

Your Marriage

Parishes of St. Columb Minor and St. Colan

REQUEST TO MARRY IN THE PARISH

I, , wish to be married to

..... according to the rites of the Church

of England in the Parish of

by virtue of my having a qualifying connection with the parish under the Church of England Marriage Measure 2008.

I confirm that the information and answers given in and supplied with this form are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed **Nationality**

Date

Proposed Date

Time

Church

Contact Details

Tel

Tel (mobile)

e-mail

We hope you are excited about your future together. Planning your service is in conjunction with the Priest who will be presiding. To get ahead start please read the marriage preparation booklet in conjunction with the church of England wedding planner which you will find at- www.yourchurchwedding.org

Payment

Because this is a busy Church and we have requests for marriage on a weekly basis. At the time of your booking we require a deposit of £100 as surety. The balance for all the fees needs to be paid one month before the wedding. We have facilities for you to pay by installments from the time of booking to the month before.

Important: I must point out, however, that, in common with other parishes, we do have to insist on full payment of the fees by the due date to ensure that your wedding does take place.

You can pay by cheque, which should be made payable to: St. Columb Minor & St. Colan Churches Fees A/C.

Alternatively, if you have an on-line bank account, you can pay by bank transfer, in which case, the bank details are as follows:

Bank: Barclays

Branch: Newquay

Sort Code: 20 87 94

Account Number: 73278441

Account Name: St. Columb Minor St. Colan Churchs Fees A/C

Chris Perrin

Church Fees Treasurer

12, Cavendish Crescent, Newquay, TR7 3DS.

Tel: 01637 877 295 E-mail: christineperrin@btinternet.com or: christineperrin36@mail.com

BANNS

Banns are an announcement in church of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place.

Banns are an ancient legal tradition and have been read out every week in churches across the land for millions of couples, over many centuries.

After your forthcoming marriage is announced, the congregation may be invited to pray for you both. It can be quite special and moving to hear this, so do go along if you can.

Banns need to be read in the parish where each of you lives as well as the church in which you are to be married, if that is somewhere else.

You must have your banns read out in church for three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. This is often done over three consecutive Sundays but does not have to be.

As well as being a legal requirement, your banns readings are special public occasions when people in church hear of your intention to marry. It's an exciting and happy time, so you're welcome to invite your family and friends to hear your banns too, if you'd like.

If there is not enough notice given for the banns to be read before the marriage is due to take place, or in the case of the marriage of people whose nationality is not British, or if one or both of you do not live in England, the [Common Licence procedure](#) needs to be used rather than banns. (This procedure also provides an opportunity to address any doubt there may be as to the legal requirements of the home country of a non-British person regarding the recognition of an English Church marriage.)

Notes on completing the Form

- ❖ **Full names** including all forenames:
e.g if you are known as *Jim Smith* but your full name is different we need your full name
ie *Arthur James Marmaduke Smith*. It would be handy though if you put in the notes section of the form, 'known as Jim'.
- ❖ **Your age** is your age on the day of the wedding.
- ❖ **Your address**—We also need the postcode
- ❖ **Marital status** – single or Previous Marriage Dissolved (in which case the clergy will need to see the Decree Absolute) or widow (er)
- ❖ **Occupation**— your job or training if you are currently in between jobs.
- ❖ **Fathers:** We need your Father's full name; if they are deceased put (*deceased*) after the name.

We also need your Fathers occupation; if they are retired, put the occupation and then (*retired*).

If you wish to put your stepfather down instead, that is fine, but please also write in brackets (step father).

Congratulations on your engagement.

Our role, and therefore the role of this booklet is to prepare for your wedding day, and your marriage together as easily as possible.

You may or may not expect a traditional service, "the same as we went to last year".

Although there are elements which are statutory, readings, music and other ideas can make your day unique.

In the great majority of incidences you can tailor make your wedding day to suit yourselves, using a mix of tradition and modernity depending on your own needs and desires.

The same is true for your marriage. There are books galore about marriage and relationships, all of which have something to add, but you must filter everybody else opinions so they help not harm your relationship. No one else quite knows what happens between the two of you, like you do.

This doesn't mean that you should ignore other people's opinions'. Far from it; There may be many criteria of sensitivity that need to be satisfied so your day and your marriage runs as smooth as it can. This is especially the case if either partner brings children to the marriage.

This booklet outlines some of the practical details that you will need for your day. It also has some homework for you in preparation for your married life together.

It has an outline service and comes with a bottle of wine with the complements of the Church to aid you in your preparation (see later).

Above all enjoy your time together as an engaged couple.

Enjoy the preparations and the excitement of the build up to the day and enjoy each other.

Exercise 1 How well do you know your partner?

Quickly go through these questions and see if you can answer them correctly. If there are any difficulties talk through them. You will continually learn about each other everyday of your lives so this exercise is meant to encourage you to look at one another. No-one as yet got every question right.

