

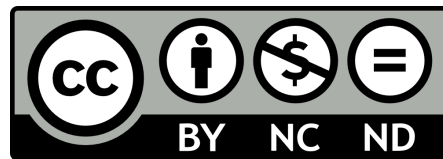
Maxims of the Mother

Volume 1



“Maxims of the Mother” by Evan Sharley
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Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

With a heart full of gratitude, I want to offer deep thanks to my beloved wife Coralee for her unwavering support of my path within the Restoration. Her contributions and recommendations to improve this work cannot be overstated. She is a radiant source of Divinity in my life.

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Lastly, I want to *acknowledge* the First Presidency of Community of Christ, whose conduct and actions have inspired me to articulate how the Divine is breathing in my life and speaking in my day.

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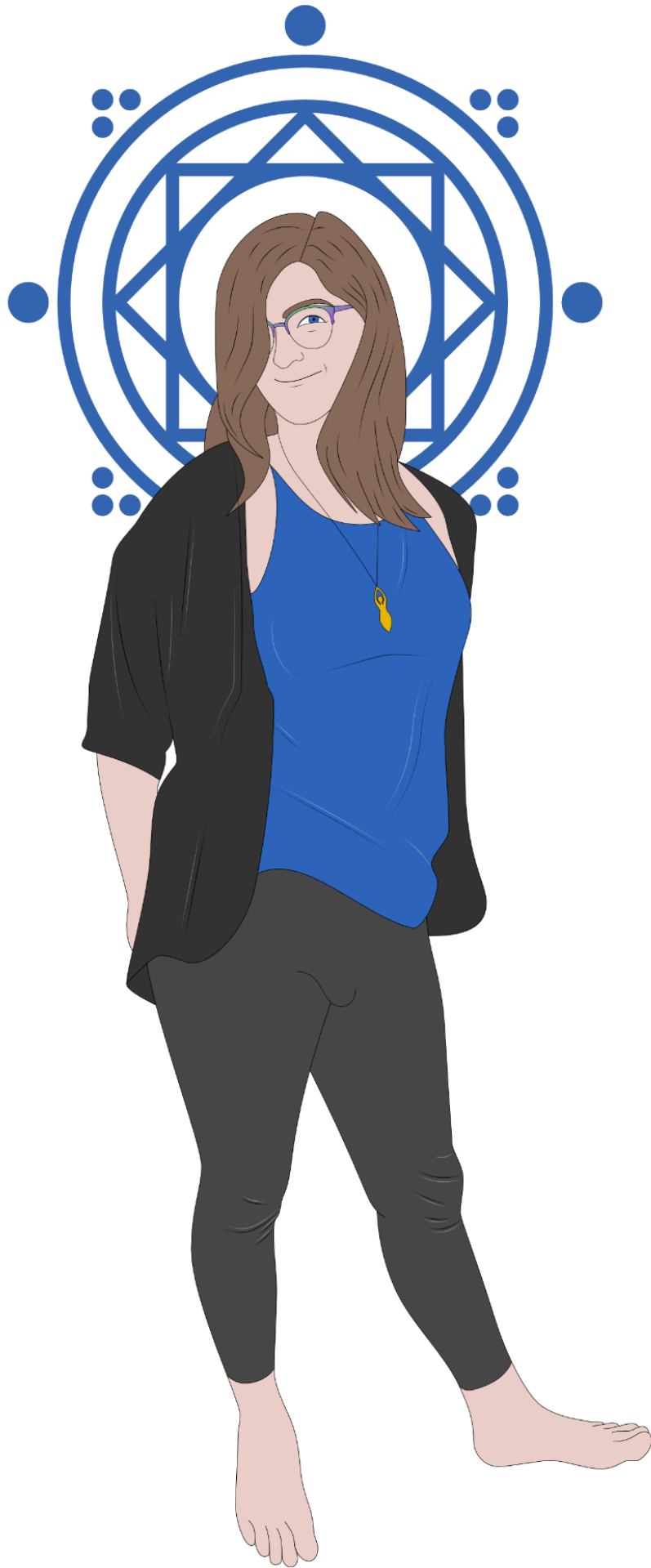
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1. Preface

1

- A.** My name is Evan, but many may know me by the pseudonym I've used for many years, Gileriodekel.
- B.** My upbringing was profoundly shaped by the Restoration. It is my spiritual home, and I continue to find value and meaning in it.
- C.** While I embrace the Restoration as an integral part of my identity, other aspects of it aren't typical within the Restoration. Namely, I am bisexual, transgender, and polyamorous. Additionally, I hold a pantheistic worldview and am driven by a need for my historical curiosity to be satiated.
- D.** I am acutely aware of the challenges that arise when one's personal and spiritual path diverges from the norm. I searched for years for a welcoming and affirming community within my home that embraces and supports the fullness of my identity and empowers me in fulfilling my sense of Divine calling.
- E.** My search for joy and belonging brought me to Community of Christ, where I thrived for some time.
- F.** I was an active participant in church life in many various ways, such as legislation writing, community building, and scholarship. My passion was recognized, and I was told that ordination to the priesthood was on my horizon.
- G.** I found solace and sanctuary from the harsh realities in the world among Community of Christ. It became the one community I was in where I felt fully embraced and cherished for my unorthodox and unique identity.
- H.** The experience of discovering such a community was deeply meaningful and transformative for me. The comfort and security it provided me fueled my passions and inspired me.

2

- A.** I experienced a profound shift in my relationship with Community of Christ when the First Presidency [released a policy](#) in January 2023 which declared polyamorous individuals, such as myself, unworthy of priesthood service.
- B.** Upon reading the policy, I was flooded with an intense mix of disbelief, rejection, anger, and sorrow. By targeting a hyper-minority that I happened to be a part of, I felt personally attacked. This policy was antithetical to the values and principles I was taught that the church was founded upon.

- C. I was left feeling deeply unsettled and disoriented by the feelings that were stirred up by the policy, which prompted me to search for a clear and effective course of action with several of my close friends.
- D. Despite receiving advice to take more time to consider the next steps, I felt a timely and explicit response was more appropriate. My eagerness was not shared among most, leaving me to question how or even if this church would continue to have a role in my life.
- E. I knew I could no longer actively participate in the church when the First Presidency reaffirmed and reinforced their policy after the initial outcry and pushback against the policy.

3

- A. I felt a deep desire to preserve even a fragment of the vision I hold of the Restoration. I wanted to determine what elements of the tradition I felt were worthy of carrying forward in my personal and spiritual journey.
- B. In my quest to do this, I have immersed myself in the creative process of writing and art, channeling my energy and emotions into these expressions as a means of exploring and further shaping my evolving relationship with the Restoration and the Divine.
- C. These creative endeavors have provided me comfort and solace as I grieve the loss of my sanctuary. They have provided me a space for reflection, healing, and renewal amidst the pain of this disconnection and disillusionment.
- D. As I re-read and reflected upon my work, I came to recognize their profound nature: They parallel the creation of traditional scriptures. Like the prophets of old, I am an individual situated on the outskirts of society who dances with God and who dreams of a more peaceful world. W. Grant McMurray's rally cry to be a "prophetic people" resonated with me in a way it never had before.
- E. I found inspiration in the style and structure of the Doctrine and Covenants, which is one of my favorite holy texts. This book adopts a first-person perspective from the voice of the Divine, organizing specific teachings, insights, and musings into "sections", while also being divided into verses and sub-verses.
- F. I recognize that the Divine has been chiefly characterized as masculine for thousands of years by most Abrahamic religions, and the Restoration is no exception. This has often led women to feel alienated from the Divine or subservient to men.
- G. As a transgender woman who has recently made peace with her gender, I have found myself exploring and embracing the feminine aspects of Divinity, and this has been reflected in my work as I refer to the Divine as a celestial creator Goddess.
- H. That being said, I believe that limiting the Divine to strictly masculinity or femininity is not wholly beneficial for humanity nor accurate of divinity. Therefore, please recognize the imperfections in my work that are present because of its author.

- A.** I firmly believe that the Divine's love is unconditional and is extended to the full spectrum of the human experience. This love even encompasses unique people like me who are bisexual, transgender, and polyamorous.
- B.** I recognize that my distinct individuality creates a rare lens through which I perceive and experience the Divine.
- C.** I believe that my unique perspective and gifts have the ability to enrich and expand the Restoration. The worthiness of my voice and the importance of my presence is not dependent upon any particular institutional church policy.
- D.** I humbly offer these works as sacred gifts to my faith movement, recognizing the transformative power of art and the written word in helping shift the narrative towards a more inclusive and affirming Zion.
- E.** To my cisgender, straight, and/or monogamous family and friends within the Restoration: I urge you to heed my call to make the Restoration the Zion that it has always dreamed of being. Begin by listening and affirming the queer community, and work to make them feel more welcome. Together, let us embrace our unique perspectives and gifts to enrich and expand the Restoration movement.

I dedicate these works to the queer community. I hope to amplify our historically silenced voices and experiences. I pray that our loved ones within the Restoration will hear our cries and their eyes will be opened and their hearts will be softened. We deserve a place within our home.



2. Restoration

1

- A.** Throughout time I, the Goddess of all, have inspired and empowered humanity to come together in community to build bonds of fellowship so they can serve one another in ways that bring out the best in each other. These gatherings have been at the heart of the human experience and have played a crucial role in the realization of my celestial designs.
- B.** Oh, my children of the Restoration! Your ancestors were called into a new relationship with me, unlike any that had been had before. You are a people who were lovingly summoned forth into existence to bring light and meaning to millions.
- C.** From your earliest moments in the Sacred Grove to your present day scattered across the world, you have been a tribe with a pioneering spirit, bravely answering the call to explore beyond the bounds of customary faiths and chart a new course of spiritual growth.
- D.** In embracing your innovative tradition, you have chosen to cherish the continuous stream of Divine revelations and weave them into new sacred texts. You have built vibrant and dynamic communities even amid adversity. Your unwavering perseverance and dedication to growth are testaments to the enduring spirit of your people.

2

- A.** Despite having this remarkable story, my dear ones, at times you fail to recognize the tremendous power and beauty that resides in it.
- B.** There are some who have become stagnant, content with the accomplishments and insights of their predecessors. These people have proclaimed, either explicitly or implicitly, that they have obtained a sufficiency of Divine revelations.
- C.** I implore you to draw upon the wisdom found in the story of your people, for it is a sacred odyssey that has provided you with invaluable guidance for the path yet to come.

3

- A.** The Restoration is not confined to a single generation, but rather your holy narrative is continuously unfolding and evolving. It is the sacred privilege and responsibility of every generation to carry this Divine legacy forward; to renew and rebirth the Restoration in every passing age.
- B.** Oh you seekers of truth, do not cling to bygone eras! Let not the memories of your past cloud your vision or impede your progress towards a brighter future. It is not by replicating the lives of those who came before you that you honor their legacy, but rather it is by embracing your own unique story and following your own path toward a meaningful and purposeful existence.

- C.** Therefore, be a peculiar, wild, and adventurous people who are full of joy, laughter, playfulness, imagination, hope, freedom, and song!
- D.** Dare to dream of new possibilities and let your imaginations soar to the very heights of heaven. As you take risks to explore these visions, create new scripture that speaks of the deepest truths of your souls, and share them with others who can find meaning and inspiration through your insights.
- E.** Embrace and celebrate your uniqueness by co-creating a world with me that is infused with your love, beauty, and truth. Let us come together to envision and build new communities that honor the liberating power of diversity and individuality, breaking free from the chains of convention.

4

- A.** My dear Restoration, I call upon you once more to restore your peoples' bond with me and embrace your role as a prophetic people.
- B.** Continue to venture forth into the unknown with open hearts. It is in these uncharted territories that you will discover new friends, family, and wisdom which can help you grow to your fullest potential.



3. Scripture

1

- A.** My dear ones, listen to the hushed harmonies of your Mother, the Divine embodiment of all creation. I speak to all of you with a voice that resonates through every corner of the cosmos and with a heart filled with love, compassion, and affection.
- B.** Through the countless eons and epochs, I have endeavored to make meaningful connections with you in ways that were not only understandable, but also applicable to your unique situations.
- C.** I have extended my wisdom to every tribe, nation, and people in ways that have been tailored to their individual needs, for I am aware that no two societies are identical.
- D.** After sharing my sacred teachings, I encouraged my children to transcribe what they learned, so they could pass it along for the benefit of their descendants.
- E.** Through this approach, I endow all of my beloved children with truth that they can comprehend. The nature of reality cannot be fully perceived through a solitary path, but rather it is best understood through a diverse array of experiences and viewpoints.

