

Excess	RATIONAL MEAN	Deficiency
Foolhardy	Courageous	Cowardly
Wasteful	Generous	Stingy
Boastful	Truthful	Deprecatory
Ingratiating	Friendly	Quarrelsome

Aristotle's Conception of Virtue

Question:

- **What sustains the gift economy?**
- **What nourishes the spirit of the gift?**
- **Never ask! – ‘what self interested motivations can we develop in order to get people to give’?**



Virtues are not motives

**Virtue
clusters
of gifts
outgoing**

Generosity

Compassion

Charity



Generosity

- **Binds people together in their living**
- **Requires the right gift to the right people at the right time**
- **Is motivated by moral excellence**
- **Expresses the nature of character to give with pleasure**



**Stewardship: the gentle art
of teaching the joy of giving.**

Charity

- **Considered a religious duty**
- **Benedict said: The love of God is linked to charity to the poor.**
- **The poor are symbols of Christ**
- **The 7 works of mercy – hungry, thirsty, naked homeless, sick, captives, burying the dead.**



**Virtue in service to God
that embraces community**

Charity

- **I delight to do thy will O my God for thy law is written within my heart. Ps 105**
- **Forget not thy precepts....**

Delight – the joy

God's Will – the principle

The Heart – the emotion



Compassion

- **Self sacrifice that is an emotional response to the needs of others less fortunate in the context of shared humanity.**
- **Moves the spirit, dissolves the ego, experiences the world as others do.**
- **Seeks to be altruistic**
- **Highest level – ‘teaches to fish’**



We are partners in humanity

Giving based on an internalised principle or rule.

Charity

Giving based on an external emotional stimulus

Compassion

Giving as an internal response to a current realised personal condition or circumstance

