

FOREWARD

Adam took a nap ... and the world was made whole ...

According to Genesis, The Creator brings the heavens, the earth, and all life into existence and seeing that all He has made is good takes the final step. Gathering the dust of the earth – one edition of Scripture calls it the “slime” of the earth – He breathes His very life into it, forming a unique creature and endowing it with something no other has ... an immortal soul ... His own image and likeness – ***HIS OWN IMAGE AND LIKENESS!!*** A living reflection of His love and respect, His independence, creativity, and intelligence ... His wisdom, truth, and justice ... His mercy, compassion, goodness, and joy. God creates a creature eternally precious to Himself ... one made expressly to live forever with Him.

... He creates Man ... Adam.

The Creator gives Adam dominion over the earth. Yet even with the endless magnificence of creation enveloping him, Adam remains incomplete. So the Creator steps in and fills the void; creating a partner for him. And in doing so, something remarkable happens ... God shifts gears. He creates this partner, unlike all life - including Adam himself - not from a matrix of elements or chemicals, or simply another shovel full of dirt, but rather from something already eternally precious to Himself. He creates woman from man. Not as an alter ego, a servant, or a mere plaything, but as a complement, a standard of excellence, the means by which a man measures himself and ultimately makes his definitive statement about the values on which he has formed his character ... and built his life.

... He makes for Adam ... a wife ... Eve ...

... And recognizing this supreme dignity inherent in woman by the nature of her creation, it must be understood that, to her Creator, she is certainly not an afterthought.

The Rabbis of the early centuries recognized and wrote of this exalted dignity of woman. A truth not lost on those wise men, they felt a duty to preserve it for us. A lesson that, while today sadly seems to have been

relegated to the back roads of society's consciousness, thankfully, has not been irrecoverably lost to mankind.

A cancer is growing in today's world. Metastasizing throughout society is an ever-growing relativism that scoffs at the concept of absolute principles of good and evil, right and wrong, and increasingly bestows its blessing on almost every form of self-indulgent and disordered behavior in which people choose to indulge. Constantly, we hear voices attacking traditional marriage and the nuclear family as tedious, irrelevant, or, simply, obsolete. And more and more of those who stand tall in defense of those sacred institutions, refusing to accept society's moral abdications, are muffled, stifled, and silenced.

There are those who claim all life, mankind included, devoid of both value and purpose originating in and emanating from a supreme intelligence and an eternal design, crawled out of the soup of some primordial swamp. Given the drift of today's society and the ever-increasing indifference and disdain in which many regard those traditional values that are the foundation of the individual, marriage, and the family, one might well believe much of mankind is trying to crawl back in...

... and if so, might it be time that the lesson of the Rabbis be resurrected from the graveyard of neglect into which those time-honored principles of light and truth have been discarded? For as time marches on and the story of mankind continues to unfold, there will be points of light, those souls of spiritual integrity and moral strength who strive to realize the vision the Creator intended when He gave Eve to Adam.

The following pages are Tommy and Aliana's story. From its hesitant beginning, the tale follows two young people – an elementary school teacher, who happens to be an outstanding third baseman, and a firefighter on a path to becoming a top-notch surgeon. A young man and woman who find in each other qualities that compel them to look further into something having the potential to become far more than a casual friendship. And in that exploration, discover in the other the ultimate expression of their most-cherished values. In doing so, they come to understand the necessity of choosing between the alternatives; a transient and ultimately meaningless liaison built on and justified only by the whim and the pleasure of the moment, or a place of joy and fulfillment, a safe harbor where each is confident of the love of the other. Love, a sacred, divine energy - an eternal gift of the Creator - that elevates man

and woman to their unique position in all of creation ... and a safe harbor, a shelter in the heart and soul of the other, built on principles that have served mankind well since Adam took that nap.

Tommy and Aliana invite you along on their journey ...