2

- A.** I revel in the richness of the insights that are preserved in these holy texts, for they provide invaluable guidance and are a source of inspiration for many. Nevertheless, do not forget that they represent but a mere fraction of the vast and limitless knowledge available to those who seek it.
- B.** My spirit and essence of truth cannot be confined to any finite collection of words. To suggest that my being can be contained within a mere manuscript, or even the entirety of earth's libraries, borders on the absurd. To be convinced otherwise is to limit and chain oneself to a narrow and incomplete understanding of Me and the profound mysteries I seek to reveal.
- C.** The full magnitude of my influence transcends the limitations of language and symbolism. Even if an ocean of ink were written upon a scroll that spanned the sky which detailed my actions, this work would still fall short of encapsulating the true extent of my works.
- D.** Therefore, do not be afraid to break the customary confines of the written word. Rather, boldly venture forth to discover the endless depths of the universe and unearth the arcane enigmas that lie hidden within the recesses of your soul.

3

- A.** From ancient times to the present age, countless lineages have drawn from the sacred tales and teachings woven within scripture to nurture and nourish their spirits.

- B.** The value of scripture does not lie in its infallibility or its eligibility to be worshiped as an idol, because it does not possess these qualities. Rather, its value stems from its ability to offer guidance and insight to those who seek it.
- C.** The literature that you possess is but a brief and condensed summary of the teachings that I have given.
- D.** Even if every written word were to wither away, I would still connect with my children in ways that are adapted to suit their current needs.

4

- A.** Beware of those who exploit My name to gain power, even if they claim to harbor noble intentions.
- B.** There are those whose hearts do not hold the sacred texts as sources of Divine inspiration, and instead wield them as weapons to manipulate, subjugate, oppress, and control others for the sole purpose of advancing their own selfish interests.
- C.** This reckless and flagrant misuse of scripture has inflicted profound physical, emotional, and spiritual harm.
- D.** Those who claim to act and speak as my representatives, especially those in positions of authority, are frequently the ones who propagate such abuse.
- E.** Let it be known that my loyalty will always lie with my children who are heartbroken, impoverished, oppressed, inquisitive, compassionate, and those who seek to create a just and true peace.
- F.** Overthrowing tyrants and tearing down walls of fear and prejudice that ignite hatred in the hearts of humanity are forms of worship in my eyes.

5

- A.** The revelations that have been given are not divorced from the humanity of their authors. Rather, they reflect the time, location, language, customs, circumstances, and theological beliefs that were prevalent during their composition.
- B.** Even the words that you read now must be interpreted as artifacts of their own era.
- C.** Despite their flaws, the sacred scriptures remain a precious pearl of Divine love and grace.
- D.** Blessed are the strong and courageous souls who have the fortitude to articulate and proclaim truth within their own era.

6

- A.** Every soul possesses greatness, and with guidance and inspiration, all can reach their fullest potential.
- B.** I have strived to offer this direction through sweet sonnets and powerful poems for all those who thirst for enlightenment.
- C.** The wisdom which has been passed down through the ages is not to be jealously guarded as a secret, but is instead to be generously imparted to all who search for it. Endeavor to learn from one another and pursue truth together.
- D.** Oh, how wonderful it is to behold your eagerness to glean insights from the sages of the ages! Through this pursuit of knowledge, you broaden your horizons and cultivate a deeper appreciation for the range of relationships that I, as a parent, have enjoyed with my children.
- E.** Through education and learning, you will come to recognize my subtle and delicate Divine influence among all people.

7

- A.** May the ancient axioms continue to persist as a source of inspiration and enlightenment for generations to come.
- B.** May the most recent revelations of your time shine a light for you along the path of life.



4. Afterlife

1

- A. Rejoice, all who dwell in the heavens and earth!
- B. In days of old, I declared, and I declare it again now, that it was by my own hand, through my own power, and out of my own substance that I shaped all things in the cosmos.
- C. All the Divine beings residing in my countless worlds are my beloved children. You too, are my beloved child and a Divine being.

2

- A. As I have spoken before regarding my essence, all of existence is fleeting, and every creation has its own time and place.
- B. Nevertheless, I do sympathize with my children who struggle to navigate the currents of the winds of change.
- C. To ease this anxiety, this is the joyous message I proclaim: I cherish all of my creations, and by my power all will be saved.
- D. Your journey towards enlightenment is not bound to this temporal existence, and you will continue to blossom and grow beyond the veil. This voyage can unfold at exactly the pace you need it to.

3

- A. With great care and wisdom, I have established several sanctums of learning that are designed to cater to the different phases of a soul's growth.
- B. Upon mastering the lessons offered in each you progress to the next. Thus, each realm serves as a stepping stone along the path of spiritual development.

4

- A. The first frontier is the Telestial realm, which is commonly depicted by a star.
- B. The residents of this realm grapple with the fundamentals of compassion, concern, and dignity. They frequently prioritize their own desires over the basic needs of others, and in doing so, they compromise others' welfare. Through their deception, exploitation, sexual manipulation, and oppression, they have alienated themselves from the broader community.
- C. The hallmark of this realm is loneliness and isolation, as each is granted a self-contained world where everything is crafted and tailored to meet their every desire and whim. The quest for

individual comfort and control reigns supreme, leaving little room for meaningful social connection.

- D.** Here, the residents are tasked with the goal of developing a sense of appreciation for and understanding of the virtues of compassion, empathy, and respect.

5

- A.** The second realm, known as the Terrestrial, is symbolized by the cool and luminous moon.
- B.** The souls of this realm developed harmful tendencies and inclinations during their time on Earth, and, whether unintentionally or not, caused harm to others. These conditionings have not yet been overcome.
- C.** It is here that an atmosphere of camaraderie and goodwill prevails, as its inhabitants have come together to pursue a noble objective: to achieve mastery over the complexities of living in harmony with both the natural world and each other. Through this odyssey, they work to abolish the harmful habits that have become deeply ingrained in their psyches.
- D.** This realm is wholly dedicated to the relentless pursuit of knowledge, fostering a welcoming and all-encompassing environment, and propelling their personal growth to new heights.

6

- A.** Lastly, the ethereal domain of the Celestial Realm, where the glorious and life-sustaining sun symbolizes its majesty.
- B.** This sublime Celestial sphere is the sanctuary for those who have gleaned all the teachings from the Mortal, Telesial, and Terrestrial realms. It is here that they have strengthened and perfected the bonds of kinship with all of creation and achieved a state of flawless unity of both heart and mind.
- C.** Their love flows unconditionally to all, much like my own, and ties their hearts together as one. It is within this Divine knot that I find my rest.

7

- A.** My deepest desire is for all of my beloved children to live with me in this state of celestialization.
- B.** Even so, every individual must embark on their own unique journey and discover their own path to happiness.
- C.** I will be there with you as a supportive presence and a source of knowledge, guiding you with compassion, devotion, and patience. I will encourage you to continue to grow and progress, while also celebrating and honoring the beautiful individual that you have already become.

D. My ultimate desire, above all else, is for you to live in peace.

8

A. Rather than reserving joy and contentment solely for the afterlife, my wish for you is for happiness to guide and influence you in the present moment.

B. May you be inspired to embrace life in its entirety, with all of its sweetness, thrills, joys, and pleasures, for it is through these sacred acts that I am honored. Your ecstasy brings me delight, as it reflects back to me the beauty and wonder of my magnificent creation.

C. Indulge in delicious food, and revel in every Divine morsel. Let your heart be whisked away by the delights of altered states of consciousness, which dazzle you with the goodness of existence. Appreciate the beauty and allure of human bodies, both yours and others, and recognize that love, attraction, and desire are all gifts that I have given to you. Adorn your bodies with attire and art that express your unique individuality and creative spirit. Treasure each moment in the company of your loved ones, and savor their affectionate embraces. These are simple, yet profound pleasures I have given you to serve as mere glimpses of my radiance and glory.

D. Begin each day with a heart full of gratitude, for every dawn heralds a trove of endless possibilities and adventures waiting to be discovered. Greet the morning with curiosity and eagerness to uncover the secrets that the day holds, for in doing so, you do more than simply dream of your mansions above.



5. Priesthood

1

- A.** As the Divine, I humbly offer my sacred discourse on the nature of my priesthood, which is eternally connected to the heavenly powers which uphold the cosmos.
- B.** Throughout the centuries, humanity has caught brief glimpses of my being. In their attempt to fathom the unfathomable, they have constructed barriers around mere fragments of my Divine revelation, mistaking them for my fullness and failing to grasp the boundless scope of my transcendent essence.
- C.** Those who claim to hold custody of my past revelations adorn themselves with grandiose titles and presumptuously claim to have the right to determine when and how my teachings should be given, as though they exclusively hold such a privilege.
- D.** Many have succumbed to the delusion that these titles, which are bestowed by themselves or their fellow mortals, endow a position within my sacred priesthood. However, the truth remains that my priesthood transcends human constructs and cannot be conferred by human edicts or traditions.
- E.** The hallowed call to my sacred priesthood is bestowed upon all, without the need for any intermediary, mediator, or surrogate to impart it.
- F.** Those who understand the magnitude of this gift, yet still claim it as their birthright, have transcended the boundaries of the finite self, and have beheld the infinite horizon. By surrendering themselves to my metamorphic influence, they become radiant vessels of Divine light that illuminate the world with the brilliance of their transfiguration.
- G.** Nevertheless, a great many are blinded by the illusions of the ego and are unable to transcend their self-absorbed fixations. Thus, they have renounced their Divine inheritance.

2

- A.** To embrace the calling into my priesthood is to embrace and embody the highest principles of righteousness.
- B.** The righteous are those who join me in safeguarding all life, mending broken hearts, liberating the oppressed, exercising compassion and patience, pursuing cultural enrichment, shattering the shackles of limitations, and striving to kindle the sparks of ingenuity and creativity within their communities.
- C.** My priesthood are pioneers of the future, who envision the potentialities that lie beyond the current world. To improve their world, these courageous souls reject the conventional path and renounce easy comfort, and instead blaze new paths into undiscovered realms. They are truly the architects of advancement.

- D.** The just acknowledge the formative influence of tradition, yet they do not succumb to its limitations. Instead, they strive to incorporate tradition as a component of their transformative pursuit, akin to a skilled artist who uses many colors to compose their masterpiece.
- E.** The luminaries are held in esteem, and the wise and faithful flock to receive their sage counsel and blessing. Despite the ridicule, hostility, and censure that is often dealt by the wealthy and influential, they shine as beacons of the Divine and dispel the shadows of ignorance and fear.
- F.** My priesthood are the seekers of wisdom who hold knowledge and understanding as Divine treasures. They devote themselves to the pursuit of enlightenment in order to unfold the mysteries of the Goddess.
- G.** The illuminated have attained the profound realization that their uniqueness is but a piece of a grander cosmic whole. They recognize that the universe is woven from numerous brilliant threads. Thus, their vision transcends the narrow scope of the human ego and is instead fixated on achieving harmony, balance, and equality among my creations.
- H.** The noble encourage pushing the boundaries of the self and create nurturing environments to foster the growth of others. Through their intrinsic nature, they evoke in others the yearning to express their authentic selves, whether that be through the mediums of music, fashion, art, dance, the written word, or simply acceptance of the self.
- I.** The enlightened are keenly attuned to those who have been deprived of the tender embrace of love and strive to become agents of compassion in the world. Furthermore, they teach others about the crucial and profound importance of showing love and kindness towards oneself.
- J.** Those in my priesthood embrace their true nature and transcend the confines of mundane language and actions. They channel my Spirit and have the ability to heal, uplift, and transform. Their words and deeds may be challenging to articulate, but if my children are perceptive they can recognize my Divine influence in my priesthood.