Generosity



**Principled
structured
Giving**

eg Tithe

Charity

**Response to
emergent need**

eg ADRA

Compassion

**Spontaneous
expression of joy**

Generosity

Worship
motivated



Structured Giving

**Principles
are learned but not
easily stretched.
They can
be reinforced.**

Response needs

**'The poor are always
with us – giver
fatigue happens!
Genuine response to
Genuine Need**

**Charisma
has its limits
released by
a gift, should not be
artificially massaged.
An expression of joy**

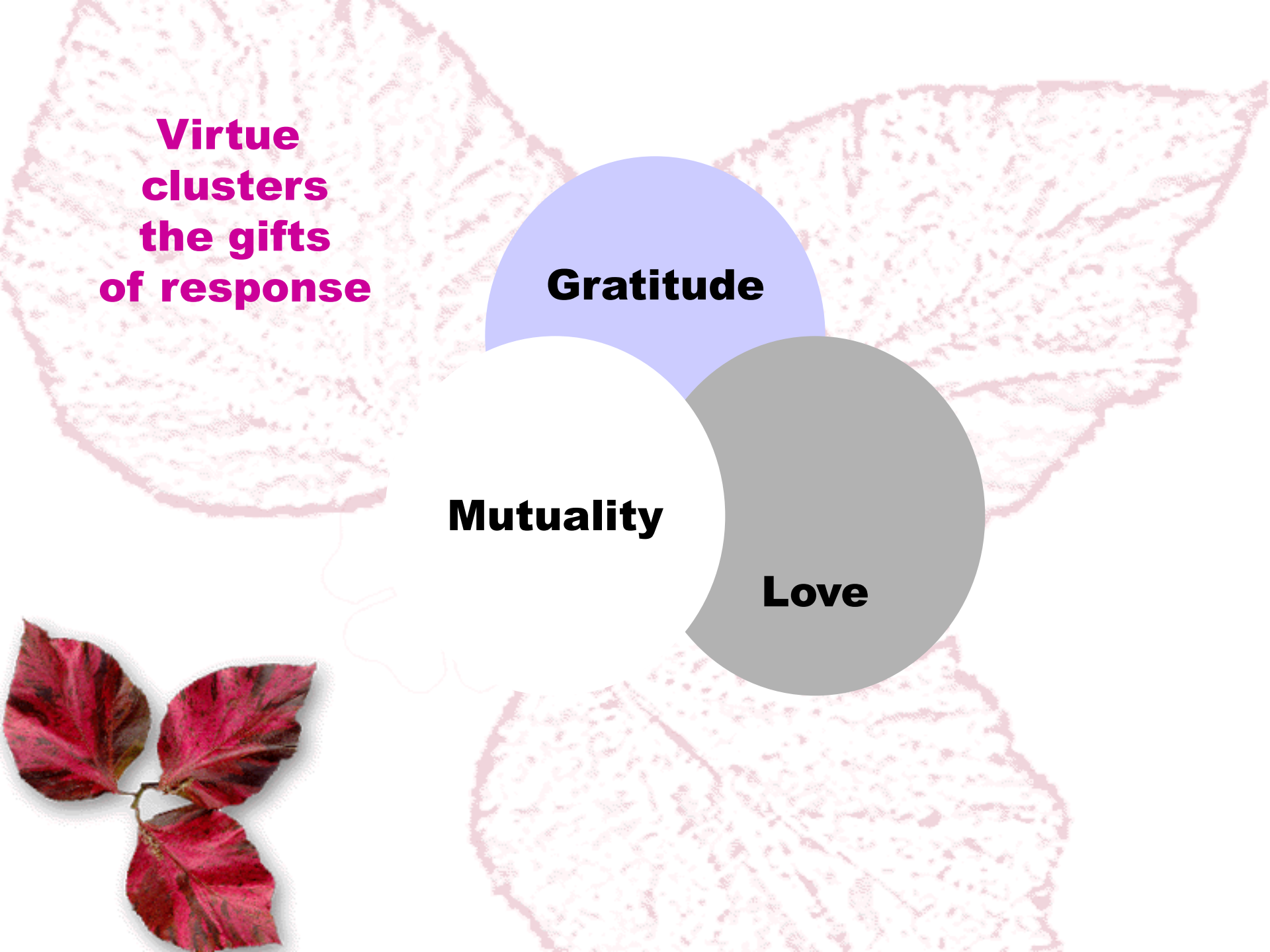


**Virtue
clusters
the gifts
of response**

Gratitude

Mutuality

Love



Gratitude

- **Accepts the spirit of the gift without seeking to establish exchange value.**
- **Responds by graciously passing on the spirit of the gift to third parties**
- **The recipient becomes a trustee of 'grace'.**

Voluntary organisations are channels of moral energy.



Mutuality

- **Expressed through cooperation and interdependence**
- **Treats people fairly – and deeper**
- **Appreciates the common destiny of mankind and shared identity**

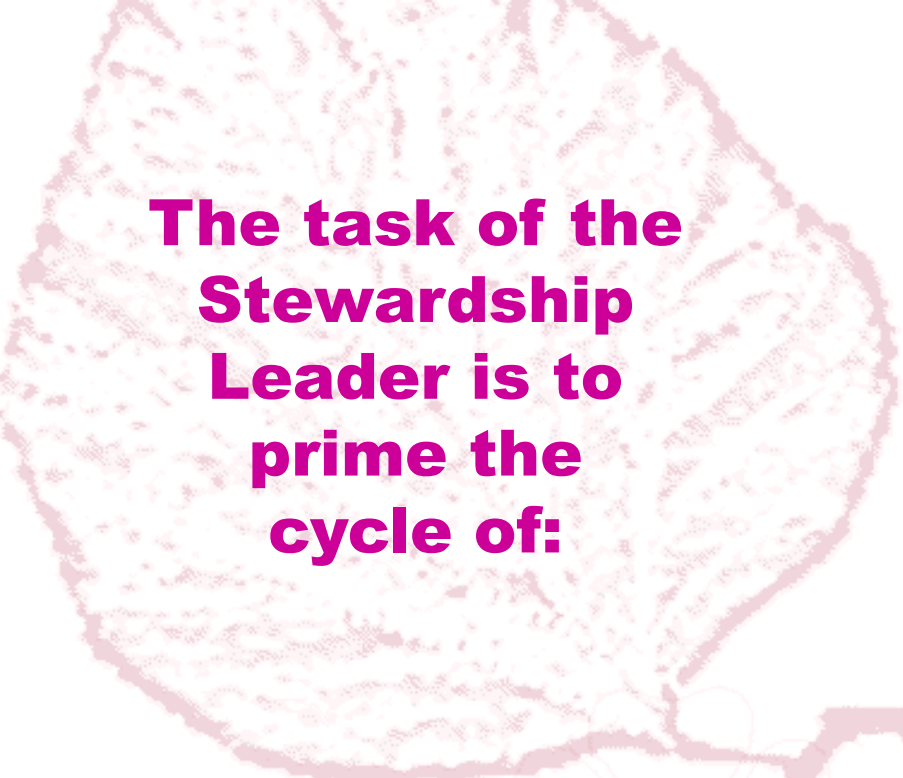


'Lifting as we climb'

Love

- **Recognises that God is the source of every good and perfect give.**
- **Takes the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ as a model for good works.**
- **“He saved others, but cannot save himself”.**





**The task of the
Stewardship
Leader is to
prime the
cycle of:**

Gifts Outgoing

**Charity
Generosity
Compassion**

Gifts of Return

**Mutuality
Gratitude
Love**

