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**Differentiation in the Family as  
a Natural System**



The human family is an emotional unit composed of interconnected and interactive members, similar to other natural systems such as in forest ecology, primate troops, and bee colonies.

The interdependence of these systems is maintained through communication, mutual aid, and defense mechanisms. Placing the human family in the evolutionary history of life is useful both in understanding its functioning and in understanding the human's connections to the wider natural world. Differentiation is a capacity that permits humans to effectively navigate both challenges in the family and in the wider world.

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