



Part One

Describe who you think of as "your own". How do you distinguish between "your own" and "others" in your actions, reactions, and words?

I considered this question in terms of (1) *what portion of myself I would give, or have I given, to others* and (2) *who these others might be*. The portions of myself would include the following:

- my life, my body
- my internal organs
- money
- shelter
- food that I have prepared
- plants from my garden
- other resources (books, tools, furniture)
- my affection
- my time and energy which include the following (such as they are)
 - my knowledge
 - my creativity
 - my counsel
 - my consolation
 - my encouragement
- my social contacts (for example, there are some people in my social network that I will or will not introduce to others)

There are probably other things I could think of. I won't spell out how I would apportion all of these parts of myself, but probably the main categories of people I think of are the following:

- family
- close/dear friends (people I feel so connected to that their fortune or failure feels almost identical to my own)
- friends
- colleagues
- students and young people in general
- kindred spirits (people I know I won't have a close association or partnership with but whom I can tell I share a lot of similar feelings about the world)
- strangers, fellow humans

These are not mutually-exclusive categories, and some individuals may move in and out of them. I don't tend to think very often about city, state, or national categories when considering what of myself to give. For example, even though I pay taxes to the state of Maryland and the federal government, I'm not sure there's very much I would choose to give to a Marylander or an American that I would not also give to a person from another country. A friend from California is as welcome to stay in my home as a friend from DC, probably even more so because it's usually a bigger help to help someone from far away. I also don't tend to think of men as more "my own" than women.

As I imagine most people do, I like to think of myself as someone who has *philanthropia* or a love of humanity. Practically speaking, though, I likely would not help all members of the human race to an equal degree. If I met a stranger who was grieving the loss of a dear friend, I might console them in the moment the best I could; but the likelihood that I would ever do this on an ongoing basis is slim. I have lots of close friends who have grieved, or will be grieving, and I expect to be there for them. Moreover, it's probably fair to say that I have a certain "kind of people" that I tend to associate with and want to help. While I generally want all humans to prosper and take no pleasure in their misfortune, there may be only a subset of humans that I actually show "love" for. Here is the profile of such a person, as well as I could construct it from about half an hour of reflection. This is not to say that everyone who receives a part of me has to have all of these traits.

These are just the kinds of people I find myself admiring of and who I feel make me a better person through association and emulation (in no particular order):

- the curious and inquisitive
- the serious
- the courageous
- the creative
- those who have become wise through suffering
- those who own their vulnerability (i.e., those who can talk about their misfortunes, their flaws, and their insecurities and neither minimize them nor brag about them. They want to be known and are constantly looking for ways to grow. I owe it to Rhodessa Jones' [Media Project](#) for solidifying this perspective).
- the compassionate, the empathetic, and kind
- the irreverent
- the idealistic
- the hard-working
- the dedicated and reliable
- the disciplined
- the sincere and earnest

Part Two

When you think about Kallion, who is "our own"? What are 1-2 specific actions we could take as an organization to expand that definition of "our own"?

When I think of Kallion's "own", I think of any person who shares our mission (community development to improve leadership through the humanities), vision (everyone is an agent of leadership and humanities teachers are leadership trainers), and values (full empowerment for all, inclusiveness, creativity, reflection, and kindness). I don't think so much about expanding Kallion's definition of who is "our own" so much as how to ensure that everyone who has the potential and the desire to be part of Kallion actually has that opportunity. This means not only getting the word out but going the extra mile to valuing and

celebrating every member of the community for all that they do. One way to be more inclusive would be for Kallion to build a closer partnership with Howard University to create internships for students and affordable opportunities for them to participate in Kallion events going forward. Down the road, Kallion could sponsor student organizations (akin to sororities and fraternities) where members would be empowered to study and find their own answer to Kallion's core question: how do we "design and develop communities around the study of the Humanities, in order to unlock the human talent for creative, benevolent, and lasting improvements to our common condition"?

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