(2228) Marriage is More

Marriage is more than standing here side by side
   Exchanging looks full of love, full of pride,
It's more than the ceremony, which lasts just a while
   It's a promise that's shared, It's an intimate smile
   It's a personal bond that you know will not end
The knowledge that someone your love will defend
   It's a vow of commitment, special and true
   It's a hope and a dream of love endless for you

(2229) On Your Wedding Day

On your wedding day and every day thereafter
   May your home be filled with happiness
   And your hearts with love and laughter
And may each year together find you more and more in love
   And bring you all the happiness you're so deserving of.
May the joy of true companionship be yours to share through life,
And may you treasure always the day you became husband and wife.

(2230) Marriage is a Promise

A Marriage is a promise that two hearts gladly make.
   A promise to be tender, to help, to give and take.
A marriage is a promise to be kind and understanding,
   To be thoughtful and considerate, fair and undemanding.
A marriage is a promise to share one life together.....
   A love filled promise to be kept lovingly for ever

(2231) Together

Hand in hand we walk together
   Through the days ahead,
   Side by side we stand
And face all problems head to head,
   All our love we pool
In its sharing it grows stronger,
   Now that two are one,
   We are alone no longer.
   Let friends and family witness
That our love has brought us here,
   And may you all be joyful
As in our joy you share.
(2232) **Marriage is (2)**

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 any creative process, it requires active thought and effort.
In marriage there is a need to learn how to share on many different levels.
In marriage there is a need to practise talking from the heart, and understanding attitudes as well as words.
  Giving generously and receiving graciously are 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.

(2233) **Towards a Happy Future**

Loving, thoughtful, understanding,
  Giving, taking, undemanding.
Little words with lots of meaning
  When on each other you are leaning,
But these all help to pave the way
  For a happy future from this day.

(2227) **The Garden**

At the heart of a relationship is a walled garden, a secret place of hidden beauty from which both partners go out refreshed, and which is kept for them alone. If it is neglected there is only a wilderness for them to offer each other, for a garden untended goes wild.
But time given to keeping the garden beautiful is time well spent and will give increased fulfilment in every area of life.
If together you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost: that is where the castles should be - now put the foundations under them.
Marriage is not a decision to be taken lightly. It is a binding contract between two people sealing their love together. Marriage is ensuring happiness and laughter. It does not happen automatically, it requires active thought, effort and consideration. Marriage is a life’s work. It is not only marrying the right person, it is being the right partner. Marriage is understanding actions as well as words. It is accepting your partner for who they are and not who you want them to be. Marriage is never being too old to hold hands. It is being able to give generously, receive graciously and talk from the heart. Marriage is forever.

The Day

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 coming 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....

The Art of a Good Marriage

A Good marriage must be created. In marriage the little things are the big things.....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 of love 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.

The Mathematics of Love

From today may your joys be added, Your cares subtracted Your worries divided And your love multiplied
Sometimes it seems as if you were always meant to be together. That even from the time of your birth your lives have followed paths which have inevitably brought you to today. To this marriage. To these promises of a shared future. Now it is important to plan for that future. Be always together, but within the togetherness let each partner have space to grow as an individual. For each must learn the art of communication, compromise and commitment. Not making a bond of love, rather allowing love to be the rock on which a secure shared future can be built. A happy marriage cannot be created by one person, just as a happy tune cannot be played on a single note.

Our love is something we have built
From passions, hopes and dreams.
It's safe from any passing moods,
Secure from all extremes.
It's something real and special,
Something solid, something pure.
It's something we can always count on,
ringing sound and sure.
It's something grounded in the heart,
Emitting confidence.
It lives in our emotions,
It is something we can sense.
Our love remains a binding force,
resistant to all strife.
Amidst the outer pressures,
It's our anchor throughout life.

There is no greater happiness than that of sharing life,
Sharing all its joys and cares as a loving man and wife.
And since you've found that happiness, what more is there to say,
Except to hope your joys will grow still sweeter day by day.

Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal. It is a physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener and critic. And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a child. Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, commitment is stronger, even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly. Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences and new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a bond unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfil.
From George Eliot

Oh the comfort, the inexpressible comfort, of feeling safe with a person; having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words but pour them all out just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a loving hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

No More Loneliness

May the sun bring you new strength by day;
May the moon softly restore you by night.
May rain wash away your fears
And the breeze invigorate your being.
May you, all the days of your life,
Walk gently through the world and know its beauty.

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter to the other.
Now you will feel 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 bodies but there is only one life before you.
Go now to your dwelling-place to enter into the days of your togetherness.
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

Look for the Sun

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your partnership 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 just on the part which seems wrong. In this way you will ride out the storms of life, 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.

This Life

The life that I have is all that I have,
And the life that I have is yours.
The love that I have in this life that I have,
Is yours for evermore.
(2240) **A New Chapter**

Today is a very special day, for it is the day you start another chapter in your book of life.

As parents we always know that one day our children will grow to need much more than we can offer. Now that day has finally arrived, and you have both found the special person with whom you want to share your love and your life. Someone who can make the sun shine in your heart - even on the cloudiest of days, and someone who will fill the next chapter in your life with happiness beyond your dreams.

Live the life you believe in and you will have everything you need to reach those dreams. Just look into your hearts and you will find the strength in each other that will make each new challenge easier to face - TOGETHER.

The close friends and family, sharing this day with you, all have memories very precious and personal to each of them, but would ask only this of both of you:

- Always give the best of yourselves to each other and ask no more than you can give.
- Accept one another for the way you are. You fell in love with the qualities and abilities and the outlook on life that you both have - don’t try to change them.
- Share your time, your close attention, and bring joy, strength and imagination into your relationship.
- Grow along with each other; be willing to face changes as you both change in order to keep your relationship alive and exciting.
- And, most importantly, love each other in good times and in bad in the only way you know how. Completely and forever.

(2219) **Into the Future**

Each Year you’ve been together
Your love has grown and grown
Undaunted by the trials you’ve faced
reassured by the joys you’ve known

And now you stand before us
Side by side and hand in hand
To take this step together
Towards the future you have planned

The promises you’re making
You make with love filled hearts
Safe in the knowledge that today
Is the day that future starts.

(2220) **Our Wish for You**

Our wish for you today is this:
That the road rise to meet you.
That the wind be always at your backs
That the sun shine warm upon your faces
That a rainbow follows any rain
That the hand of a friend may be always near
And that the love you share today grows only stronger
May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance and understanding.

May you always need one another - not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you know your fullness. A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less, but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it.

So let it be with each of you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness.

May you entice one another, but not compel one another.

May you embrace one another, but not encircle one another.

May you succeed in all important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces.

May you look for things to praise, often say 'I love you!' and take no notice of small faults.

If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you have good sense enough to take the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery which is the awareness of one another’s presence - warm and near when you are side by side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities.

May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.

May you have love, and may you find it loving one another!

Love, it can be said, has many guises.

It will shine in a Mother’s smile,
And be hidden in a Father’s warm embrace -
Or felt in a child’s velvet kisses.

Love may even hide in sibling squabbles.

Love is presented by lovers in little unexpected gifts.

It is pronounced to the world by hand-holding elderly couples. And found in listening to a friend’s tears in the wee small hours.

Love is enduring and unjudging.

It is safety and sanctuary from a world of vexation.

Love, when nurtured, grows and blossoms like Honeysuckle -
Spreading and encompassing all within its reach.

Love has an incalculable value, far beyond worldly currency, For it cannot be bought or sold.

That Love which isn’t given freely, is not Love at all.

Love joins together, but does not create constraints or shackle - rather it is a safe mooring, from which each may journey and return, Assured of a warm homecoming.

Now may each of you be more acutely aware Of that Love which your heart gives and receives For such treasure should be highly prized.
Robert Browning to Elizabeth Barrett 1846

I look back, and in every one point, every word and gesture, every letter, every silence - you have been entirely perfect to me - I would not change one word, one look. My hope and aim are to preserve this love, not to fall from it.

No Longer Alone

You each have found the love of your life,
The wonderful one you adore,
The one who will share all your dreams and desires,
Your plans, your adventures and more.

Each of you now has a very best friend,
A comforter when things go wrong.
Someone who’ll encourage, cheer and support you,
Help change all your ‘weak’ to your ‘strong’.

