

Hunka Relatives - Stephanie Charging Eagle - OSEU

#4

You are in some way related to somebody, and that comes first before anything else. And by blood we are related. We do what we need to do with each other. You take care of each other, but when you take on a relative willingly and by choice, that relationship is even more sacred. It's even more of a commitment because now you're by choice, or by some circumstance, bringing a relative in to your [Lakota Word].

It was put to me, that if you make a relative through the Hunka ceremony, which is a ceremony which is very spiritual also, but when the commitment, I was told by my father and my mother, is that if you bring in somebody into your family and make them a relative. If one is to get sick, if your sister over here, your blood sister is sick, and then the relative who may be a sister also is sick over here, who would you have to take care of first? And with the Hunka relationship, you go to the sister you brought into the family, because the sister here has your family there taking care of her.

So your first commitment, your commitment is to the sister over there, to the relative who you brought in to take care of them, because now they become more. That relationship is one that is very spiritual, but also one of commitment and and vice versa.