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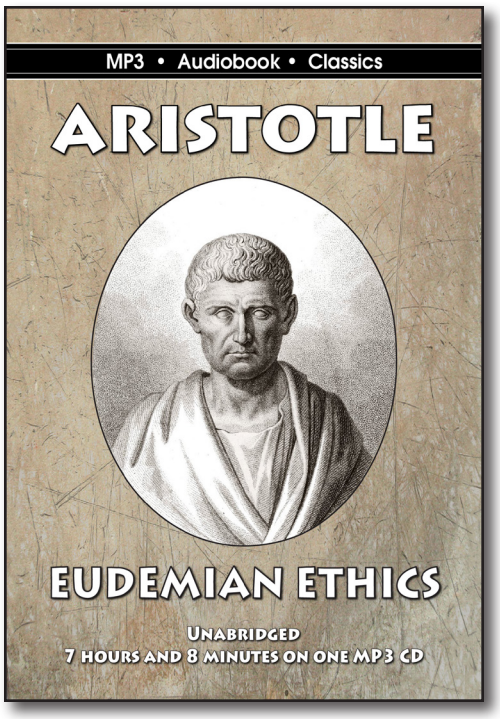

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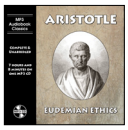

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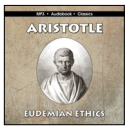

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Aristotle Eudemian Ethics

Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC) Translated by J. Solomon

Read by:	Geoffrey Edwards	Language:	English
Length:	7 hours and 8 minutes	Style:	Solo
Genre(s):	Philosophy		

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Aristotle coined the term "ethics" to define a field of study first undertaken by Socrates and Plato that seeks a rational answer to the question of how human beings should best live. He considered ethics as a practical study, along with politics and poetics and rhetoric. At the core is the notion of moral virtue, an excellence of character that develops in part due to upbringing and in part as a result of habits of action. He outlines four cardinal virtues of prudence, temperance, courage and justice, which combine in the continuing effort to achieve the highest human good. Reason is a critical component of virtue, as it is what sets humans apart. In his words, "The function of man is activity of soul in accordance with reason".

Eudemian Ethics is the shorter and lesser known of Aristotle's treatises on ethics. The title is derived from his pupil Eudemus of Rhodes, who may have helped edit the work, and its companion Greek word eudaimonia is often translated as well-being and happiness. It consists of eight books, three of which (IV-VI) are identical to books V-VII in the Nicomachean Ethics. ***Nicomachean Ethics*** is the best known and most mature of his ethical writings and was probably edited by his son and pupil Nicomachus, from which the name derives. It consists of ten books which were originally separate scrolls based on notes from his lectures at the Lyceum. It became a core work throughout history and was instrumental in the formation of Euro-

Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC) was a Greek scientist and philosopher who may well be the most influential intellectual in history. His work laid the foundations of scientific inquiry, outlined a comprehensive system of philosophical thought, and shaped thinking about poetry and the arts. He was born the son of the physician to the King of Macedon and joined Plato's Academy in Athens at age 18, where he remained for nearly twenty years until Plato's death. He then served as tutor to Alexander the Great at the request of his father, Philip of Macedon, which enabled him to establish a library at Lyceum that produced hundreds of books. His thought ranged from the Platonism of his tenure with Plato but moved to a deep immersion in empirical study based on observation and saw perception itself as the basis of knowledge. His writings covered many subjects - biology, zoology, physics, metaphysics, ethics, logic, aesthetics, poetry, music, rhetoric, linguistics, economics, politics and government – in a style described by Cicero as a "river of gold". Called "the first genuine scientist in history", many of his views shaped scientific scholarship until the Enlightenment. His study of logic evolved into the discipline of modern formal logic in the 19th century. His ethics have been studied continuously and have gained recent currency with the advent of the study of virtue. His metaphysics continues to influence Christian theology. Although an abundance of material survives, scholars believe that it represents only about a third of his output.

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