1. Does your partner take sugar in coffee?
2. What colour eyes does your partner have?
3. What is your partners favourite radio programme?
4. Is your partner ambitious?
5. Does your partner enjoy their work?
6. Did your partner have a happy childhood?
7. What kind of holiday does your partner like?
8. Is your partner tidy or untidy?
9. What time does your partner like to go to bed?
10. Does your partner like cooking?
11. What time of day is your partner at their best?
12. What is their chief hobby?
13. What makes your partner angry?
14. What would be a treat for your partner?
15. Do they like children?
16. What would your partner do on Christmas day?
17. How do they like to relax?
18. How important are friends to your partner?
19. Where does your partner stand vis. politics?
20. What would your partner like to be doing in ten years time?
21. What would you like to do on your birthday?
22. Which kind of film is your partner most likely to choose?
23. If your partner had a choice, in what location would they choose to live (e.g.:
Village,
Conurbation, in the city, near the Fells etc.)
24. What would be your ideal holiday?
25. Can you have that holiday with your partner?

If this has caused arguments then you must be more forgiving. We all have different opinions, about who we are, than others do.

So assuming everything was fine and you have learnt a few more things about each other, let us address some practical issues about your day.

Planning the details for Your wedding in St. Columb Minor / St Colan Church

Bells

We will assume that you don't want bells unless you tell us otherwise.

Banns

Are called in the Churches on 3 consecutive Sunday's before the wedding within 3 months of the day. If one of you lives in another parish you will need to make arrangements with that Vicar to have your banns read there. You will be given a certificate saying that he has done so, for which you will need to pay the other Church. (It is imperative that the clergy here see that certificate for without it you cannot get married. If there is a problem speak to us as soon as possible.)

Flowers

The flower lady to contact is *Jeanette Yabsley - 01726 860251*

NB: This is regardless of whether you are having a florist, mother or one of our ladies do the flowers. These ladies will be able to help you and those arranging the flowers. I.e: but opening the Church for the florist/Mum at the very least.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal is there for you to realize that you don't need to worry about a thing. Rehearsals are quite relaxed and aren't meant to be serious. You don't need to remember anything. All you need do is love each other. The rehearsal will take place within a month of the wedding, usually within a week and anyone can attend, although only the bride and groom are necessary.

Other advice

- ❖ It would be worthwhile the groom with the ushers turning up 1/2 hr. before the service and the bride turning up with 10 minutes to spare so all the photo's can be taken.
- ❖ The ushers are responsible for the church to be left in the state it was found.
- ❖ Although it is customary for the bride to have a glass of champagne before hand, it is a legally binding contract you are entering into, so if you are inebriated the clergy cannot marry you for fear of being sued by you. "*You knew I had to be paralytic to marry her*" is an accusation we don't wish to hear! That doesn't mean we want to spoil your fun, but a groom or bride for that matter who can't stand up for their vows, would not endear themselves to the partner.
- ❖ It is also worthwhile having a couple of days off before the wedding. Certainly if you can't go on honeymoon, get a few days together afterwards and mark your week's anniversary with a meal.

Collection

We, at some St. Columb Minor with St. Colan, feel that it is nice for your family and friends to give a little back in celebration of your marriage. A plate is left at the back of the Church and all monies donated will be used to further the work of the Church in the community. It is always nice to have this mentioned on the back of your service sheet.

Music -

Playing Music:

There is a variety of organ music that the bride can enter to, and with her husband can leave to. CD music is also possible if you can provide the CD. Or, of course, you can do what others have done and bring your own band.

You need to contact the organists and discuss the music with them, they maybe able to help, or even arrange a time to meet you at the Church so you can hear them play various pieces for you to choose from.

Choosing Music

The usual entrance music is- "The Bridal March" by Wagner from Lohengrin

The usual exit music is- "The Wedding March" by Mendelssohn from Mid Summers Nights Dream

BUT YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO HAVE EITHER OF THESE, THERE IS PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM

Choosing Hymns

You don't have to have any hymns, though most people do, with 2 being the common number. Hymns commonly used

All things bright and beautiful.

Come down O love divine.

Father, Lord of all creation.

Fill thou my life, O Lord my God.

Give me oil in my lamp. (Sing Hosanna) Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. Immortal invisible God only wise.

Lead us heavenly Father, lead us.

Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us.

Lord of all hopefulness.

Love Divine, all loves excelling

Morning has broken.

Love is created (tune of Morning has broken) Praise my soul the King of Heaven.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.

The King of love my Shepherd is.

God in the planning(tune- Lord of all hopefulness)

Photographer

We are quite free and easy, but it is best if the photographer has a word with clergy first, so they can see the amount of freedom they have.

Confetti

You are welcome to throw confetti - wouldn't it be nice if it was all BIODEGRADABLE.

Getting to know each other exercises

Exercise 2

1. Who is the most important member of your family, and why?
2. What have you enjoyed about being part of the family?
3. What are the things you have enjoyed about being single?

Compare with your partner and talk about how you may approach the development of your own family.

Exercise 3.

1. Do you want to become a parent?
2. How many children do you want?
3. What if you are unable to have children?
4. Have you considered adoption?
5. Do you expect your children to be breastfed?
6. When do children get pocket money, and how much, and why?

Exercise 4.

1. Who is going to be the predominant bread winner?
2. Are you happy with that?
3. How many bank accounts are you going to have?
4. How much is a reasonable amount to spend on clothes each month?
5. Who pay's the phone bill?
6. Who pays for the car to be serviced? \$\$\$£\$!

Exercise 5.

Read the Song of Songs to each other. These are love poems between a man and a woman. At the beginning you will giggle, so we suggest have a drink and relax to aid the evening.

