

COVENANT FOR DIVINE UNION

PURPOSE

In many of society's realms, we have processes to prepare people for taking on professions. We have licensure requirements to become pilots, doctors, exams for the legal profession, teaching. Even for those without a formal procedure, there is an expectation that professionals undergo some type of training, self-taught or otherwise before considering oneself proficient enough to execute the skill, to serve others with it.

Knowing this, it is interesting how our society is lax when it comes to relationships. Important to distinguish between the casual, sexual relationship. Without a way to formally progress a budding relationship into one that becomes a marriage, the void enables a seamless shift between serious, long-term consideration and short-term hedonistic fun.

The current era is an age of "situationships." One person plays while the other is serious, both play without seriousness, or both become serious but never discuss serious relationship subjects **prior to bonding**.

This Covenant for Divine Union is designed to provide a path for potential spouses. It prompts spouses to have conversations around topics that should be considered and mutually understood before committing to a marriage.

This adaptable covenant is not meant to replace a legal marriage contract should a union aim to have one but to refine it.

Should a couple not want to have a legal marriage contract as some spiritual systems decide, this can substitute. It's also not meant to replace a prenuptial agreement should the couple want it.

Direction: When learning about a potential spouse and determining you could envision yourself with the spouse long-term, that would be an ideal time to discuss the covenant's contents. It may take several days, a few dates or weeks but do strive to go through all topics.

ETIQUETTE

Because this is a conversation and idea exchange, Use ***"I would like to propose"*** statements.

Example: I would like to propose that we make a financial plan for purchases above \$300.

On Agreeing to Disagree: You can agree to disagree on certain ideas, knowing that you both have positive intentions and seek to live within the boundaries of your marriage's vision. You do not have to agree on everything all the time, but work towards a meeting of the minds where those differences support the vision, although in different ways.

Instruction:

1. Work through the questions yourself **first** before discussing with your potential spouse. You need to have confidence in your positions on these subjects; this will show you invested time to integrate the ideas in your life. If you cannot articulate your stances on these, pause before seeking a spouse. You are free to edit, expand or alter the questions for your needs. You can also add or remove topics. Treat the current template as an adaptable model.
2. Select an appropriate environment and time to have the discussion with the potential spouse.
3. Share a copy of the divine covenant with the potential spouse prior to meeting. Be considerate and offer some time in between for the spouse to reflect and do as you did to prepare.
4. Have your conversation / meeting / date. Receive it as a deeper exploration of your spouse's worldview.
5. Determine your agreements and disagreements. If you see compatibility, combine your thoughts into final relationship statements. This becomes your divine covenant.
 1. Begin your statement with, **"We agree to..."** or **"In this union, we agree to..."**
 2. **Example:** "In this union, we agree to create a financial plan before making any purchases over \$300."

TOP 10 NON-NEGOTIABLE VALUES

Beyond the ideas you may differ with your spouse on, there are non-negotiable values you have that simply will not be compromised on.

These values are your incorruptibles and no matter how attractive your potential spouse may be otherwise, you refuse to remove them to become more amenable.

The non-negotiable may include habits, character & principles that must be cultivated in your spouse.

Reflection: Does the spouse arrive to the relationship with these non-negotiable or are they willing to change?

List the non-negotiable below and explain your reason for them to be.

1. -
2. -
3. -
4. -
5. -
6. -
7. -
8. -
9. -
- 10.-

PERSONAL GOALS

Before meeting, you had aspirations. After meeting, you may have new or more of them.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

What goals are you working on currently?

How far along are you with your goals?

What short-term plans do you have right now? 1-3 months.

What long-term plans do you have right now? 6-12 months and beyond.

Since meeting, what new goals are you inspired to give attention to?

How would you like to be supported in your goals?

Which goals, if any, are you willing to set aside for the divine union?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

H O B B I E S / R E C R E A T I O N

What you do for entertainment, enjoyment and evolution speaks of your character.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

What do you enjoy doing for fun?

How do you tend to invest your time?

What activities would you like to commit more time to?

What activities have you consciously chosen to avoid?

How have your recreational activities or hobbies developed you?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

ADVERSITY / CHALLENGE

Expected (and unexpected) struggles test character.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

What is a memorable challenge you faced? How did you handle it?

What's your approach to responding to adversity?

How would you like to be supported when adversity arrives?

How do you tend to support when someone is facing a challenge and needs help?

In what ways do you ask for help during a challenge?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

CONSENSUAL TECHNOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE (CTS)

Digital life can reflect the organic, or be detrimental to it. Establish the mutual framework for how the couple exists (or doesn't) online.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

Do you intend to be visible online? If so, in what way? If not, why this choice?

Do you have restrictions for what kind of photos can be taken of you for public and private use?

What's your process for safely sharing sensitive information with each other?

What are your thoughts on location tracking for your spouse?

What kind of video and audio recordings are acceptable with your spouse?

Which social media tools do you currently (or intend to) use?

Do you support your spouse having visibility into your digital presence?

If your prospective spouse prefers you to remove certain media, would you agree or disagree, and why?

What reputation do you intend to establish (or maintain) online?

How would you like your spouse to support your digital lifestyle?

Do you want to give consent before your spouse presents or speaks about you online? When is it unnecessary to have consent?

How do you intend to handle reputation harm online, either by your spouse or others?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

HONORING YOURSELF AND YOUR SPOUSE

Appreciation, admiration and respect can strengthen the marital bond.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

What does “honor” mean to you?