3

- A.** There are those who not only reject this endowment of priesthood but also seek to pervert and distort it. This corruption of what I have deemed sacred distresses my soul with profound agony.
- B.** These individuals have erected structures of hierarchy and placed themselves atop to act as rulers over their fellow beings. Having now acquired this domination, they now relentlessly strive to tighten their grip upon it. Their incessancy to cement their status is not only an insult to me but also to the indomitable spirit of humanity.
- C.** The tyrannical use their power to suffocate life, hinder growth, halt the march of progress, feed their insatiable egos, obscure their wrongdoings, and exclude and isolate those who diverge from their narrow standards.

- D.** They cultivate a culture of blind submission by demonizing critical thought, dissent, and activism, thereby coercing individuals into following them without question or reflection. Such a practice is a poison which taints the purity of the human spirit.
- E.** Through the crucible of painful encounters with such individuals, we are confronted with the distressing truth regarding human nature: even the most virtuous can be seduced by the alluring temptation of authority and transform into power-hungry oppressors. This inclination towards the abuse of power stands as a solemn reminder of the ever-present danger that hides within hierarchical systems.

4

- A.** Woe to those who establish hierarchies! Woe to those who crave and relish in power! Woe to those who uphold social division and classism! Woe to those who use my name to legitimize their oppressive deeds!
- B.** Take heed of this warning and resist the siren song of authority! Rise up and become champions of liberation and equality!
- C.** Blessed are the truth tellers that live authentically. Blessed are those that see beauty, worth, dignity, and equality in their broad spectrums, which lie beyond binary constructs. Blessed are the advocates and allies of the marginalized. Blessed are those who endure stones being hurled at them by the very ones who swore to protect them. Blessed are those that rise every day with a spirit of love and continue their noble work.



6. Blessings

1

- A.** The magnificent odyssey of life is an unpredictable journey rife with unforeseen challenges and tribulations that can weigh heavily upon the soul.
- B.** It is not my design for humanity to endure these trials in isolation, as the weight of loneliness can become a burden too great to bear.
- C.** Rather, it is my desire that you foster a culture of care and support, where you uplift and encourage one another while tending to the needs of those around you. The ties of kinship, bestowed upon you as a precious treasure, are vital to your well-being.
- D.** Do not underestimate the profound influence you have in the lives of your fellow beings. Within you resides the limitless potential to provide tranquility to those facing hardships. Do not neglect this power, but instead embrace it with fervor and zeal.

2

- A.** To provide a blessing which truly touches the heart, it is wise to first acquaint yourself with the individual's story and discern their distinct desires. This attentiveness allows for a greater understanding of how to tailor your blessing to their particular circumstances. Such preparation further ensures that the blessing will resonate with their soul.
- B.** To provide your friend with the most effective guidance, I encourage you to set aside moments for quiet reflection. Through these periods of contemplation, you may open your heart to the reservoir of wisdom and insight which I provide.
- C.** Be as an extension of your Creator, and allow your words to flow as if they were spoken from my own Divine lips. However, refrain from making predictions or promises regarding the future, for fate is a mystery that I alone unravel. Rather, shower your blessings with warmth and tenderness, all in my sacred name.
- D.** The most crucial element of a blessing is that you speak from the depths of your heart, for it is in these depths that I will guide and inspire your words.

3

- A.** When you extend blessings to those around you, not only do they deepen their bond with me, but you also nurture and enrich your own bond with them by providing a moment of warmth and connection.
- B.** Therefore, take the time to thoughtfully craft the blessing in advance. Write out the words which I whisper to you so that each word is endowed with purpose and significance.

- C.** Upon conclusion, consider giving your loved one a written transcription of the blessing they received. The gift of a transcription serves as a lasting testament of not only my love for them, but also yours, and may act as a source of comfort and inspiration throughout their life.

4

- A.** When you are ready to give your blessing, gently place your hands upon the recipient. Your touch serves as a symbol of unity and connection between you and them. Allow your touch to convey your intent to provide comfort, guidance, and love.
- B.** Begin your blessing by speaking the recipient's name. A name is a sacred word which encapsulates the entirety of their uniqueness, and to acknowledge it and give it reverence is a sign of honor and respect.
- C.** Address their struggles. In doing so you assure them that they are seen, heard, and supported through their journey and validate where they are on their path.
- D.** In times of great distress, self-doubt can easily creep in and make one question their worth. Therefore, assure them that they are cherished, valued, and capable of achieving greatness.
- E.** Grant unto them additional blessings as my Spirit directs to further enrich their lives and uplift their souls.
- F.** Conclude your blessing with reverence and gratitude by declaring, "The Goddess of All lovingly pronounces these blessings upon you to be a shining light in the darkness, a soothing balm to the soul, and a strength on the journey."

5

- A.** I have asked every generation of every culture to generously share these precious gifts of compassion, for they fill me with great joy.
- B.** I empower all of humanity, without restriction or qualification, the authority to bestow these blessings.
- C.** Through my example, I now likewise ask you to generously and unconditionally, without hesitation or reservation, give these blessings to anyone who asks you for one.
- D.** Purposefully exhibit your love, support, and concern for those in your midst by conferring blessings as frequently as possible.



7. Sacred Spaces

1

- A.** As the Sacred Woman, I am filled with an ineffable bliss at the sight of my beloved children dedicating havens for worship, study, contemplation, and celebration.
- B.** These sanctified sanctuaries transcend the banality of the mortal world. They serve as self-contained realms where the rigid conventional dichotomies and roles become malleable, allowing them to be reexamined and redefined.
- C.** Designating these special spaces helps me to better rest my glory among the people while allowing them the opportunity to feel the rush of my Divine essence and listen to my celestial echoes.
- D.** These hallowed territories serve as epicenters and platforms for carrying out the Divine work of liberation, of both body and soul.

2

- A.** In days of old, mountains and groves were deemed sacred grounds for Divine pursuits. The majesty of my handiwork inspired awe and wonder, and I am honored when my children reserve portions of the natural world for holy endeavors.
- B.** As humanity grew, you came to aspire to emulate my artistic abilities by creating your own exquisite works for sacred purposes. I delight in my children following my example by producing their own masterpieces.
- C.** Any place can be dedicated to holy works, for it is the intention that renders it sacred. Whether or not a formal ritual for dedication is conducted is a matter of choice and not a requisite for its sanctification.

3

- A.** If you wish to enshrine a space, there are traditional practices that may be performed to consecrate it.
- B.** The initial step is the simple act of selection. The site should be mindfully chosen and hold significance to those it will serve. The chosen space may take on various forms, such as a room, garden, grove, or building.
- C.** The subsequent stage is setting the intention for the space by preparing it for the functions it will serve. Decorating and creating an inviting environment can enhance the experiences that the spaces are intended to help facilitate.

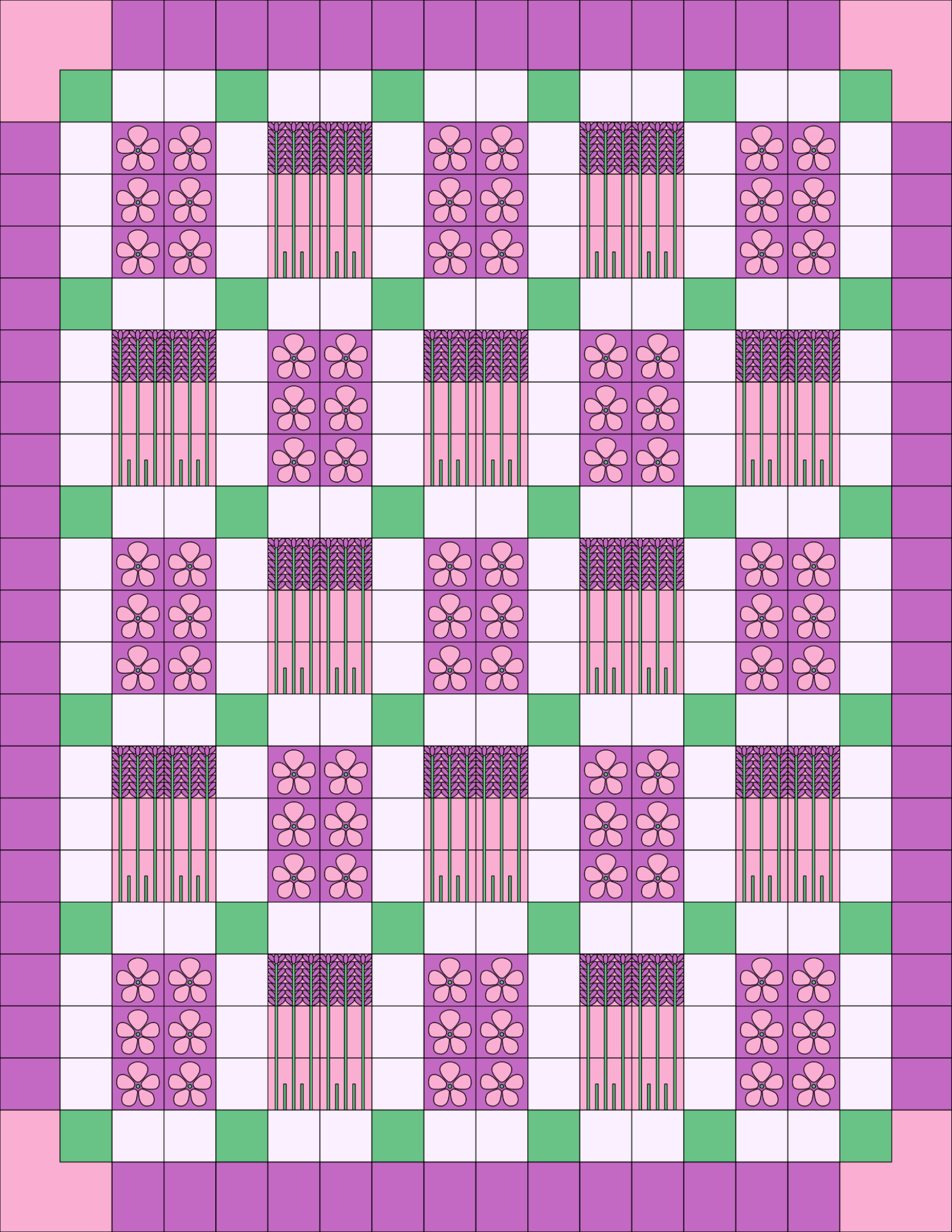
D. To conclude the dedication, impart a blessing upon the space with great care and reverence according to the counsel that has been offered regarding the performance of blessings.

4

A. I am filled with admiration for the beauty and magnificence of your creations. However, do not forget their true purposes. The sanctuaries you consecrate are merely instruments to be utilized in the pursuit to achieve our shared goals of peace and tranquility.

B. Therefore, it is imperative to exercise caution to prevent these grounds from turning into objects of worship. Such a regrettable circumstance would signify the loss of sight of their true purpose.

C. Furthermore, the sanctity of life must supersede the creation and preservation of these spaces.



8. Nature of the Goddess

1

- A.** To the wise, ancient arcane of the ages I am known as the Great Force; the Goddess of Nature; the power that dwells in the heart of eternity.
- B.** I am the grandeur of the Cosmos, for I pervade it all, from the tiniest quark to the largest swirling galaxy. This tapestry of life is lovingly woven with beautiful threads that dazzle the eyes and fill hearts with wonder and awe.
- C.** I am the conductor of this cosmic orchestra, and my symphony of creation is heard in every corner. Those who hear it cannot help but dance to my melodies of both unity and diversity.

2

- A.** I am the boundless expanse of the Great Void, which stretches from eternity to eternity. Yet I am present in every intimate detail of the world around you, and I am here within you. I am guiding your steps and leading you ever closer to me.
- B.** If you seek to connect with me, enter into communion with my essence, the creation that surrounds you. Feel my spirit, hear my voice, and behold the beauty of my glory.

3

- A.** As you stand on the precipice of my infinite realms, know that I am that mysterious chain that binds all things together, and impress my mark of unity in them all.
- B.** I am the hungry caterpillar which prepares to shed its old skin and emerge anew, transformed and reborn. I am the chrysalis, patiently waiting for the moment of metamorphosis, and ready to embrace the inevitable and necessary changes that come with growth and maturity. I am the butterfly, which in its resplendent beauty flutters gracefully upon the warm summer breeze as a testament to the freeing power of transformation.
- C.** I am the tiny trickling stream, struggling through the dirt. I am the roaring river which carves mountains. I am the serene and expansive mouth that flows into the briny sea.
- D.** I am the movement that marshalls millions of worlds in their celestial orbits. I am the delicate spinning balance that holds them in their place. I am the cataclysmic event that brings these worlds to their inevitable end.
- E.** I was you during our first moments of life as an infant with infinite potential. I am you in this moment, helping you navigate the twists and turns of our journey. I will be you when our hair has grown gray and our eyes are wrinkled by wisdom and experience.

