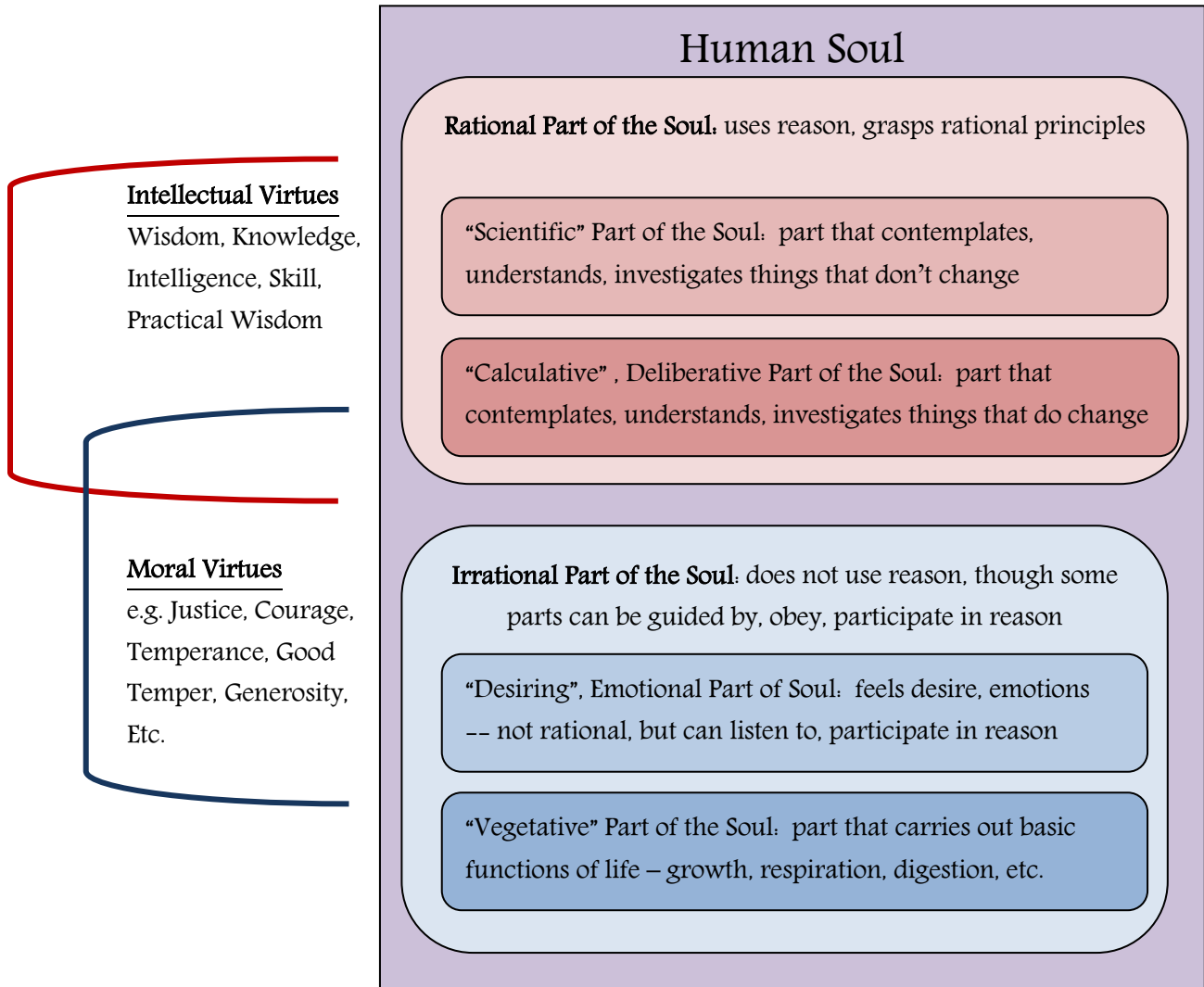


Intellectual Virtues in *Nicomachean Ethics* book 6

Aristotle's distinctions between different kinds of intellectual excellence (or virtue) he examines in N.E. book 6 requires discussion of the nature of the human soul – how it is divided into parts or strata, which have different functions or purposes.



The *Intellectual Virtues* pertain to the higher part(s) of the soul – those parts that are genuinely intellectual or rational. They involve developed habits of reasoning, inquiry, knowledge, judgment.

The *Moral Virtues* pertain to the lower part of the soul – but to its highest sub-part, the portion that is concerned with desires, feelings, emotional responses, pleasure and pain, and which can involve reason. They involve developed habits that have to do with acting and feeling in the right ways.

The higher parts of the soul – the Scientific and Calculative parts -- Aristotle will also refer to as two different types of Intellect: *Theoretical* (or Speculative) and *Practical* (and also Productive).

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Aristotle distinguishes five main Intellectual Virtues – ways in which we grasp or attain truth. All of these virtues are located principally within the rational part of the human soul (though practical wisdom also in a way does involve the non-rational part of the soul as well)