By your wedding day you should be able to read these poems to each other without giggling because they are intimate.

In marriage, if not before, you share the most intimate moments of your life together. Reading love poems should be a piece of cake in comparison.

The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

Bride:

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine, your anointing oils are fragrant, your name is perfume poured out; therefore the maidens love you. Draw me after you, let us make haste. The king has brought me into his chambers. We will exult and rejoice in you; we will extol your love more than wine; rightly do they love you. I am black and beautiful, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon. Do not gaze at me because I am dark, because the sun has gazed on me. My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept! Tell me, you whom my soul loves, where you pasture your flock, where you make it lie down at noon; for why should I be like one who is veiled beside the flocks of your companions?

Groom

If you do not know, O fairest among women, follow the tracks of the flock, and pasture your kids beside the shepherds' tents.

I compare you, my love, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.

Your cheeks are comely with ornaments, your neck with strings of jewels.

We will make you ornaments of gold, studded with silver.

Bride

While the king was on his couch, my nard gave forth its fragrance.

My beloved is to me a bag of myrrh that lies between my breasts.

My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of En-gedi.

Groom

Ah, you are beautiful, my love; ah, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves.

Bride

Ah, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly lovely. Our couch is green;

the beams of our house are cedar, our rafters are pine.

CHAPTER 2

Bride

I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

Groom As a lily among brambles, so is my love among maidens.

Bride

As an apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his intention toward me was love. Sustain me with raisins, refresh me with apples; for I am faint with love.

O that his left hand were under my head, and that his right hand embraced me!

I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the wild does: do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready!

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

Catch us the foxes, the little foxes, that ruin the vineyards-- for our vineyards are in blossom."

My beloved is mine and I am his; he pastures his flock among the lilies.

Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle or a young stag on the cleft mountains.

CHAPTER 3

Bride

Upon my bed at night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer.

"I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves." I sought him, but found him not. The sentinels found me, as they went about in the city. "Have you seen him whom my soul loves?"

Scarcely had I passed them, when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the wild does: do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready!

What is that coming up from the wilderness, like a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the fragrant powders of the merchant?

Look, it is the litter of Solomon! Around it are 9

sixty mighty men of the mighty men of Israel, all equipped with swords and expert in war, each with his sword at his thigh because of alarms by night.

King Solomon made himself a palanquin from the wood of Lebanon. He made its posts of silver, its back of gold, its seat of purple; its interior was inlaid with love. Daughters of Jerusalem, come out. Look, O daughters of Zion, at King Solomon, at the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, on the day of the gladness of his heart.

CHAPTER 4

Groom

How beautiful you are, my love, how very beautiful! Your eyes are doves behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats, moving down the slopes of Gilead.

Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing, all of which bear twins, and not one among them is bereaved.

Your lips are like a crimson thread, and your mouth is lovely.

Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.

Your neck is like the tower of David, built in courses; on it hang a thousand bucklers, all of them shields of warriors.

Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that feed among the lilies.

Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, I will hasten to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense. You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you.

Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; come with me from Lebanon. Depart from the peak of Amana, from the peak of Senir and Hermon, from the dens of lions, from the mountains of leopards.

You have ravished my heart, my sister, my bride, you have ravished my heart with a glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace.

How sweet is your love, my sister, my bride! how much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!

Your lips distill nectar, my bride; honey and milk are under your tongue; the scent of your garments is like the scent of Lebanon.

A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a garden locked, a fountain sealed.

Your channel is an orchard of pomegranates with all choicest fruits, henna with nard, nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all chief spices—

a garden fountain, a well of living water, and flowing streams from Lebanon.

Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind! Blow upon my garden that its fragrance may be wafted abroad.

Bride

Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits.

CHAPTER 5

Groom

I come to my garden, my sister, my bride; I gather my myrrh with my spice, I eat my honeycomb with my honey, I drink my wine with my milk. Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love.

Bride

I slept, but my heart was awake. Listen! my beloved is knocking. "Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one; for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night."

I had put off my garment; how could I put it on again? I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them?

My beloved thrust his hand into the opening, and my inmost being yearned for him.

I arose to open to my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, upon the handles of the bolt.

I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had turned and was gone. My soul failed me when he spoke. I sought him, but did not find him; I called him, but he gave no answer. Making their rounds in the city the sentinels found me; they beat me, they wounded me, they took away my mantle, those sentinels of the walls.

I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, tell him this: I am faint with love.

What is your beloved more than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you thus adjure us?

My beloved is all radiant and ruddy, distinguished among ten thousand.

His head is the finest gold; his locks are wavy, black as a raven.

His eyes are like doves beside springs of water, bathed in milk, fitly set.

His cheeks are like beds of spices, yielding fragrance. His lips are lilies, distilling liquid myrrh.

His arms are rounded gold, set with jewels. His body is ivory work, encrusted with sapphires.

His legs are alabaster columns, set upon bases of gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as the cedars.

His speech is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

I arose to open to my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, upon the handles of the bolt.

I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had turned and was gone. My soul failed me when he spoke. I sought him, but did not find him; I called him, but he gave no answer. Making their rounds in the city the sentinels found me; they beat me, they wounded me, they took away my mantle, those sentinels of the walls.

