

## Family and the Alliance of Elohim

In my previous email, "[What Are Humans?](#)" I wrote about "humans being DNA creatures that come into being when 'sexual connections' are made." This is the science-based answer. **It is a fact!**

In an earlier email, "[The Creation of Nature, the Tov Standard, and Rights](#);" I described the creation of "The ADAM" in the first chapter in Genesis. "The ADAM" is the first family in the Bible -- one male and one female.

There is a repeating theme in this story.

- *Grasses, plants, and fruit trees produce seeds that reproduce their own kinds.*
- *Water creatures and winged flying creatures reproduce their own kinds.*
- *Earth creatures - animals and humans – reproduce their own kinds.*

They all have "organic relationships" – *life creating powers*. I wrote about this in my email, "[The Order of the Creation Organic Families and Our Sacred Inheritances](#)." Organic relationships are found throughout "nature."

The sexual instinct certainly moves one toward fulfilling its aim – *copulation* — but whether it lasts for a minute or for a longer period, **this connection ceases once the desire is fulfilled**. The act of sex, however, does not create a family in nature or in Genesis.

Propagation of the species is surely an important need, and offspring may be a central part of the family structure, but they are not what define it. **Both sex and procreation can, and do, exist independently, outside of the family**. The family is, therefore, something that contains these elements, but goes beyond them.

**A family structure begins when the male and female choose to remain connected to each other in order to raise their offspring**. *The urge to have a family is also an instinct -- a very distinct drive that has little to do with sex*. The element of permanence, which remains even when the partners are no longer occupied with sex or with raising offspring, is one mark of the family. **Such permanent families exist not only among**

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**humans; there are some animals and birds that have strong family connections** for many years, sometimes (among swans and geese, for example) even for a lifetime.<sup>1</sup>

**The Alliance of Elohim** is a covenant (contract) between **Elohim and the two humans**. I have written a great deal about the obligations Elohim places on humans related to Him. *But this is only one part of the covenant.*

The second part of the Alliance is a covenant between the two humans. It is a well-defined relationship that will extend to all future family members.

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz is the source of much of this information. He has an important message to all people about families.

- *When there is no obligation, there may be a love affair, or a breeding plant — but not a family.*
- *The existence of such a contract is what makes the difference between a family relationship and a love affair.*

In the Jewish culture, an integral part of the marriage ceremony is the reading aloud of the *Ketubah* (a written summary of some of the marital obligations). This may seem like a very cold, remote, legalistic, and technical definition of family, but it is realistic and accurate, **and this mutual obligation forms the stable basis of the family.**

This essential element of family relations exists not only between spouses, **but also between parents and children and among siblings.** What makes them into a family is not the fact that they love each other, or that those parents begot those particular children, **but that they understand and keep their obligations toward each other.**

Family, then, is a deep connection that goes beyond a whimsical feeling, beyond an urge, beyond emotional upheaval. **Members of a family are bound by obligation, connected to each other by the knowledge that they can rely on each other. Only such inviolable contractual obligation can serve as a stable basis for family.**

In any social unit — and the family is no exception -- **members may have disagreements about many things, most things, or even everything.** Nevertheless,

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<sup>1</sup> *Simple Words: Thinking About What Really Matters In Life* by Adin Steinsaltz © 1999; Simon & Schuster, Inc., New York, NY; p. 176.

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as long as they stick to the basic rules of the relationship, that unit will survive. There is a lot of talk nowadays about “**family-values**,” but what are they?

***Values are simply very basic agreements  
that govern personal and interpersonal behavior.***

**In essence, these values can make any kind of society work.** All social units are based on some kind of agreement, either tacit or explicit. Agreement makes society function, from its largest constructs down to its most basic unit, the family.

Exploring the Bible helps people discover the ancient values embedded in Bible stories they may have heard all their lives – *or never heard before*. The power and benefits of these values come from living them in your daily life!

The primary source of this information is *Simple Words: Thinking About What Really Matters In Life* by Adin Steinsaltz (See Family: pp. 171-186).

Shalom,  
Jim Myers, President  
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Jim Myers, President  
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