How would you like to be treated?

How do you intend to treat your spouse?

How do you honor your spouse during challenging times?

How do you honor your spouse beyond the special occasions?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

RELIGION / SPIRITUALITY

A sense of interest or commitment to spiritual or religious practice raises awareness and a connection beyond the physical world.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

What religion will you follow if any?

Is it okay for both spouses to follow a different religion or spirituality?

If both parents follow different religions or spirituality, what will the children be raised to learn?

What religious / spiritual practices do you intend to incorporate into the union?

What values have you learned from your religion / spirituality?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

FINANCIAL ENERGY

Sound financial / economic principles create opportunities for advanced vocations, expanded life choices and time freedom.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

Who will provide income?

How will you provide income?

How will you save and invest?

Who guides the financial decisions?

How should family monetary resources be budgeted?

How do you continue to learn about finances and economics?

Is there a purchase level limit where a spouse should be consulted before confirming?

What debt levels and types are you bringing to the union?

How will the marriage handle the existing debt?

How will savings and investments be evaluated?

Is an investment in alignment with your non-negotiable principles?

Will one or both make investment decisions?

How will investment profits be handled?

Will there be a budget account to pay bills?

Where will main savings be kept?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

FAMILY MEETINGS

Like business meetings, the family meeting is a consistent, scheduled way for spouses to check in with each other and focus on the union's practical matters and health.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

What is the meeting schedule?

How long do you host a meeting?

What topics do you want to cover in the meetings?

Under what circumstances do you call an emergency meeting?

When present, do you include children in the family meeting?

How do you celebrate a success?

Are solutions provided during meetings or just information?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

SEX / INTIMACY

Emotional intimacy and sexual connection are two relationship elements distinguishing it from mere friendship.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

What does intimacy mean to you?

What does sex mean to you?

What are ways beyond sex you envision for intimacy?

How often do you wish to engage in sexual connection?

How strong is your libido?

Thoughts on contraception?

Thoughts on testing for STD's / STI's?

How do you intend to communicate when your spouse initiates and you are not ready?

Is it ever acceptable to deny your spouse sexual connection or intimacy? If so, when?

Thoughts on sex being used as a weapon or manipulation tool?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Conflicts represent differences in views. With the same goals in mind, spouses may differ in methods. Sometimes goals differ. Skill in arriving at the meeting of the minds is necessary.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

What steps do you take to handle disagreements?

How comfortable do you feel asserting a different point-of-view?

How do you handle your hurt feelings?

What do you do when you recognize you hurt your spouse's feelings?

If there's a major non-negotiable infraction by your spouse, how to handle?

How to handle what one feels are major infractions to the entire divine covenant?

How to handle what one feels are minor infractions to the divine covenant?

How do you handle receiving new non-negotiable requests that develop during the relationship, after establishing the divine union?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

LEGACY / CHILDREN

Children may already exist or be born during the marriage. They are under your care and tutelage.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

How many children do you desire to have?

Ideal ages to conceive?

How would you like your children to be educated?

Is homeschool on the education table?

What values do you intend to instill in them?

Where do you intend to rear and raise children?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

HEALTH (PHYSICAL + SPIRITUAL + EMOTIONAL + MENTAL)

Holistic health ensures as much self-expression as possible while alive. With it, spouses can thrive with a long life.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

Describe your health lifestyle in detail.

What health habits and knowledge will you contribute to the union?

How would you continue to seek health advancement in all realms?

What habits, skills and knowledge do you already have that can elevate your spouse?

What plans do you have in the case a spouse's health is compromised?

What practices do you have to develop spiritual, emotional and mental health?

What are your thoughts on seeking external (beyond the marriage) support for health?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

These responsibilities are often subtle, small or unnoticed tasks fulfilled. They serve the marriage's foundation and fortification.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

What comes to mind when thinking of "chores?"

How will the chores be handled?

How are your family responsibilities to be divided?

What are your thoughts on leadership within the divine union?

What happens when a spouse is unable to fulfill their responsibility?

How do you communicate dissatisfaction when a spouse doesn't fulfill their responsibility?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

DIVORCE / SEPARATION

Separation is not marriage's intended purpose but it is wise to contemplate its possibility.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

What would be grounds for divorce?

Will both parties seek marital counseling prior to becoming divorced? If yes, how many sessions before a decision is made?

If children are involved in a divorce, what kind of environment will be made for them?

If children are involved, what is your approach to ensuring respect and peace for both parents?

How will the children be looked after?

How will visitation rights be determined?

What is your approach to ensuring respect and peace for both spouses without children involved?

What is acceptable to disclose to others beyond your marriage about the divorce?

How will you divide marital resources after the divorce?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

DEATH / TRANSITION

Long-term planning will consider neither spouse's existence, in current form on earth, will be permanent.

Review the questions and make your notes here.

Q:

If a spouse passes on, how will their affairs be handled?

What financial support is to be prepared and available in the case of an unexpected passing?

Who is responsible for working on all insurance, will and transitional affairs prior to a spouse passing?

Do you prefer burial or cremation?

How do you intend to honor your spouse after a transition?

Are relatives' information collected ahead of time?

General Thoughts:

Create your relationship statement:

MARITAL AGREEMENT / DIVINE UNION COVENANT

Date:

Witness [Print] (If any):

Future Husband [Print]

Future Wife [Print]

Future Husband's Signature: _____

Future Wife's Signature: _____

Witness [if any]: _____