

of all life to the spiritual and ethical ideal. Moral experience is the central arena of all human endeavor, which must face and overcome the three "shadows" of sickness, sorrow, and sin. From that arena and back to that arena all concept building proceeds -- hence "deed before creed."
Howard Radest - *Toward Common Ground*

Adler has called for a movement of "deed before creed", which some have interpreted as a kind of crude activism. One must read the phrase in a Kantian key: deed without creed is meaningless, creed without deed is empty. More accurately, deed before creed; theory and philosophic principle were to be the consequences of experience. In the beginning was not the word, but the act.

Jerome Nathanson, *What We Believe*

"We believe that an ethical faith need not, and indeed cannot, be grounded in any one way. It is not that we are indifferent to questions about the ultimate nature and meaning of things. Far from it. It is that we believe the universe far too vast to be comprehended in its inner-most core or in its totality by any one person or by all people together. It is that we believe there is room for a great many differing interpretations of everything that is, and still may be. It is that we believe the justification of any religious faith, including an ethical faith, is not to be found in its grounding (important as this is for each of us individually), but in its consequences."