Set out today, new partners in life,
Hearts filled, overflowing with pride,
Knowing that now as you face each new day,
There’ll be someone you love by your side.

Always Love Each Other by Larry S. Chengges

If you can always be as close
And happy as today,
Yet be secure enough to grow
And change along the way

If you can keep for you alone
Your love as man and wife,
Yet find the time to share your joy
With others in your life

If you can be as one
And walk through marriage hand in hand,
Yet still support the goals and dreams
That each of you have planned

If you can dare to always go
Your separate ways together
Then all the wonder of today
Will stay with you forever.

Walk With Me

Do not walk in front of me -
I may not be able to follow
Do not walk behind me -
I may not be able to lead
Just walk beside me and be my friend
(2214) From Mark Twain:
A marriage........ Makes of two fractional lives a whole; It gives two purposeless lives a work, and doubles the strength of each to perform it; it gives to two questioning natures a reason for living, and something to live for; It will give a new gladness to the sunshine, a new fragrance to the flowers, a new beauty to the earth, and a new mystery to life.

(2215) Because You Share a Special Love
The more you’re together
The more things you share.
The more you find new ways
To show that you care....

More hopes come to mind now,
More plans and dreams too,
And all seem more likely
To really come true...

More meaningful moments,
More talks heart to heart,
More thinking of each other
Anytime you’re apart.

More love than you’ve ever
Been part of before -
More reasons for you both
To love each other more.

(2244) New Beginnings
You stand here before us, soon husband and wife,
Together you’re pledging the rest of your life.
This is a brand new beginning for you,
It’s what you have hoped for, a dream coming true.

Together you’re facing both pleasure and pain,
Good times and bad times, sunshine and rain.
But with each day that passes much more you will know,
And the bond that’s between you much stronger will grow.

Be kind to each other, be faithful and true,
Be thoughtful and patient in all that you do.
Remember the reasons you stand here today,
And you’ll still be happy, don’t throw it away.

May you know laughter, good fortune and wealth,
Peace and contentment, good luck and good health.
May all your tomorrows find love in your hearts,
But today, here together, is the day that it starts.

(2245) Learn to Make the Most of Life
Learn to make the most of life
Lose no happy day
Life will never give you back
Chances swept away.
Leave no tender word unsaid
Love while life shall last
(2246) **The Ideal Expression of Love**

The most ideal expression of love is the joining in marriage of two people whose hearts are one.

Love is a word that promises so many happy tomorrows, that gives meaning to everyday moments of sharing, that strengthens and supports in difficult times, that makes a commitment that never ends.

Today is the beginning of a whole new life together, a life of special moments shared in love. Today is the beginning of countless bright tomorrows, filled with all the special dreams you're dreaming of.

As you join your lives together, heart to heart and hand in hand, may you face as loving partners, the bright future you have planned. May you honour one another and show love in everything. For a marriage rich in caring is the best that life can bring.

(2212) **When You Met...**

When you met you were not planning to fall in love; you were not planning to feel so attracted to someone. But when you met you awakened feelings inside yourselves that you had forgotten existed.

On the day you met, you did not realise how much your love would grow; that the attraction which first brought you together would reach beyond passion, to the comfort of knowing that you each had someone very special. Someone who would be not only a lover, but also a close friend.

When you met you had no idea where your relationship would lead you, or how beautiful you would make each other's world; but today you know that without a doubt the luckiest day of your lives was the day that you met.

(2213) **From Shakespeare:**

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
O no! - it is an ever fixed mark,
That looks on tempests and is never shaken.
It is the star to every wandering barque,
Whose worth's unknown, although its height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come;
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this is error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.
(2210) **I Love You - Deanne Laura Gilbert:**

‘I Love You’ means that I accept you for the person that you are, and that I don’t wish to change you into someone else. It means that I do not expect perfection from you, just as you don’t expect it from me.

‘I Love You’ means that I will love you and stand by you even through the worst of times. It means loving you when you are in a bad mood or too tired to do the things I want to do. It means loving you when you are down, not just when you’re fun to be with.