CHAPTER 7

Groom

How graceful are your feet in sandals, O queenly maiden!

Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of a master hand.

Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat, encircled with lilies.

Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.

Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes 11

are pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath- rabbim.

Your nose is like a tower of Lebanon, overlooking Damascus.

Your head crowns you like Carmel, and your flowing locks are like purple; a king is held captive in the tresses. How fair and pleasant you are, O loved one, delectable maiden! You are stately as a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters.

I say I will climb the palm tree and lay hold of its branches. Oh, may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, and the scent of your breath like apples, and your kisses like the best wine that goes down smoothly, gliding over lips and teeth.

Bride

I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me. Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the fields, and lodge in the villages; let us go out early to the vineyards, and see whether the vines have budded, whether the grape blossoms have opened and the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love. The mandrakes give forth fragrance, and over our doors are all choice fruits, new as well as old, which I have laid up for you, O my beloved.

CHAPTER 8

O that you were like a brother to me, who nursed at my mother's breast! If I met you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me. I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother, and into the chamber of the one who bore me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranates.

O that his left hand were under my head, and that his right hand embraced me! I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready!

Who is that coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? Under the apple tree I awakened you. There your mother was in labor with you; there she who bore you was in labor. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

We have a little sister, and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister, on the day when she is spoken for? If she is a wall, we will build upon her a battlement of silver; but if she is a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar. I was a wall, and my breasts were like towers; then I was in his eyes as one who brings peace.

Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he entrusted the vineyard to keepers; each one was to bring for its fruit a thousand pieces of silver.

My vineyard, my very own, is for myself; you, O Solomon, may have the thousand, and the keepers of the fruit two hundred!

Groom

O you who dwell in the gardens, my companions are listening for your voice; let me hear it.

Bride

Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag upon the mountains of spices!

The Brides Questionnaire and the Grooms Questionnaire.

On the next 2 pages are corresponding questions for you to explore how deep your relationship is. Again this is meant to be a tool for discussion and exploration. It will also act as an aid to self exploration– do you see yourself as other see you.

You will quickly learn to be patient and forgiving. Don't be quick to take offence and don't be provocative. Say what needs to be said in a way that it can be received.

It is likely that over the course of your married life together, each of you will change and develop, and if you came back to these questions in ten years you would each give very different answers. So don't be too serious now; tomorrow you will be another person.

Her Questionnaire

1. Why marry him?
2. What are his 3 best qualities?
3. How would you describe him in company?
4. What is his approach to life?
5. What 3 predominant feelings do you have when you are with him?
6. What would you like to change in him?
7. If he was doing something you strongly disapproved of, how would you tell him
8. What is your reaction if he is angry with you?
9. Have you had any serious arguments with him since you have been engaged?
10. Which of you is best at handling money?
11. How comfortable are you with being intimate with him?
12. Do you ever talk to each other about yourselves and the relationship?
13. Do you ever wish that he would be more open with his feelings?
14. Do you ever believe that he is holding something back?
15. Is he ever not totally honest, however good his motives?
16. Do you ever think, "I wish I knew what was going on inside him."
17. Do you ever think that getting through to him was like banging your head against a brick-wall?
18. Do you wish he understood you better?
19. Are you reluctant to tell your partner how you feel about something?
Is that because you are:
too shy / afraid of his reaction / no point he wouldn't understand / he makes you feel uncomfortable
20. Are there big issues on which you know you disagree but you daren't bring up?
21. Is it easy to talk to him?
22. Are you confident about your future?
23. Are you going to cope with the problems?

His Questionnaire

1. Why do you want to marry her?
2. What are her 3 best qualities?
3. How would you describe her in company?
4. What is her approach to life?
5. What 3 predominant feelings do you have when you are with her?
6. What would you like to change in her?
7. If she was doing something you strongly disapproved of, how would you tell her?
8. What is your reaction if she is angry with you?
9. Have you had any serious arguments with her since you have been engaged?
10. Which of you is best at handling money?
11. How comfortable are you with being intimate with her?
12. Do you ever talk to each other about yourselves and the relationship?
13. Do you ever wish that she would be more open with her ideas and feelings?
14. Do you ever believe that she is holding something back?
15. Is she ever not totally honest, how ever good her motives?
16. Do you ever think, "I wish I knew what was going on inside her."
17. Do you ever think that getting through to her was like banging your head against a brick-wall?
18. Do you wish she understood you better?
19. Are you reluctant to tell your partner how you feel about something?
Is that because you are
too shy / afraid of her reaction / no point she wouldn't understand / she makes you
feel uncomfortable
20. Are there big issues on which you know you disagree but you daren't bring up?
21. Is it easy to talk to her?
22. Are you confident about your future?
23. Are you going to cope with the problems?

Timing

In this day and age of many weddings on one day, it is imperative that the groom arrives at least 30 minutes before the service begins, and the bride 5 minutes before.

Your photographer will then have time to take the necessary photo's. If the actual service begins 15 minutes after your booked time, we can no longer guarantee the bell ringers will be able to ring after your service.

The Bell ringers tool ring in other Churches, and they ring for 1/2 hour before each service. Last year some brides were so late that there service was cut short to ensure the clergy and bell ringers could get to the next service.