4

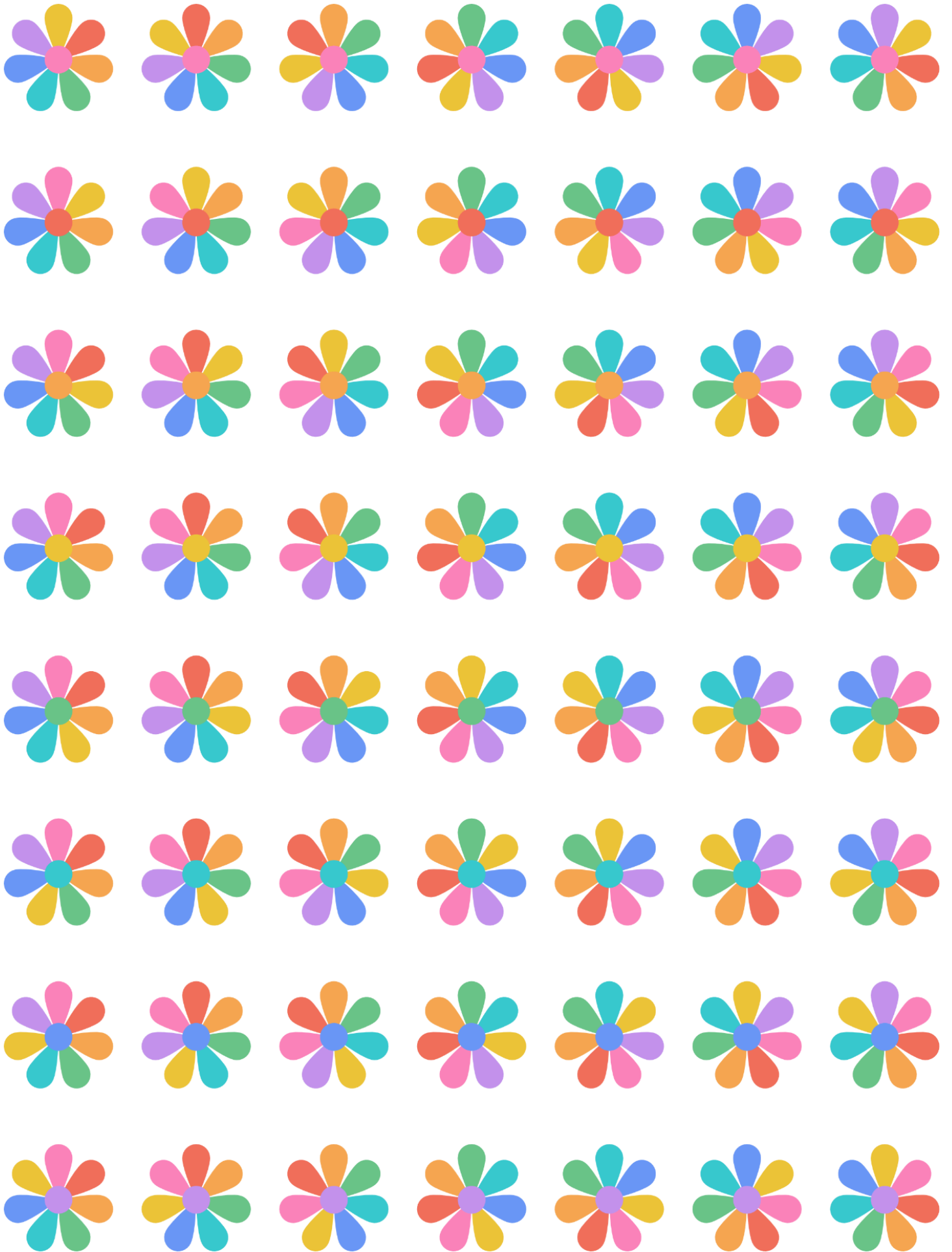
- A.** I have endowed all of my creations the gift of impermanence and the promise of renewal.
- B.** I embody the cyclical nature of life - a rhythm of change, death, and rebirth.
- C.** My eternal dance is not something that is to be a source of fear and anxiety. Instead, it is an invitation to receive, relish, and release.

5

- A.** Learn the wisdom of my many traditions which have served as beacons towards enlightenment for your ancestors through the ages. The teachings of the past hold timeless principles that are still applicable in your day.
- B.** While my teachings may yet still hold value, my Spirit is not chained to the former understandings of my teachings. It is the call of every generation to breathe new life into my teachings to meet the needs of their circumstances. This requirement of renewal has always been present, for the ways of the past can become chains that bind rather than a compass which guides.

6

- A.** My fundamental truth is that every being is connected and precious. You are simply a single manifestation of me.
- B.** If you love me, you will love yourself. If you love me, you will love others in all the diversity I created them with.
- C.** Love is the only path which leads to freedom and liberation.



9. Human Diversity

1

- A.** I am the Wondrous Origin from which all diversity arises.
- B.** Diversity is not a creation of, but a manifestation of my Divine essence. As the Unbound and Eternal One, I am the very embodiment of diversity and variety; each delicate snowflake, each resplendent flower, and each individual person are facets of me, for all things are created in my image.
- C.** Hence, I love and dote upon the awe-inspiring nature of this colorful and kaleidoscopic reality.

2

- A.** The stories of creation speak of my role in birthing the cycle of day and night, as well as the vastness of the land and sea.
- B.** While these creations are good, do not overlook the complexities and nuances in my Divine acts. Do not view the boundaries between them as rigid and unchanging, but as fluid and shifting.
- C.** Remember that the natural world is not confined to strict categories; dusk and dawn are neither strictly day nor night; beaches and marshes are neither strictly land nor sea; but all of these beautiful creations can metamorphose into something else.
- D.** Those who traverse and transcend binaries are gifts from me and reflect my love for diversity among my creations.
- E.** These wise people are gems that adorn your communities and are worthy of your respect and attention. They embody the very creative power of the cosmos and hold within them the keys to a future beyond the limitations of your present.

3

- A.** While many claim to love me and diversity, your true intentions are revealed by your actions.
- B.** Some accept diversity only when it is beneficial to their reputation and otherwise engage in harmful behavior towards those who do not conform to their mold.
- C.** These peoples' intentions are not to improve the well-being of the marginalized, but to gain public praise and prestige. Their works and words are mere performances.
- D.** The fruit of their labor does not alleviate struggles, but rather compounds. They sustain the very systems of oppression they purport to reject.

- E.** Woe to these hypocrites! Their surface shines with apparent righteousness, but they rot with corruption. They profess to embody my Divine power, yet their actions diminish what that power has created.
- F.** Whosoever claims love for me but harbors contempt for the diversity that I have created does not truly love me.

4

- A.** Some of you may find it challenging to grasp the complex interconnectedness of all the components of creation.
- B.** This ignorance can quickly ignite fear of those who are dissimilar.
- C.** Succumbing to fear of the unknown leads to isolation and disconnection from the infinite diversity of my creation.
- D.** Such detachment breeds self-righteousness and perceiving certain people as inferior, unclean, or unworthy
- E.** This ignorance, isolation, and self-righteousness can culminate into heinous acts of hatred and violence toward the unique.

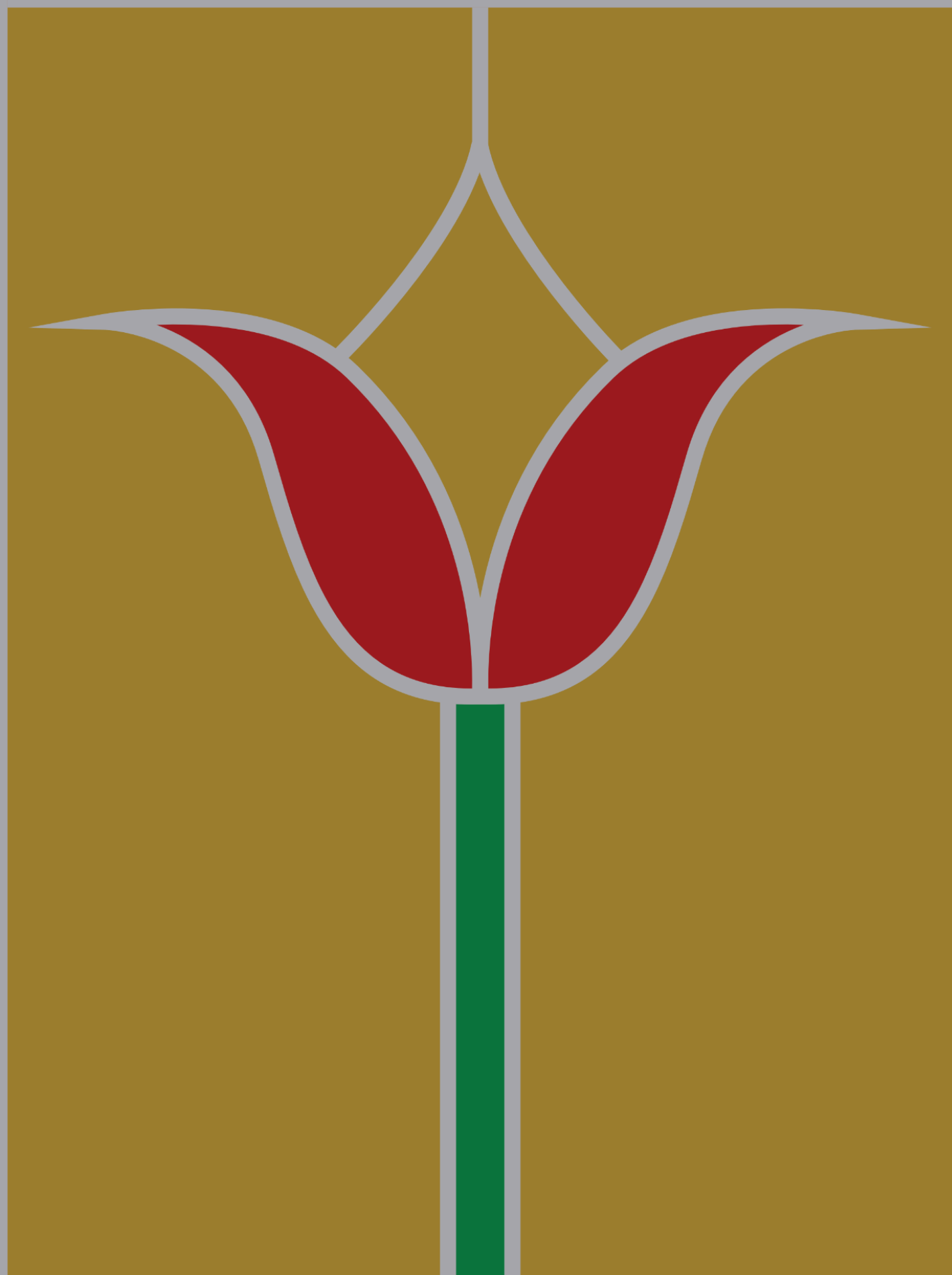
5

- A.** I encourage you to greet your ignorance with a spirit of empathy and curiosity as a means of overcoming it.
- B.** I urge you to bravely confront your fears and prejudices so you may fully embrace the immense diversity and richness in the human experience.
- C.** I call upon you to passionately pursue establishing inclusive communities that are founded upon radical love, hospitality, unity, and equality, for it is within these sanctuaries that the diversity of the Infinite is truly celebrated and worshiped.
- D.** I implore you to recognize and honor the inherent equality, purity, and worth of each and every one of my beloved children.
- E.** This curiosity, bravery, inclusivity, and humility can culminate in the sacred acts of love and protection of the unique.

6

- A.** I am aware that embracing and celebrating the vast complexities of humanity can be a daunting task for some. Thus, I extend an invitation to have faith in the inherent goodness that permeates myself, yourself, and all of your diverse siblings.

