Reverence is “the capacity for a range of feelings and emotions that are linked. It is a sense that there is something larger than a human being, accompanied by capacities for awe, respect, and shame; it is often expressed in, and reinforced by, ceremony.”

- Paul Woodruff

Reverence arises from a profound comprehension of human limitation, frailty, and finitude, prompting awe and wonder at the incomprehensible.

Schweitzer’s Reverence for Life

“Ehrfurcht vor dem Leben” is difficult to translate to English. The German ehrfurcht is akin to the English awe, namely that which we feel at a mountaintop or a waterfall.

Practical Reverence in Education

Awe and wonder for the subject matter

Respect for Students

Reverent teaching honors shared ceremony and ritual. Ritual helps organize and structure the classroom community around common beliefs, values, and the virtues of classroom practice.