Final Exercise Are you ready for married life? By Alison Salat

Relationship

- - You go to each other for advice, and you almost always come away feeling better about things.
- - You are supportive of each other's decisions, even when they suck -- er, we mean, you just don't agree with them.
- - You tell your honey when he or she has hurt you, instead of holding a grudge.
- - You are generally able to resolve fights to your mutual satisfaction.
- - You both know that relationships take work, and you are willing to go the distance.
- - You respect, admire, listen to and just plain like each other, gosh darn it!
- - You share enough of the same interests and friends that you don't feel like you are always on your own.
- - You have similar spending/saving habits, or you've discussed how you'll each compromise to keep the peace.
- - You have the same attitude about paying bills or debt management.
- - You are aware of each other's total present debt, if any.
- - You have told your honey about all your money and have no hidden nest eggs, "just in case."
- - You have similar definitions of a "comfortable" income, and similar or symbiotic income goals.

Sex - Your sexual needs are compatible, and you are both satisfied with your lives between the sheets (on the kitchen table, in the shower, wherever).

- - You are comfortable giving and taking sexual suggestions and requests.
- - Birth control is something you consider a joint responsibility, and you have openly discussed your options and preferences.
- - You use sex as a healthy and FUN expression of your LOVE, not as a way to gloss over problematic issues in your relationship, a weapon, or an easy way to solve disputes (without addressing the root of the argument).

Family

- - You generally get along with each other's families and if not, you've at least discussed to what extent they will play a role in your future family life.
- - You are willing and prepared to regard each other as your most important familial relationship after you get married.
- - You have similar religious beliefs or you have discussed how to incorporate religion into your future family.
- - You've talked about children -- how many you want, or if you want them at all.
- - If you have children from a previous marriage, he or she treats them with respect and kindness.
- - You've considered not only the future responsibility of caring for your honey, but also the possibility of caring for their parents or other family members.

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A selection of wedding readings for your perusal. Please read them all because some of the obvious are not the most beautiful

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

[27] So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

[28] God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Song 2:10-13 & 8:6,7

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;

[for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove

is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs,

and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;

for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

If one offered for love

all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the

house of Israel and the house of Judah. [32] It will not be like the covenant that I made

with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-

-a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. [33] But this is the

covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put

my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they

shall be my people. [34] No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other,

"Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says

the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Tobit 8:4-8

When the parents had gone out and shut the door of the room, Tobias got out of bed and said to Sarah, "Sister, get up, and let us pray and implore our Lord that he grant us mercy

and safety." [5] So she got up, and they began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe. Tobias began by saying, "Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors, and blessed is your name in all generations forever. Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.

[6] You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support. From the two of them the human race has sprung. You said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make a helper for him like himself.'

[7] I now am taking this kinswoman of mine, not because of lust, but with sincerity. Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together."

[8] And they both said, "Amen, Amen."

Romans 7:1-2,9-18

Do you not know, brothers and sisters--for I am speaking to those who know the law--that the law is binding on a person only during that person's lifetime? [2] Thus a married woman is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives; but if her husband dies, she is discharged from the law concerning the husband.

I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived [10] and I died, and the very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. [11] For sin, seizing an opportunity in the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. [12] So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good.

[13] Did what is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

[14] For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin.

[15] I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. [16] Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. [17] But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. [18] For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? [32] He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? [33] Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. [35] Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor

things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12:1-2,9-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; [10] love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. [11] Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. [12] Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. [13] Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 15:1-3, 5-7, 13

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. [2] Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. [3] For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." [5] May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, [6] so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[7] Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. "

[13] May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians. 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. [3] If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

[4] Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant [5] or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; [6] it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. [7] It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

[8] Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. [9] For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; [10] but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. [11] When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. [12] For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. [13] And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians. 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. [16] I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, [17] and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. [18] I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. [20] Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians. 4:1-6

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [4] There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, [5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians. 5:21-33

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

[22] Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. [24] Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

[25] Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, [26] in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, [27] so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind--yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. [28] In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. [29] For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, [30] because we are members of his body. [31] "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." [32] This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. [33] Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Philippians. 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5] Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. [6] Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[8] Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. [9] Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians. 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. [13] Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. [14] Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. [15] And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. [17] And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 3:18-24

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. [19] And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him [20] whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. [21] Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; [22] and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

[23] And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. [24] All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. [8] Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. [9] God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. [10] In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. [11] Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. [12] No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. [2] Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

[3] "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

[5] "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

[6] "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. [7] "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

[8] "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

[9] "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 7:21, 24 - end

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

[24] "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. [25] The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. [26] And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. [27] The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell--and great was its fall!"

[28] Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, [29] for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16

But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' [7] 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, [8] and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. [9] Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

[13] People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. [14] But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. [15] Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." [16] And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. [2] Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. [3] When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." [4] And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." [5] His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." [6] Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. [7] Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. [8] He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. [9] When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom [10] and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." [11] Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. [2] He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. [3] You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. [4] Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. [5] I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. [6] Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. [7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8] My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. [10] If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. [11] I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. [12] "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command you. [15] I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. [16] You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. [17] I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

WHY MARRIAGE?

~ By: Mari Nichols-Haining ~

Because to the depths of me, I long to love one person, With all my heart, my soul, my mind, my body... Because I need a forever friend to trust with the intimacies of me, Who won't hold them against me,

Who loves me when I'm unlikable,

Who sees the small child in me, and

Who looks for the divine potential of me...

