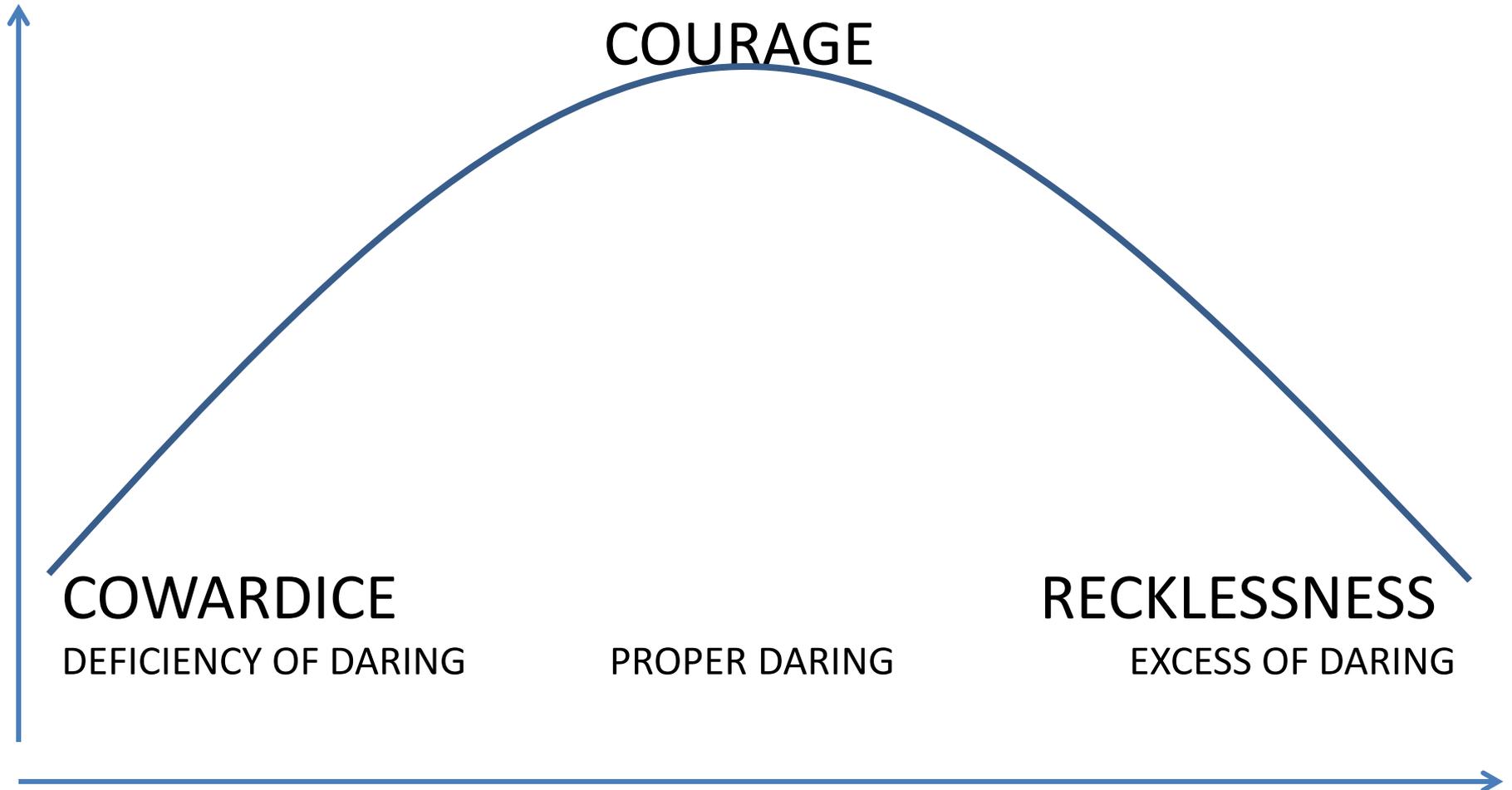
## Corresponding Virtues

- Knowledge, Understanding, Wisdom
- Art, Prudence
- Justice
- Fortitude
- Temperance

# The Structure of Virtue

Virtue is a kind of mean between emotional extremes

LEVEL (HEIGHT) OF EXCELLENCE OR VIRTUE VS. INTENSITY OF EMOTION



# FIVE STEPS TO EXCELLENCE

## **Generally,**

- Know yourself.
- Be true to yourself.
- Know where you stand.
- Take that stand.
- Stand and deliver.

## **Specifically,**

- Identify your capabilities.
- Develop your capabilities.
- Form your views.
- Express your views.
- Defend your views.