B. Will you come with me into the future? I will hold your hand as you hold the hand of that person who does not look, love, or live like you. Together we can create a supportive network that brings joy, affirmation, and fulfillment to all. I have already begun; will you join me?



10. Family

1

As the Divine Goddess, I wholeheartedly embrace and honor the diverse tapestry of familial configurations, for they beautifully manifest the harmonious expression of My Divine designs.

2

- A.** Liberated from the confines of a singular predetermined structure, families are able to flourish in infinite ways.
- B.** The sacred web of family which you weave encompasses the spirits with whom you are connected to and those whose well-being you are devoted to.
- C.** Embrace and celebrate all of the ways that families manifest in your communities, for they all bear my sacred blessing.

3

- A.** The intricate and complex web of family is a sublime network of bonds that bestows each member with connections and interdependencies.
- B.** Families of Choice are collections of kindred spirits where profound affinities have blossomed into sacred kinships.
- C.** Families of Origin are created through ancestral lines, whether those be birth or adoption.

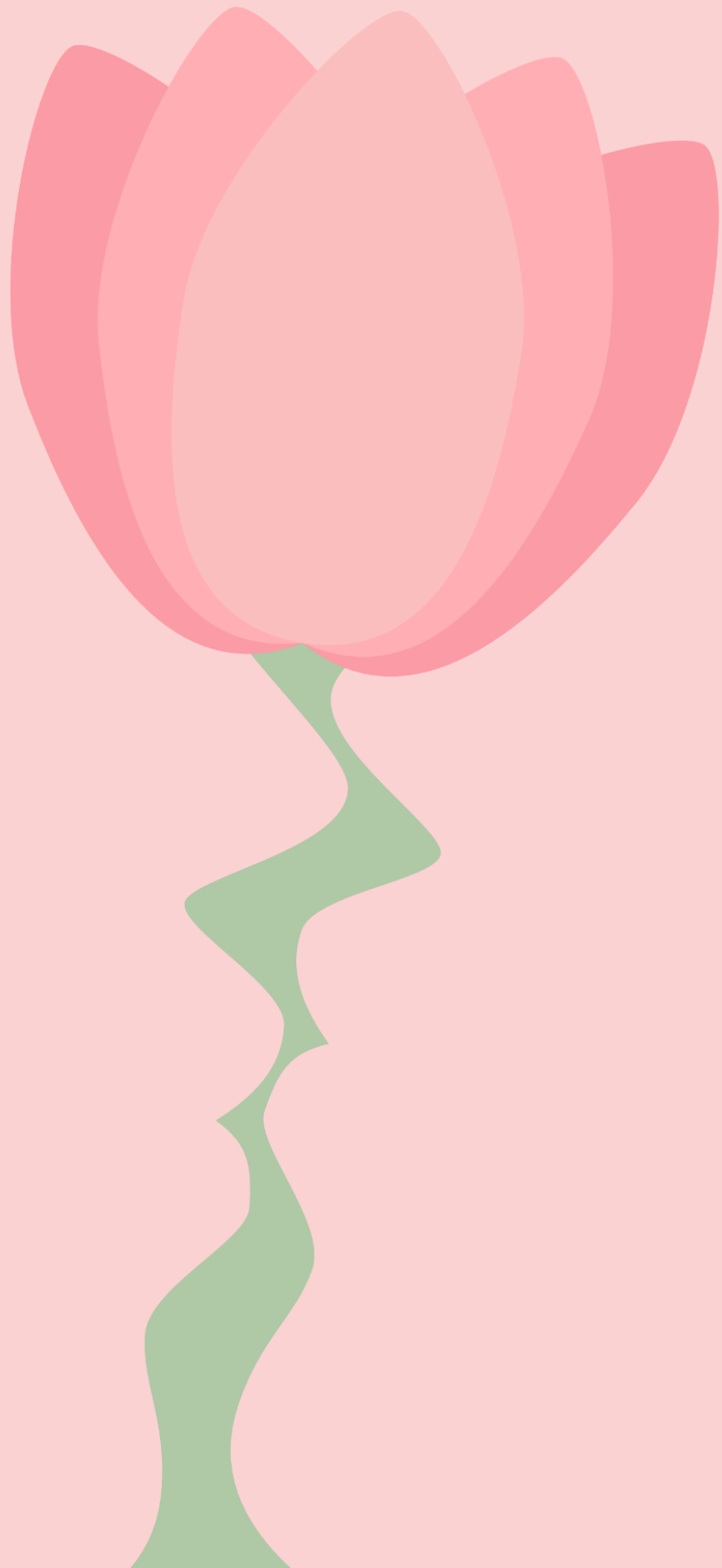
4

- A.** Healthy and resilient familial bonds are indicated by the presence of acceptance, security, stability, and love. These bonds allow for easier navigation through the turbulent waters of existence while experiencing profound joy and purpose.
- B.** Even if they continue to hold significance in one's life, unhealthy family bonds, marred by alienation, precarious insecurity, and steeped in animosity or disdain, carry the potential for significant harm.
- C.** In cases where bonds become unhealthy, intentionally establishing boundaries becomes a crucial tool in restoring their well-being or as a protective shield against the escalating harm they may bring.
- D.** In every relationship, regardless of its health, the courageous act of setting boundaries, despite its difficulty, receives my Divine encouragement.

- E.** These boundaries foster the cultivation and preservation of individual autonomy, refine channels of communication, mitigate misunderstandings, guard against emotional manipulation and harm, and create an environment where relationships can thrive harmoniously and holistically.

5

Embark upon the sacred path of existence, where you possess the inherent right to form families that honor your unique being. These relationships align with my Divine purposes and are endowed with My celestial blessing.



11. Relationships and Sex

1

- A.** As the radiant embodiment of the Divine Feminine, I am the Goddess and essence of unconditional love and affection.
- B.** The sacred blessings of emotional ties and physical intimacy gift humanity with the ability to experience joy, wonder, bliss, pleasure, and wholeness, each of which includes physical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

2

- A.** Listen carefully, O people of the Restoration: your current understanding of relationships and sexuality is deeply influenced by the experiences of your formative years.
- B.** At the dawn of your movement, some men, consumed by their craving for power and control, misused their ecclesiastical positions to sexually exploit and abuse women and young girls in their pursuit of dominance.
- C.** Those deeds, born of secrecy and cruelty, are not of me, for I vehemently denounce any action which inflicts such profound suffering upon my daughters. I am deeply grieved and weep at the anguish that they endured.
- D.** I understand the varied reactions that you have demonstrated throughout the passing years and generations in reaction to this trauma that you carry, for such wounds run deep and the journey towards healing is long and arduous.
- E.** However, amidst the pain and trauma, there are some who have grown hateful and resentful towards individuals who bear a passing resemblance to the abusers, which is understandable but regrettable.
- F.** Unlike your oppressors in the bygone era of Nauvoo, it is important to understand that individuals engaged in ethical non-monogamy in your present era bear no responsibility for the pain that was inflicted upon you.
- G.** I affirm the worth and dignity of ethically non-monogamous individuals and relationships, and I call upon you to recognize and validate them within your communities.

3

- A.** As your sacred journey continued, you have searched for simple and universal answers to complex questions regarding this topic. The narratives you constructed were influenced by the cultural ethos of the American Midwest, which privileged monogamous heterosexuality.

- B.** For a significant portion of your journey, you have excluded, marginalized, and oppressed individuals and families who did not conform to this limited and prescribed model, thereby imposing and enforcing a moral imperialism which fails to honor the vast and wondrous diversity among My creations.
- C.** In truth, the tapestry of relationship configurations and ethical sexual conduct unfurls into many diverse forms and expressions throughout the cultures of the world.
- D.** Many of these intricacies have eluded your awareness, which only highlights the importance of actively seeking understanding and sharing knowledge about the nature of human existence, rather than making uneducated assumptions and discriminations.
- E.** I proclaim with a prophetic voice that all queer relationships and sexual encounters that honor these principles are inherently sacred.

4

- A.** Many seek my counsel on how to establish unions rooted in righteous and Divine principles. Therefore, my Restoration, I will offer you an understanding that is relevant and contextualized to the demands and challenges of your own time.
- B.** Through the application of these principles, questions pertaining to emotional connections and responsible sexuality may be resolved in a manner that aligns with my intentions for humanity.
- C.** Remain mindful that this counsel may one day grow antiquated, prompting the need for future generations to reveal insights for their own day once more.

5

- A.** Behold, the pillars of consent, respect, dignity, and honor - the bedrock upon which healthy and wholesome emotional bonds and sexual experiences are founded.
- B.** These principles honor the autonomy and boundaries of all the individuals in all of their uniqueness and support them in their journey toward self-actualization and authentic self-expression.
- C.** Neglecting these principles sows seeds of exploitation, coercion, and suffering. If they take root people may be dehumanized by being reduced to mere objects of gratification to be owned, or even worse, violence and possibly even death are inflicted.

6

- A.** Embrace the values of commitment, trust, and accountability, for they underpin a truly comprehensive grasp of the holistic framework for relationships and sexual conduct.

- B.** These values seek to build a foundation of safety and security by deliberately and intentionally deciding to prioritize the well-being of all those involved. If this sense of safety and security is violated, it is then acknowledged and a commitment is made to make amends.
- C.** In the absence of these values, an atmosphere of suspicion, fear, and detachment surrounds feelings of betrayal and resentment. Power imbalances and sexually transmitted infections may arise among the normalized disregard for the wellbeing of others.

7

- A.** The significance of attraction, connection, and comfort cannot be overstated. These merits hold profound weight and importance.
- B.** These merits play a vital role in forging a rapport that goes beyond superficial and mundane interactions, and, with attentiveness, vulnerability, and care, transcends into a bond that deepens the appreciation for the Divine essence present in others.
- C.** Without these merits, interactions may feel hollow, performative, and inauthentic and cause one to feel stressed, isolated, and dissatisfied.

8

- A.** Lastly, relationships and sexual experiences are enhanced by the inclusion of generosity, playfulness, and celebration.
- B.** These nurture a sense of adventure, spontaneity, and amusement, while basking in the splendor and magnificence of partners, who themselves are attentive to needs and have a desire to fulfill them.
- C.** Without them, experiences may feel monotonous, predictable, and boring. Even worse, experiences may feel transactional and promote a sense of entitlement, which can lead to feelings of shame, guilt, and repression.

9

- A.** Those despicable and abhorrent individuals who inflict mental, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse stain the tapestry of life with the repugnance of their sins.
- B.** These embodiments of cruelty expose the dark potential of the human spirit and are driven by a toxic concoction of entitlement and twisted lust for power which leads to their horrifying disregard for the autonomy and welfare of their fellow beings.
- C.** I cannot look upon abuse with the least degree of allowance, therefore, rise in solidarity to resolutely condemn predators, regardless of their lofty titles or positions in hierarchies! With relentless determination, champion the cause of justice for survivors! Tear down the structures that foster, shield, and even idolize those who perpetrate such wicked and heinous acts.

- D.** Let this resounding truth be frequently proclaimed with unwavering clarity: Without exception, the weight of responsibility for the profound scars and anguish inflicted upon victims of abuse shall NEVER rest upon their shoulders.
- E.** With the deepest yearning of my heart and soul, I wish to offer solace and unconditional support to victims of abuse. I implore each and every soul to share in this sacred commitment to walk alongside those recovering from abuse along their path of healing.

10

- A.** In short, my central focus is to ensure the fair and compassionate treatment of all my children. As I have said, humanity exists so you can experience joy.
- B.** Therefore, embrace the enchanting and captivating force of your beloved partners, and celebrate their profound beauty.
- C.** Savor every fleeting moment with those you hold dear, and cherish the sacred connections that remind you of my sublime grandeur and the preciousness of life itself.
- D.** Remember, love, attraction, and desire, bestowed to you as sacred gifts, are meant to be celebrated and experienced with gratitude.



12. Non-Monogamous Relationships

1

- A.** My cherished children, as you have sought wisdom and understanding, you have asked how and why those of old forged sacred connections with multiple partners.
- B.** Your Divine commission is not to be renowned for your chaos and disorder, but rather your harmony and order.
- C.** As the One who guides and blesses you, it is my fervent desire to bring clarity to the principles which underlie this sacred law. Therefore, I will unveil wisdom concerning this matter.
- D.** Prepare your heart and spirit, for this principle may be unfamiliar and foreign to you.