Because I need to cuddle in the warmth of the night

With someone who thanks God for me,

With someone I feel blessed to hold...

Because marriage means opportunity

To grow in love in friendship...

Because marriage is a discipline

To be added to a list of achievements...

Because marriages do not fail, people fail

When they enter into marriage

Expecting another to make them whole...

Because, knowing this,
I promise myself to take full responsibility
For my spiritual, mental and physical wholeness
I create me,
I take half of the responsibility for my marriage
Together we create our marriage...
Because with this understanding
The possibilities are limitless.

A Good Wedding Cake

Author Unknown

4lb of love.
1lb butter of youth.
1/2lb of good looks.
1lb sweet temper.
1lb of blindness of faults.
1lb of self forgetfulness.
1lb of pounded wit.
1lb of good humour.
2 tablespoons of sweet argument. 1 pint of rippling laughter.
1 wine glass of common sense. 1oz modesty.

Rose Ceremony

Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well furnished house. Beat the butter of youth to a cream, and mix well together with the blindness of faults. Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter and common sense. Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently for ever. In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant one thing– I love you. So it is appropriate that for your first gift, as husband and wife– that gift would be a single rose. Please exchange your first gifts.

....., I would ask that wherever you make home in the future, you both pick one very special place for roses; so that on each anniversary of this truly wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that place both as a recommitment to your marriage and a recommitment that this will be a marriage based on love.

It might be difficult sometimes to find the words to say "I am sorry" or "I forgive you". If this should happen, if you simply cannot find these words, leave a rose at that special place, for that rose then says what matters most of all. That rose says the words "I still love you". The other should accept this for the words which cannot be found and remember the love and hope that you both share today.

....., if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, it is that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love which your marriage shall endure.

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs: for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the council of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams it is still a beautiful world. Be careful.

Strive to be happy.

I LOVE YOU

I love you,

Not only for what you are, But for what I am

When I am with you.

I love you,

Not only for what

You have made of yourself, But for what

You are making of me.

I love you

For the part of me

That you bring out;

I love you

For putting your hand

Into my heaped-up heart And passing over

All the foolish, weak things That you can't help

Dimly seeing there,

And for drawing out

Into the light

All the beautiful belongings That no one else had looked Quite far enough to find.
I love you because you Are helping me to make Of the lumber of my life Not a tavern
But a temple; Out of the works Of my every day Not a reproach But a song.

I love you

Because you have done More than any creed

Could have done

To make me good,

And more than any fate

Could have done

To make me happy. You have done it Without a touch

Without a word,

I watch the sunrise

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky, Casting its shadows near.

And on this morning bright though it be, I feel those shadows near me.

But you are always close to me Following all my ways.

May I be always close to you Following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds,

Warming the earth below.

And at the mid-day, life seems to say: Ò I feel your brightness near me.Ó

For you are always . . .

Without a sign.

You have done it

By being yourself. Perhaps that is what Being a friend means, After all. (Roy Croft)

I watch the sunset fading away, Lighting the clouds with sleep. And as the evening closes
its eyes, I feel your presence near me.

For you are always . . .

I watch the moonlight guarding the night, Waiting till morning comes.

The air is silent, earth is at rest

Only your peace is near me.

Yes, you are always...

Love is a symbol of eternity.

It wipes out all sense of time,

Destroying all memory of a beginning; And all fear of an end.

ON MARRIAGE

Love one another but make not a bond of love:

Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.

Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.

Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.

Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,

Even as the strings of the lute are alone although they quiver with the same music. Give
your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.

For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.

And stand together yet not too near together:

For the Pillars of the temple stand apart,

And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

(Gibran– from the Prophet)

The Eskimo Love Song

You are my husband

You are my wife

*My feet shall run because of you *My feet shall dance because of you *My heart shall
beat because of you *My eyes shall see because of you *My mind thinks because of you

*And I shall love because of you

Apache Blessing

Now you will feel no rain

For each of you will be a shelter to the other.

Now you will no cold,

For each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there is no more loneliness for you

For each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two persons but there is only one life before you

Go now to your dwelling place

To enter into your days together,

May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years. May
happiness be your companion to the place where the river meets the sun And may your
days be good and long on the earth.

Apache Blessing

**May the sun bring you new happiness by day May the moon softly restore you by
night**

May the rain wash away your worries

And the breeze blow new strength into your being And all the days of your life

**May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty. May you feel no rain
for each of you will be warmth for the other Now there will be no more loneliness.**

APACHE BLESSING

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be the shelter for each other.

Now you will no cold, for each of you will be the warmth for the other.

Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before.

Go now to your dwelling place to enter into the days of your life together. And may your
days be good and long upon the earth.

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what
brought you together.

Give the highest priority of tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection
deserves.

When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship– as they threaten all

relationships at one time or another– remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong.

In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives– remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

READING-LOVE'S PHILOSOPHY BY P.B. SHELLEY The fountains mingle with the rivers
And the rivers with oceans,

The winds of heaven mix forever

With a sweet emotion; Nothing in the world is single; All things by a law divine

In one spirit meet and mingle. Why not (each other find)?

