

# Domains, Temples, and Spheres of Relationship

Union of Saints

## Sacred Places

Words that can describe **temples, sacred grounds, territories, or places belonging to a deity or religious institution**:

- **Temple** — a place dedicated to worship or a deity.
- **Sanctuary** — a sacred or protected place.
- **Sacred precinct** — an enclosed area belonging to a temple or sacred institution; especially appropriate in an ancient historical context.
- **Sacred grounds** — land designated as sacred.
- **Consecrated lands** — land formally dedicated to religious purposes.
- **Temple estate** — land or property belonging to a temple.
- **Sacred domain** — a territory or sphere associated with a deity or sacred authority.
- **Divine domain** — a realm associated with a god, goddess, or divine power.
- **Sacred realm** — a broader spiritual or symbolic territory.
- **Hallowed ground** — land regarded as sacred or revered.
- **Enclosure** — a bounded physical area, particularly useful when describing ancient sacred complexes.
- **Precinct** — a defined area belonging to an institution, temple, or sacred complex.

## Useful for “Egyptian context”

**Sacred precinct** is one of the strongest historical terms for the grounds surrounding and belonging to a temple.

**Divine domain** works well when the meaning is broader than the physical temple and includes the deity's sphere of authority.

**Sacred realm** works particularly well when the concept is symbolic or spiritual rather than strictly geographical.

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# Domains Within a Person

If **domain** is being used metaphorically for the different areas of a person's life, identity, responsibilities, or relationships, these terms can be used:

- **Sphere** — an area of life, influence, responsibility, or relationship.
- **Realm** — a broader area belonging to or contained within a person's life.
- **Domain** — an area of authority, experience, responsibility, or connection.
- **Circle** — a group of people connected to a person.
- **Network** — an interconnected group of relationships.
- **Connections** — relationships linking a person to others.
- **Bonds** — strong emotional, familial, or spiritual relationships.
- **Ties** — connections, especially family relationships.
- **Kinship** — relationships based on family or common ancestry.
- **Relations** — people connected through family or other relationships.
- **Lineage** — ancestry and descent through generations.
- **Household** — the family or domestic unit associated with a person.
- **Affiliations** — relationships or associations with groups or institutions.

## Family Relationships

For a person's family relationships specifically:

- **Familial sphere**
- **Family realm**
- **Kinship sphere**
- **Kinship network**
- **Family circle**
- **Familial bonds**
- **Familial ties**
- **Relations**
- **Lineage**
- **Ancestral connections**
- **Household**

- **Family domain**

## **More symbolic language**

If you want the language to connect the **sacred-temple concept with the person**, these combinations work especially well:

**Sacred domain** — a sacred territory or sphere.

**Divine domain** — the sphere belonging to a deity.

**Personal domain** — an area belonging to an individual.

**Familial domain** — the sphere of family relationships.

**Kinship realm** — the interconnected sphere of family and ancestry.

**Ancestral realm** — the sphere associated with one's ancestors and lineage.

**Inner realm** — the internal world of a person.

**Relational sphere** — the collection of relationships surrounding a person.

**Circle of kinship** — the family relationships surrounding an individual.

**House of kinship** — a more symbolic expression for family as a collective domain.

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## **A Useful Conceptual Structure**

The terminology can be arranged as layers:

**Temple → Sacred Precinct → Sacred Domain → Divine Realm**

and, for the individual:

**Person → Personal Domain → Familial Sphere → Kinship Circle → Ancestral Lineage**

This allows “**domain**” to operate on both levels: a physical or sacred territory associated with a temple, and a metaphorical sphere of relationships or responsibilities contained within a person.

**Union of Saints** can therefore use language such as:

**Sacred domains, personal spheres, familial bonds, kinship, and ancestral lineage.**