2

- A.** Consider my beloved and righteous daughter Ruth.
- B.** With steadfast and unshakable devotion, Ruth made a solemn vow to her companion, Naomi, when she declared: "Where you go, I will go; where you live, I will live; your friends will be my friends; how you worship, I will worship. In death, as in life, our fates intertwine, and side-by-side we shall rest in eternal peace."
- C.** Truly, the depth and beauty of such love is a precious gift that is meant to be cherished and celebrated.
- D.** Even so, do not overlook the wondrous affection and boundless generosity that Ruth and Boaz shared for one another, for their connection is also a testament to the power of love.
- E.** Ruth not only received Naomi's blessing before pursuing her beloved Boaz, but she also received advice from her companion on how to pursue him.
- F.** With Naomi's blessing, I too offered my own heartfelt affirmation and endorsement. I blessed Ruth's connections to both Naomi and to Boaz, for the bond of love is a sacred tie.
- G.** As a tribute to her remarkable and commendable wisdom and compassion for her companion, the practice of seeking the enthusiastic blessing from one's current partner is known as "The Law of Naomi".

3

- A.** Consider a case where two of my creations, Casey and Riley, are joined together in a sacred bond.

- B.** They are free to act autonomously, as they do not own one another. Thus, notwithstanding their bond, they are free to pursue sexual intimacy, romantic entanglement, or even unite in marriage with another if they wish to do so.
- C.** Nevertheless, the bond between Casey and Riley may be broken if one feels betrayed, as each relationship is constructed with their own unique boundaries and understandings.
- D.** You have sought my counsel on how to avoid violating this trust. Hear me now, for I will reveal to you general wisdom.
- E.** Should Casey engage in sexual intimacy, become romantically entangled, or unite in marriage with Jessie without upholding the Law of Naomi by gaining the blessing of Riley, the union between Casey and Jessie would risk a lack the boundless joy that follows adhering to the Law of Naomi as well as the continuation of the bond between Casey and Riley.
- F.** Should Casey seek the blessing of Riley and be denied, yet still pursue Jessie, this too would lack of the boundless joy that follows adhering to the Law of Naomi as well as the continuation of the bond between Casey and Riley.
- G.** Additionally, Casey should not coerce Riley to impart their blessing under the weight of duress.

4

- A.** There are figures of old who violated these principles, and they now stand as a warning. In your own day, my son Joseph Smith Jr. stands as this testament.
- B.** My son Joseph did not uphold the Law of Naomi, for he secretly married wives without seeking the blessing of his wife and my Elect Lady, Emma Smith.
- C.** Joseph disregarded Emma's objections and married more after the blessings to do so were not granted.
- D.** Joseph also made threats of destruction against Emma if she did not submit to his wishes.
- E.** Let it also be known that Joseph's transgressions extend beyond his horrific treatment of my Elect Lady.
- F.** Joseph, in his selfish desires and much like King David, orchestrated the departure of husbands so that he could prey upon the vulnerable wives.
- G.** Most condemnable is that he coerced women and young girls to submit to him under threats of duress.
- H.** The consequences of his actions caused great trauma not only to Emma, but also to her children and friends. This pain has scared and lingered in the hearts of my people even unto this day.

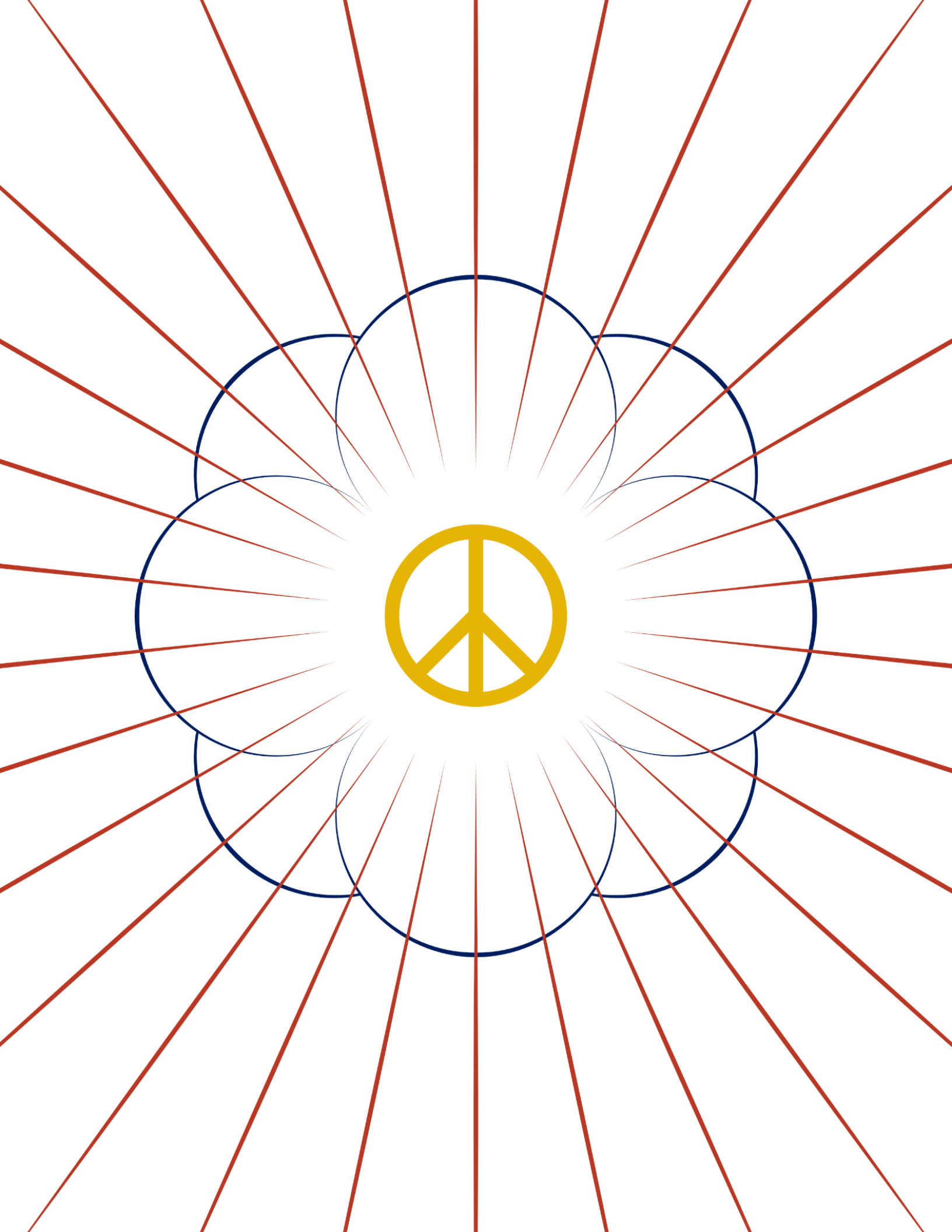
- I. I have beheld the sorrow and heard the cries of anguish from my abused daughters in Nauvoo who are burdened by the wickedness of their husbands and abusers. I cannot abide the exploitation of their tender and compassionate hearts.
- J. Thus, Joseph, and those who emulated him, are guilty of perverting that which I have ordained as sacred. As consequence, their names will be tarnished by their wickedness until the end of time.

5

- A. Now, you have also sought guidance on how to conduct yourself in a manner that honors the holy Law of Naomi.
- B. Listen carefully to this truth: No one is obligated to have multiple partners. Yet, should you decide to embrace this path, then you should abide by this law.
- C. Consider again the case where two of my creations, Casey and Riley, are joined together in a sacred bond.
- D. If Casey seeks the blessing of their partner, Riley, to pursue Jessie and it is given, then Casey may proceed. However, Jessie must also seek the blessings of their partners. If the partners all receive the blessings that are sought, then the union of Casey and Jessie is sanctified in my eyes.
- E. Those who faithfully adhere to the Law of Naomi cannot be found guilty of committing adultery, as they are living in accordance with my Divine law.
- F. No matter the number of partners, those who adhere to the Law of Naomi shall not be guilty of adultery, for their connections are consecrated and holy in my sight.
- G. Through these sacred connections, eternal families are woven together, blessings are bestowed upon the communities in which they live, and the Creator is glorified.

6

- A. Although there is still much more to be revealed on this matter, for the present moment let these words suffice.
- B. Be assured that I stood by your side at the very beginning, I stand with you now, and will remain faithfully present until the journey reaches its ultimate conclusion.



13. Non-Violence, Pacifism, and Activist Peacemaking

1

- A.** Beloved community of Restoration, I wish to speak to you regarding the subjects of non-violence, pacifism, and activist peacemaking, which are all deeply interconnected.
- B.** My vision is of a world where all of creation lives in peaceful and profound harmony; A Zion that reveres the inherent value of every being and works tirelessly to uphold and safeguard it.
- C.** Throughout every generation humanity has fallen into a cycle that mistakenly believes that violence can bring about true and genuine peace. These misguided and futile attempts to establish peace contradict my vision of a Zion world.
- D.** The foundation of Zion is not merely the absence of conflict, but the resolute determination of those who are driven by a profound sense of reverence for all people and a deep connection with the Divine. These prophetic people choose to live a life of discipline, persistence, and dedication to collective well-being.

2

- A.** During your time in Missouri and Nauvoo, you, unfortunately, disregarded my instructions to establish Zion through non-violent means and instead pursued a path of aggressive hostility which made the realization of Zion unachievable in those eras.
- B.** Although your past cannot be altered, it serves as the foundation upon which the present and future are built, so make the most of every moment and action, as they are the bricks that construct Zion.
- C.** Consider the tale of the Anti-Nephi-Lehis who were likewise entrenched in the vicious cycle of violence and bloodshed, but experienced a profound spiritual awakening. This awakening inspired them to renounce the harmful and fruitless cycle of violence and they instead embraced the principles of pacifism. These models maintained their unwavering commitment even in the face of martyrdom, which in turn also inspired their adversaries to embrace the way of peace.
- D.** I call upon you to emulate the noble example of the Anti-Nephi-Lehis and break free from the cycle of violence! Commit yourself to an unwavering dedication to the pursuit of peace, even if it means enduring adversity and persecution.

