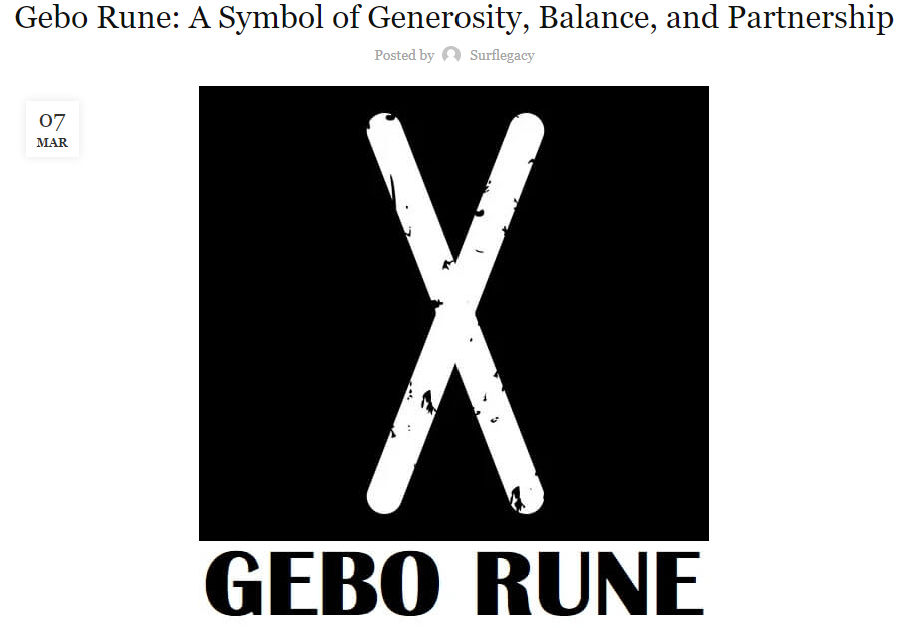
**Gratitude (Generosity and Stewardship):**

Generosity (there is also an element of balance or Harmony in the GEBO RUNE):





This symmetry and balance are a key aspect of the Gebo Rune’s symbolism, representing the exchange of gifts between two people and the importance of balance and reciprocity in relationships.

**The Gift of Giving: Exploring the Gebo Rune’s Symbolism**

At the core of the Gebo Rune’s symbolism is the concept of “gift.” In ancient Germanic cultures, the act of giving and receiving gifts was a crucial aspect of social and familial relationships.

It was seen as a way of establishing and maintaining bonds of kinship and trust.

The Gebo Rune represents this concept of gift-giving in several ways.

Firstly, its shape is often interpreted as two hands meeting in a handshake or a gesture of giving and receiving.

This symbolism emphasizes the idea that giving and receiving are interconnected, and that healthy relationships require both.

**The Gebo Rune also embodies the idea of sacrifice and generosity.**

In ancient Germanic cultures, gifts were often given as an act of sacrifice, with the giver offering something of value to the receiver without expecting anything in return.

This selfless act of giving was seen as a way of establishing trust and building relationships based on mutual respect and goodwill.

Furthermore, the Gebo Rune can also be interpreted as a symbol of balance and harmony.

The exchange of gifts creates a sense of reciprocity and balance in relationships, with each person contributing to the other’s well-being.

This balance is essential for healthy relationships and for maintaining a sense of harmony within communities.

The Gebo Rune’s association with the concept of gift is a powerful reminder of the importance of generosity, sacrifice, and reciprocity in our relationships.

Its symbolism encourages us to approach our interactions with others from a place of selflessness and to value the interconnectedness of giving and receiving.

### ****The Gebo Rune as a Symbol of Balance: Exploring the Importance of Reciprocity****

The Gebo Rune’s distinctive “X” shape is often interpreted as a symbol of balance and harmony. At its core, the Gebo Rune represents the exchange of gifts between two people, and the importance of reciprocity in healthy relationships.

In this context, reciprocity refers to the idea that both parties involved in an exchange of gifts should benefit in some way.

This can be through the physical or emotional value of the gift itself, or through the establishment of a stronger relationship based on trust and goodwill.

**The Gebo Rune reminds us that healthy relationships require a balance of giving and receiving**.

One-sided relationships, where one person consistently gives while the other takes, can create a sense of imbalance and disharmony.

In contrast, relationships built on reciprocity and mutual giving can create a sense of balance and harmony that strengthens the bond between two people.

In addition, the Gebo Rune also emphasizes the importance of generosity and selflessness in maintaining this balance.

The act of giving a gift is often seen as an act of sacrifice, with the giver offering something of value to the receiver without expecting anything in return.

This selflessness is an important aspect of maintaining balance in relationships, as it encourages both parties to contribute to the other’s well-being.

The Gebo Rune represents balance and reciprocity, reminding us of the importance of giving and receiving in healthy relationships.

By valuing both aspects of this exchange, we can create stronger bonds of trust and create a sense of harmony in our interactions with others.

**Stewardship:**



About the Symbol The three leaves - extending upwards to heaven – form a simple icon representing the three gifts of stewardship: Our Time; Our Talent and Our Treasure. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we cherish these gifts and freely share the fruits of these gifts with others.

He is like a tree planted near streams of water that yields its fruit in season; Its leaves never wither; whatever he does prospers. Psalm 1:3

**Harmony (Order, Wisdom, Peace):**

Bibilical Foundation: Noah after the flood

The olive branch

“The olive branch is usually a symbol of **peace, harmony, and hope**” according to Greek mythology. Some writers say that the dove reflects peace; others specify that either the olive branch alone or the dove holding the olive branch is the important image. After all, the Bible features doves multiple times.



**Integrity (Courage, dependability, truth and honesty):**

The lion represents many things, but one prominent meaning of the lion as a symbol is someone who is incorruptible.  
In Hinduism and Buddhism, the lion is considered a symbol of wisdom, integrity and strength. Hinduism also has a popular lion deity named ‘Narasimha’ who represents hope, courage, protection and victory over evil.

#### The lion is a symbol for deathless courage, strength, fearlessness, bravery and royalty. Its body has been used in mythological creatures and in most cases when composing the body of the sphinx in Egyptian community.

Seen as the lord of the land, the lion is compared to the Eagle which is supreme in the air. Lion is one of the favorite symbols of leadership, warriors and emperors. It is not only seen as a leader on earth but also in the spiritual realms. The lion has speed, is alert and has power, this represents all that is majestic. Just like the eagle, Kings and emperors have long included it on their coat of arms to symbolize supreme strength.

Lion as a symbol of power, courage and strength was seen by Egyptians to represent wealth. They used the lion on tribe banners at the time when Moses took the Israelites out of Egypt. In today’s world since the roar of the animal is strong, it is often associated with fearlessness. The lion has captured imagination of human beings for many centuries as a sign of majesty. When the animal is carved on statues they are commonly found guarding palaces, bridges, temples and tombs. Its strength and courage have made it to be associated with power as well as grandeur. This animal knows how to get what he wants since they have the ability to knock off balance the life of the enemy or prey. Because of its noble character, strength and courage, the lion’s totem represents great power humans may have like self-control and balance of life which leads to own personal power. The lion has many valuable lessons to teach us and these lessons remain the symbols that they are associated with: self control, personal strength and courage and balance.



**Freedom (discipline, health and endurance):**