See the mountains kiss high heaven And the waves clasp one another; No sister flower
would be forgiven

If it disdained its brother,

And the sunlight clasps the earth And the moonbeams kiss the sea: What us all this sweet
work worth If thou kiss (is not heavenly?)

(edited by Chris so it makes sense being read by a third person in the context of the ceremony)

The Day Author Unknown

May this be the start of a happy new life That's full of special moments to share

May this be the first of your dreams come true And of hope that will always be there...

May this be the start of a lifetime of trust

And of caring that's just now begun...

May today be a day that you'll always remember The day when your hearts become one

Us Two- A.A. Milne For two people

Person 1- *Wherever I am, there's always Pooh. There's always Pooh and me.*

Person 2- Whatever I do, he wants to do **"Where are you going today?" says Pooh**

"Well that's very odd cos I was too."

Let's go together says Pooh, says he, lets go together says Pooh.

Person 1- *"What's twice eleven?" I said to Pooh*

("Twice what?"" said Pooh to me)

I think it ought to be twenty two

"Just what I think myself" said Pooh

It wasn't an easy sum to do

"But that's what it is" said Pooh, said he, That's what it is said Pooh.

Person 2- **Let's look for dragons I said to Pooh Yes lets said Pooh to me.**

We crossed the river and found a few

"Yes those are dragons all right" said Pooh.€ As soon as I saw their beaks I knew

That's what they are said Pooh, said he,

That's what they are said Pooh.

Person 1- *Lets frighten the dragons I said to Pooh*

that's right said to Pooh to me.

Person 2- **I'm not afraid I said to Pooh And I held his paw and I shouted shoo. Silly old dragons and off they flew.**

Person 1- *I wasn't afraid said Pooh, said he I'm never afraid with you.*

Person 2- **So wherever I am, there's always Pooh.**

There's always Pooh and me.

Person 1- *What would I do I said to Pooh, If it wasn't for you and Pooh said True"*

Person 2- **It isn't much fun for one but two can stick together said Pooh said he.**

That's how it is says Pooh.

The Service of Light

The Paschal Candle is the symbol of hope in the future for Christians. So the Paschal candle is the source of light for the candle of memories, which is the first to be lit. For to every moment we bring our past in the form of treasured memories. These memories of the bride and grooms families are the symbols for the next two candles to be lit. We all have had a part to play in making the bride and groom what they are today, and so from the candles of each family we each take a light to light our own candles, the symbols of hope, our treasured memories, and our part in making this the most special of days for **name** and **name**.

AMO ERGO SUM Because I love

The sun pours out its rays of living gold

Pours out its gold and silver on the sea. Because I love

The earth upon her astral spindle winds

Her ecstasy producing dance. Because I love

Clouds travel on the winds through the wide skies,

Skies wide and beautiful, blue and

deep. Because I love

Wind blows white sails

The wind blows over flowers, the sweet wind blows.

Because I love

The fern grows green, and green the

grass, and green

The transparent sunlit trees.

Because I love

Larks rise up from the grass

And all the leaves are full of singing birds.

Because I love

The summer air quivers with a

thousand wings,

Love is the greatest feeling

Love is the greatest feeling Love is like a play,

Love is what I feel for you Each and every day,

Love is like a smile

Love is like a song

Love is great emotion

That keeps us going strong, I love you with my heart, My body and my soul

I love the way I keep loving,

Like a love I can't control,

So remember when your eyes meet mine, I love you with all my heart,

And I have poured my entire soul into you Right from the very start.

(Meghan).

Louis Bernieres

Myriads of jewelled eyes burn in the
light. Because I love

The iridescent shells upon the sand

Take forms as fine and intricate as thought.

Because I love

There is an invisible way across the sky, Birds travel by that way, the sun and
moon Because I love

There is a river flowing all night long.

Because I love

All night the river flows into my sleep, Ten thousand living things are
sleeping in my arms, and sleeping wake, and flowing are at rest.

You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together that it is
inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is. Love is not
breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of eternal passion. That is
just being in love, which any fool can do. Love itself is what is left over when being in love
has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident. Those that truly love,
have roots that grow towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossom
have fallen from their branches, they find that they are one tree and not two.

(from Captain Corelli's Mandolin)

Those between whom there is love shall never really put asunder- not though flesh divide
them, not though seas separate them, not though colour and religion segregate them.

For they are one in spirit, and at the end shall be re-united. "Therefore what God has
joined together, let no one separate."

"Wedding Prayer" by Robert Lewis Stevenson

Lord, behold our family here assembled.

We thank you for this place in which we dwell,

for the love that unites us,

for the peace accorded us this day,

for the hope with which we expect the morrow, for the health, the work, the food,

and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth.

Amen

Today is a day you will always remember The greatest in anyone's life You'll start off they
day just two people in love And end it as husband and wife

It's a brand new beginning, the start of a journey With moments to cherish and treasure

And although there'll be times when you both disagree These will surely be outweighed by pleasure You'll have heard many words of advice in the past When the secrets of marriage were spoken But you know that the answers lie hidden inside Where the bond of true love is unbroken So live happy forever as lovers and friends It's the dawn of a new life for you As you stand there together with love in your eyes From the moment you whisper "I do" And with luck all your hopes and your dreams can be real May success find its way to your hearts Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys But today is the day it all starts

The most wonderful of all things in life is the discovery of another human being with whom one's relationship has a growing depth beauty and joy as the years increase. This inner progressiveness of love between two human beings is a most marvellous thing and cannot be found by looking for it or by passionately wishing for it. It is a sort of divine accident and the most wonderful of all things in life.