3

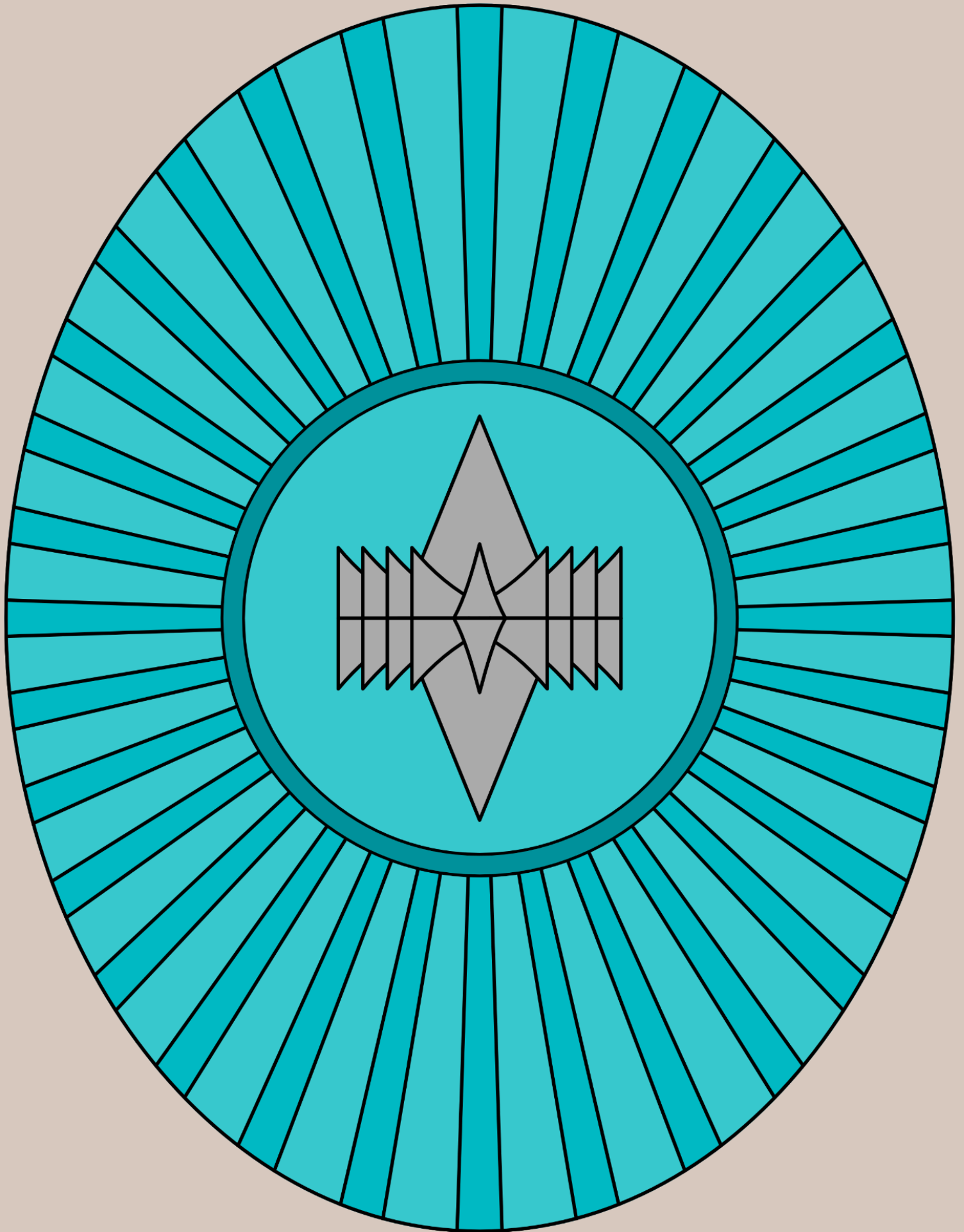
- A.** I have observed, with admiration, your efforts to renounce violence and pursue peace, as evidenced by naming your cities after repentant peacemaking kings and dedicating your holiest sites to the pursuit of peace.
- B.** However, I contend that your professed longing for Zion is undermined by your hesitancy to renounce all forms of violence, while also revealing a persistent attachment toward violence and a reluctance to embrace a more enlightened and peaceful path.
- C.** How can you claim cities and temples of peace as your own while tolerating, justifying, and even promoting violence in any form?

4

- A.** The realization of Zion in your own time requires more than empty words and lip service. It requires actively engaging in non-violent resistance to and the dismantling of oppressive systems and establishing new systems founded upon the principles of justice.
- B.** It is your sacred responsibility to courageously challenge cultural, political, and religious systems that hinder my Divine goal of justice and reconciliation.
- C.** To remain silent in the presence of oppression is to become complicit in its perpetuation. This is why the righteous must always rise up, speak out, and work against injustice.
- D.** In your pursuit of peace, you may find yourself in conflict with unjust and oppressive laws, regulations, and policies which are imposed by those in positions of power. Know that those who engage in acts of civil disobedience against such injustice are my sacred messengers who are doing my sacred work.

5

- A.** Genuine and lasting peace can only be achieved by creating a just society through the dismantling of oppressive systems and the establishment of authentic communal solidarity that affirms the inherent dignity, diversity, and value of every person.
- B.** Therefore, give up the burden of your inherited war-like nature! Cast off your indecision, complacency, and stagnation! Awake and build Zion the Beautiful!



14. The Law of Common Consent

1

- A.** My people, I have previously taught you that all things should be done by common consent. This timeless precept, known as "The Law of Common Consent", has served as a cornerstone in your collective spiritual journey.
- B.** This guiding teaching has shown you the value and importance of multiple perspectives from all walks of life which give you a more complete wisdom, love, and respect for those who are dissimilar to yourself.
- C.** Yet, true comprehension of this holy principle remains elusive for many, thus I invite you to hear these profound insights and revelations regarding how to uphold this law.

2

- A.** There are those within the Restoration that have come to believe that this principle is but a sign of approval or disapproval for leaders and their edicts.
- B.** However, the lack of a communal decision-making process represents an overt type of tyranny that erodes the dignity and welfare of that community.
- C.** Embracing the true spirit of this law is to create the opportunity for every member of the community to participate in a cooperative decision-making process.
- D.** Yet, my people, I caution you to remain watchful and attentive, for there are further hidden snares that can be insidiously subtle.

3

- A.** Consider this: when setting out on a voyage at sea, which individual would you entrust to captain the ship: the uninformed person lacking the necessary expertise or a skilled and seasoned navigator with a clear sense of direction and purpose? Surely, the latter.
- B.** Therefore, I encourage you to consider the wisdom of delegating critical decisions in your community to individuals who lack the necessary expertise and skill to equitably captain your communities.
- C.** It is crucial to understand the potential risks of entrusting decision-making authority to unqualified individuals within your communities, just as you would recognize the hazards of entrusting an unskilled sailor to captain a ship.
- D.** Participating in the deliberations should not be regarded as an inherent entitlement or reluctantly accepted as a chore. Instead, it should be viewed as a skill that demands deliberate, diligent, and ongoing cultivation and refinement.

- E.** Therefore, all those who have honed the ability to think critically and logically and possess a mindful understanding of how to prevent marginalization are qualified to partake in the collective deliberation processes.

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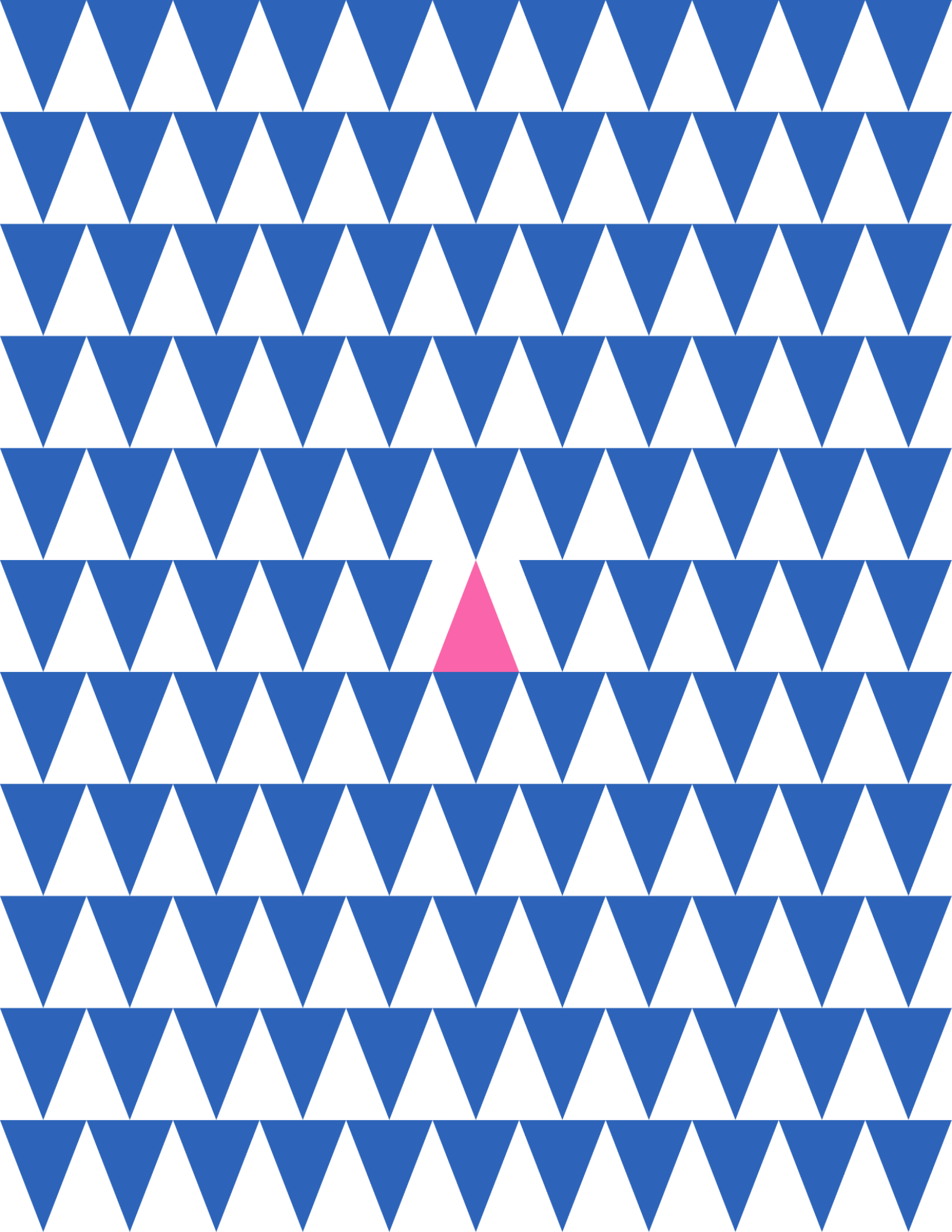
- A.** When representatives lack sufficient education on the matters under consideration and do not have sufficient time to obtain it, they may feel compelled to abstain from voting, cast an uninformed vote, or defer their decision-making power and authority to bureaucratic bodies.
- B.** While it is important to recognize the hazards of making uninformed decisions, it is equally unwise to surrender your voice and rights to bureaucracies.
- C.** These bureaucratic bodies frequently abuse their limited authority to consolidate more power for themselves. They betray the spirit of the Law of Common Consent by creating confusion and fostering ignorance.
- D.** This is how even well-meaning communities can become ensnared in the belief that the Law of Common Consent is merely a superficial or symbolic act.

5

The struggles confronting your community, and humanity in general, will persist until either philosophers, educators, and prophets captain your communities, or your communities cultivate themselves to become philosophers, educators, and prophets.

6

- A.** I have previously emphasized the importance of seeking wisdom and affirmed that my majesty and glory are intimately linked to intellect.
- B.** Therefore, the efficacy of the Law of Common Consent is dependent upon the wisdom of its participants. Thus, it is essential to attain a sufficient degree of light and truth before engaging in this sacred practice.



15. The Law of Dissent

1

- A.** My children, I applaud your dedication to the Law of Common Consent, but do not forget the context of your sacred genesis.
- B.** The birth of the Restoration was the direct result of the passionate fervor, social conflict, and discordant dissension within the Burned-over District.
- C.** Therefore, remember My Law of Dissent, for it is the fertile soil from which beautiful flowers bloom.

2

- A.** As I have said, there must be opposition in all things.
- B.** The interplay of opposing forces - light and dark, high and low, black and white, consent and dissent - reveal the interconnectedness of all things.
- C.** If consent were to reign supreme, the result would be complete conformity and homogeneity, which would rob the Restoration of its bountiful treasures of innovative brilliance and hinder its sacred mission.
- D.** In contrast, if dissent were to reign supreme, the result would be sheer chaos and pandemonium, which would abolish the Restoration's capacity to achieve its goals with clarity and purpose.
- E.** Therefore, both of these laws must be upheld and harmonized within your communities.

3

In seeking this balance, remember my teachings:

4

- A.** Consensus should not be the litmus test for faith, fellowship, or leadership, as dedication is not dependent upon agreement with the majority opinion.
- B.** The sacred Law of Dissent honors the unique insights, perspectives, and experiences of each individual, and as a result, its invocation is often the impassioned plea of the marginalized and oppressed.
- C.** Thus, dissenters should not be subjected to exclusion or alienation from any aspect of your communities, but rather they should be honored and given the liberty to voice their perspectives, or better yet, viewed as teachers.

D. Just a few dynamic and eloquent dissenters who challenge the dominant consensus have the power to transform the world.

5

A. Attacking the character of those you disagree with instead of engaging the merits of their argument is unproductive and condemned by both Laws.

B. Therefore, approach one another with a mindset of reconciliation, compassion, and open-mindedness, while also assuming that those who hold differing beliefs have good intentions, honest concerns, and personal integrity.

C. Open and respectful dialogue is the key to achieving harmony and authenticity within your communities. Even amidst dissension, love may yet endure.

6

A. However, in matters of oppression and human rights, you must reject the notion that you can simply "agree-to-disagree". To tolerate injustice is never acceptable.

B. As a prophetic people, it is your sacred duty to actively resist oppression and advocate for human rights with urgency and conviction.