A Poem by Walt Whitman

- > Listen, I will be honest with you
- > I do not offer the old smooth prizes
- > But offer rough new prizes
- > These are the days that must happen to you:
- > You shall not heap up what is called riches,
- > You shall scatter with lavish hand all that you earn or achieve. > However sweet the laid up stores,
 - > However convenient the dwelling, you shall not remain there.
 - > However sheltered the port, however calm the waters, you shall not
 - > anchor there.
 - > However welcome the hospitality that welcomes you,
 - > You are permitted to receive it but a little while Afoot and
 - > lighthearted, take to the open road
 - > Healthy, free, the world before you the long brown path before you,
 - > leading wherever you choose.
 - > Say only to one another:
 - > Camerado, I give you my hand!
 - > I give you my love more precious than money; I give you myself before
 - > preaching and law:
 - > Will you give me yourself?
 - > Will you come travel with me?
 - > Shall we stick by each other as long as we live? >
 - > **We are One >**
 - > **The Universe speaks in many languages, but only one voice.**
 - > **The language is not Narn or Human or Centauri or Gaim or Minbari.**
 - > **It speaks in the language of hope. It speaks in the language of trust.**
 - > **It speaks in the language of strength, and the language of compassion.**
 - > **It is the language of the heart and the language of the soul.**

- > **But always it is the same voice. >**
- > **It is the voice of our ancestors speaking through us.**
- > **And the voice of our inheritors waiting to be born.**
- > **It is the small, still voice that says we are One. >**
- > **No matter the blood, no matter the skin,**
- > **No matter the world, no matter the star,**
- > **We are One.**
- > **No matter the pain, no matter the darkness,**
- > **No matter the loss, no matter the fear.**
- > **We are One. >**
- > **Here, gathered together in common cause**
- > **We agree to recognize this singular truth and this singular rule:**
- > **That we must be kind to one another. >**
- > **Because each voice enriches us and ennobles us,**
- > **And each voice lost diminishes us.**
- > **We are the voice of the universe, the soul of creation,**
- > **The fire that will light the way to a better future. >**
- > **We are One.**

A good marriage must be created. Wilferd Arlan Peterson

In marriage the "little" things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say, "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is having a mutual sense of values, and common objectives.

It is standing together and facing the world.

It is forming a circle that gathers in the whole family.

It is speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is not only marrying the right person -- it is being the right partner."

Marriage is....

Marriage is a dynamic process of discovery

Marriage is a journey, not an arrival

In marriage, being the right person is as important as finding

The right person.

Marriage is starting to love, over and over again

Marriage is a life's work

Marriage is an art...and like many creative process, it requires active thought and effort

We have to learn how to share on many different levels

We need to practice talking from the heart, and understanding attitudes as well as words.

Giving generously and receiving graciously talents that are available to anyone

But all these skills need to be developed, if the marriage picture that we paint is to be anything approaching the masterpiece intended.

LORD BYRON

She walks in beauty, like the night Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright Meet in her aspect and her eyes: Thus mellowed to
that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.
One shade the more, one ray the less, Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling- place.
And on that cheek, and o'er that brow, So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow, But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below, A heart whose love is innocent!

HERRICK

A heart as soft, a heart as kind,
A heart as sound and free,
As in the whole world thou can't find, That heart I'll give to thee.
Bid that heart stay, and it will stay, To honour thy decree;
Or bid it languish quite away, And't shall do so for thee.
Bid me to weep, and I will weep, While I have eyes to see;
And having none, yet I will keep
A heart to weep for thee.
Thou art my life, my love, my heart, The very eyes of me;
And hast command of every part, To live and die for thee.

A GIFT FROM THE SEA BY ANNE MORROW LINDBERGH

Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction. For in fact, man and woman are not only looking outward in the same direction, they are working outward. Here one forms ties, roots, a firm base,,, Here one makes oneself part of the community of men, of human society. Here the bonds of marriage are formed. For marriage, which is always spoken of as a bond, becomes actually, in this stage, many bonds, many strands of different texture and strength, making up a web that is taut and firm. The web is fashioned of love. Romantic love first, then a slow-growing devotion and, playing through these, a constantly rippling companionship. It is made of loyalties, and interdependencies, and shared experiences. It is woven of memories of meetings and conflicts; of triumphs and disappointments. It is a web of communication, a common language, and the acceptance of lack of language too, a knowledge of likes and dislikes, of habits and reactions, both physical and mental. It is a web of instincts and intuitions, and known and unknown exchanges.

The web of marriage is made by intimacy in the day to day living side by side, looking outward and working outward in the same direction. It is woven in space and in time of the substance of life itself.

Irish wedding Blessing

You are the star of each night,

You are the brightness of every morning,

You are the story of each guest,

You are the report of every land.

No evil shall befall you, on hill nor bank,

In field or valley, on mountain or in glen.

Neither above, nor below, neither in sea,

Nor on shore, in skies above,

Nor in the depths.

You are the kernel of my heart,

You are the face of my sun,

You are the harp of my music,

You are the crown of my company