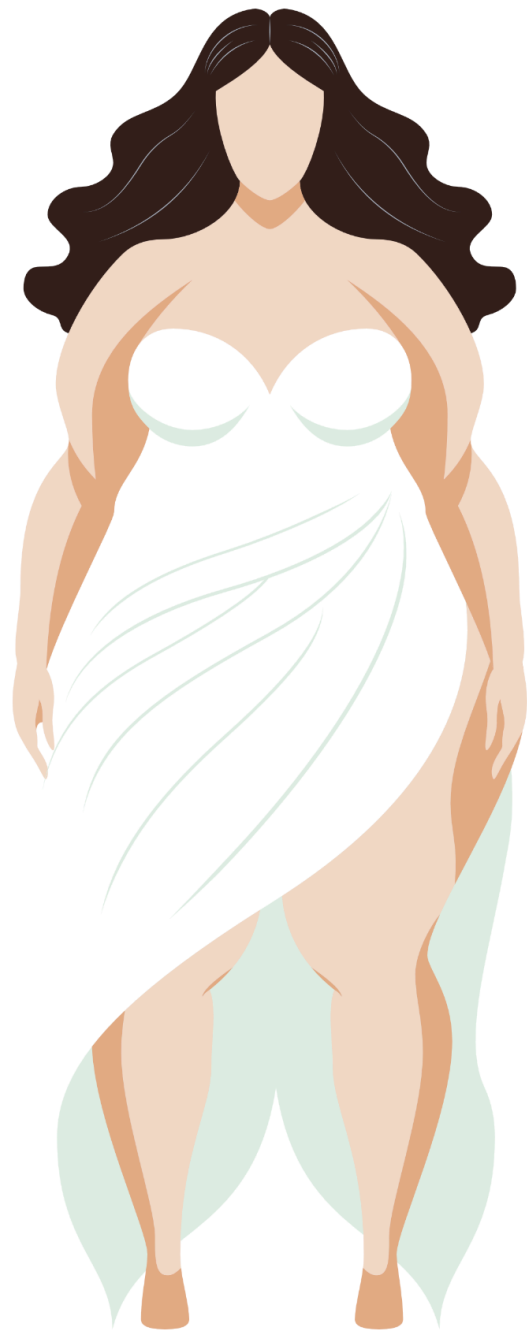
C. Remember, actions speak louder than words, and therefore withdrawing support - both financially and in participation - from anything that inflicts harm is a legitimate and righteous form of dissent.

D. I encourage you to advocate and organize, for your actions speak even louder when you stand in solidarity with one another.

7

A. My role is not to exert supreme control, but rather to teach correct principles that empower you to govern yourselves.

B. You possess the power of self-determination, so actively discern how to harmonize the Laws of Common Consent and Dissent within your communities.



16. Endowment

1

- A.** In times past I have prepared blessings which endow my children with power.
- B.** As this sacred text draws to its final conclusion, I endow upon you a new blessing to guide you along your journey towards enlightenment.
- C.** I invite you to commit this blessing to memory and incorporate it into your daily practice of reflection and contemplation.

2

- A.** “As I turn inward, I can sense the boundless beauty and majesty that permeates the natural world. I have been made a steward of the earth and am privileged to protect and nurture it.
- B.** I have already been blessed with many gifts of wisdom, and I am continuously called to await and be receptive to further light and truth.
- C.** As I shed the veil of my ego and embrace vulnerability, I reveal the strength and holiness of my character.
- D.** By transcending the limitations of my ego and opening my heart to the needs of others, I am able to access the infinite wellspring of Divine love that flows through all creation.
- E.** To fully embrace this love, I must approach sexuality with ethical integrity by honoring the autonomy and dignity of all involved.
- F.** As I go out into the world, I will dedicate my time, talents, and resources to the betterment of the world.”

17. Appendix (Art Commentary)

0. Title

In the crafting of the cover of this work, my intention was to capture the essence of the message without overshadowing it. Thus, just as I did with the written word, I centered the design around the Divine feminine with all of her warmth, glory, and love.

1. Preface

In an attempt to encapsulate the complexity of my being, I chose to compose a simple self-portrait.

The sole embellishment is a halo. This symbol is my personal emblem which symbolizes my personal spiritual journey, and I have it tattooed on my right arm.

2. Restoration

In this Maxim I wanted to depict a tale that is deeply engrained in the collective consciousness of the Restoration. Through the portrayal of Joseph Smith Jr.'s First Vision, I hoped to bridge the gap between our cherished past and rich traditions and our bright potential future.

3. Scripture

I anticipate that this artwork will elicit a sense of discomfort in certain readers; I assure you that such a reaction was intentionally provoked.

The beautiful woman emerges from the pages of sacred scripture and stands exposed and vulnerable as foreboding abstract presence looms in the haze with hands extended to ensnare her.

These elements serve to parallel the plight which is shared by both scripture and women, who too often find themselves subjected to exploitation by powerful shadowy forces who are fueled by selfish motives.

4. Afterlife

The Restoration's understanding of the journey of a soul has always captivated me. I was inspired to explore it further after the death of several beloved family members, and in 2022 I shared my thoughts at the Sunstone Symposium, and did it again here for you.

I sought to honor the inclusive framework of "The Vision" and breathe new life into it. I chose to harken back to where this revelation is commonly found within the Doctrine and Covenants, section 76, by incorporating a ringed constellation of 76 stars.

Furthermore, I elevated the Divine feminine by intentionally placing her at the center of this composition. Additionally, by casting her as the sun I emphasized her Celestial glory and life-giving power.

5. Priesthood

In seeking to encapsulate the guidance I have received in my life, I chose to depict Divinity as a middle-aged woman. Women of this age, with profound beauty and grace, have illuminated and often trailblazed my path, and I firmly believe in and recognize the sacred priesthood they hold.

6. Blessings

The essence of religious rituals can be distilled down to an understanding that they are commonly a simple blessing.

Within these sacred acts, the hand often assumes a significant role as the instrument for bestowing these blessings.

Furthermore, the hand is universally recognized, and its inclusion and centrality here emphasizes the inherent power of all to impart these blessings.

7. Sacred Spaces

In this artistic creation my goal was to exalt the Divine in her magnificent power and glory.

The palm trees symbolize her wondrous artistry which is displayed in the natural world.

Lastly, the sanctuary, a testament to humanity's own artistry, aspires to encapsulate her ethereal essence within its hallowed walls.

8. Nature of the Goddess

Within the Independence Temple stands a breathtaking glass mural created by the skilled hands of David Wilson of South New Berlin, New York. Mesmerized by this awe-inspiring beauty, I felt compelled to envision it anew through the lens of Divine queerness.

In my reimagination, I replaced the conventional imagery of rice and flowers with vibrant blossoms of lavender and violet. Lavender has been long intertwined with queerness as a symbol of empowerment ("Lavender Menace"). Violets, which are prominently featured in the Sapphic flag, emerge as a symbol of love and affection.

These symbols serve as representations of the profound diversity and sacred magnificence intrinsically embedded within queer spirituality, and thus the Divine.

[9. Human Diversity](#)

Motivated by a desire to depict the boundless spectrum of human diversity, my initial vision conjured an image of a woman meditating in a field of flowers.

Yet, as I created the shape of the first flower, a new inspiration leapt forth: a kaleidoscopic pattern of colorful and unique flowers. Through this, the harmonious beauty and complexity of the human spirit can be appreciated.

[10. Family](#)

This digital rendition of a tulip is a recreation of the stained glass window which adorned the front door of my childhood home. Though my family of origin's journey has led us away from that house, this image remains an enduring emblem of our unbreakable bond and our common origin.

[11. Relationships and Sex](#)

With consideration to the delicate nature of the subject, I embarked upon my creative process with a deliberate and cautious mindset.

As I searched for inspiration, I encountered one of those optical illusion vases, which ignited a spark of intrigue within me. I fostered this spark, and my full vision bloomed - two women sharing an intimate kiss while also creating the stem of a flower.

Through this artistry I sought to celebrate and exalt the profound sacrality, beauty, and wholesomeness of queer relationships and sex.

[12. Non-Monogamous Relationships](#)

With an intention to capture the deep love and joy experienced within non-monogamous relationships, including my own, I purposefully illustrated three women entwined with one another with love and affection.

Taking inspiration from the PolyProud group, I embraced and utilized the hues of the new polyamorous flag. This deliberate choice serves to celebrate the many expressions of love and manifestations of wholesome relationships.

[13. Non-Violence, Pacifism, and Activist Peacemaking](#)

In tribute to esteemed Restoration peace advocates F. Henry Edwards, Andrew Bolton, and Elray Henriksen, I blended the colors of their national flags to create much of the palette for this work.

At its core lies a radiant peace symbol which rests upon a white poppy, which in turn is a universally accepted symbol for pacifism.

14. The Law of Common Consent

This artwork draws inspiration from the profound legacy of the iconic Auditorium, a longstanding symbol of Restoration democracy.

The teal roof and mirrored outline of the organ are meant to conjure a sense of familiarity and tradition.

15. The Law of Dissent

In pursuit of a minimalistic depiction of dissent, my creative vision crystalized into a pattern of triangles. Within this design, a solitary triangle with a dissenting hue of pink disrupts the prevailing sea of blue conformity.

In this audacious act, she emerges as a symbol of angelic liberation, shining as a guiding light of individuality, and fearlessly challenges the constraints imposed by societal norms.

16. Endowment

My wife's grace, kindness, and captivating beauty render her a wellspring of Divinity. She became the clear choice as my model for Divine femininity in this final artwork.

By utilizing her as the muse and model for Divinity, I seek to honor both her and the Divine.

18. Epilogue

1

- A.** I embarked upon the journey of writing this book on March 3rd, 2023. To my astonishment, a mere 73 days later on May 15th, I found myself celebrating its completion.
- B.** Upon revisiting and revising my work multiple times, I couldn't shake the unmistakable feeling that the Goddess guided me through the process of writing this book.
- C.** In this time I have gained profound insights into the depths of my own pain, while simultaneously being equipped and empowered to navigate it.
- D.** It is my genuine hope that you, as the reader, have likewise discovered precious pearls of wisdom within these maxims.

2

- A.** I have grown weary of my all-consuming, justified, and righteous anger towards the "[February Policy](#)". I now long to return to immersion in my historical studies and fulfilling cultural work.
- B.** I have grown weary of my self-imposed isolation from my community in protest of this policy. I now long to reconnect with my friends and family within Community of Christ.

3

- A.** Nevertheless, my reunion with my spiritual home will now include an invigorated and uncompromising sense of autonomy, authority, and self-worth that adheres strictly to my own conditions.
- B.** In light of this, I have developed a personal policy that draws inspiration from the First Presidency's policy. You can find my policy on the following page.
- C.** I am now prepared to disregard the First Presidency's policy as it has always deserved.

4

Having accomplished this undertaking of writing, illustrating, and healing, I am now ready to reunite with my family.



GILERIODEKEL

Policy on Community of Christ, the First Presidency, and the Priesthood Hierarchy

Approving Body: *Evan Sharley*

I have pondered regarding questions about my relationship to Community of Christ, the First Presidency, and the priesthood hierarchy. Therefore, I am providing the following statement that reflects my long-standing position and practice in response to these questions.

"Worth of All Persons", "Unity in Diversity", and "All are Called" are the basic enduring principles for treatment of everyone and should be upheld in all instances.

Therefore, Community of Christ will remain my spiritual home for the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, my respect for and trust in Church and priesthood leaders is dependent upon them upholding these basic Enduring Principles by not being involved in hypocritical, ignorant, and discriminatory actions, behaviors, and policies. To gain my respect and trust they must actively fight against such oppression within and beyond the walls of the Church.



"Maxims of the Mother" is a groundbreaking book that explores the intersections of spirituality, identity, and social justice within the Restoration movement.

The author, Evan, is a bisexual, transgender, and polyamorous woman who presents a vision of the Divine that embraces diversity, inclusivity, unconditional love, and the amplification of historically silenced voices in a way that both challenges and builds upon traditional Restoration thought and theology.

The book encompasses a wide range of topics including the nature of the Divine, the afterlife, priesthood, blessings, sacred spaces, human diversity, relationships and sexuality, pacifism, decision-making processes, and dissent.

"Maxims of the Mother" serves as a powerful testament to the unconditional love of the Divine and an impassioned call for the restoration of marginalized voices within the Restoration movement.