‘I Love You’ means that I know your deepest secrets and do not judge you for them, asking in return only that you do not judge me for mine. It means that I care enough not to let you go. It means thinking of you, dreaming of you, wanting and needing you constantly, and hoping you feel the same way for me.

‘I Love You’ means forever.

(2211) **Extract from Les Miserables**

You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving. The great acts of love are done by those who are habitually performing small acts of kindness. We pardon to the extent that we love. Love is knowing that even when you are alone, you will never be lonely again. And great happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved. Loved for ourselves. Loved in spite of ourselves.
**How to Look After Your Husband - Good Housekeeping 1950**

Plan ahead. Have a delicious meal ready on time for his return from work. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs.

Prepare yourself. Take 15 minutes to rest so you will be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make-up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh looking.

Listen to him. You may have a dozen important things to tell him but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first.

Remember his topics of conversation are more interesting than yours.

Don't complain if he's late home for dinner, or even if he stays out all night. Count this as minor compared to what he might have gone through that day.

Don't ask him questions about his actions or question his judgement.

A good wife always knows her place.

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**Love Is Friendship Caught Fire**

Love is friendship caught fire; it is quiet, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection, and makes allowances for human weaknesses. Love is content with the present, hopes for the future, and does not brood over the past. It is the day-in and day-out chronicles of irritations, problems, compromises, small disappointments, big victories, and working toward common goals. If you have love in your life, it can make up for a great many things you lack. If you do not have it, no matter what else there is, it is not enough.

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**The Owl & The Pussy-Cat by Edward Lear**

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,  
They took some honey, and plenty of money,  
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.  
The owl looked up to the stars above,  
And sang to a small guitar,  
‘O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,  
What a beautiful Pussy you are,  
You are, you are!  
What a beautiful Pussy you are!’

Pussy said to the Owl, ‘You elegant fowl!  
How charmingly sweet you sing!  
O let us be married! Too long we have tarried:  
But what shall we do for a ring?’

They sailed away for a year and a day,  
To the land where the Bong-tree grows,  
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood,  
With a ring at the end of his nose,  
His nose, his nose,  
With a ring at the end of his nose.

‘Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling  
Your ring?’ Said the Piggy, ‘I will.’

So they took it away and were married next day  
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.  
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,  
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;  
And hand in hand on the edge of the sand,  
They danced by the light of the moon,  
The moon, the moon,  
They danced by the light of the moon.
(228) **Us Two from Now We Are Six - Pooh**

Wherever I am, there’s always Pooh,
There’s always Pooh and Me.
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.
“Let’s go together,” says Pooh.

“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.

“Let’s look for dragons,” I said to Pooh.
“Yes, let’s,” 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.

“Let’s frighten the dragons,” I said to Pooh.
“That’s right,” said Pooh to Me.
“I’m not afraid,” I said to Pooh,
And I held his paw and I shouted “Shoo!
Silly old dragons!”... and off they flew.
“I wasn’t afraid,” said Pooh, said he,
“I’m never afraid with you.”

So wherever I am, there’s always Pooh,
There’s always Pooh and Me.
“What would I do?” I said to Pooh,
“If it wasn’t for you,” and Pooh said.. “True,
It isn’t much fun for One, but Two
Can stick together,” says Pooh, says he.
“That’s how it is,” says Pooh.

(2251) **Captain Corelli’s Mandolin**

“Love is a temporary madness,
It erupts like volcanoes then subsides.
And when it subsides you have to make a decision.
You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together
That it is inconceivable that you should ever part.
Because that is what love is.
Love is not breathlessness,
It is not excitement,
It is not the proclamation of promises of eternal passion
... that is just being “in love,” which any fool can do.
Love itself is left over when being in love has burned away,
And this both an art and a fortunate accident
... to have roots that grow towards each other underground,
So that when all the pretty blossom has fallen from your branches
You find that you are one tree and not two.”

(2252) **Apache Blessing (1)**

May the sun bring you new energy 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 of the days of your life may you walk
Gently through the world and know its beauty
(2253) **Apache Blessing (2)**

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

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 to the 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.

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(227) **I Will Be Here**

If in the morning when you wake,
The sun does not appear,
I will be here.
If in the dark we lose sight of love,
Hold my hand and have no fear,
I will be here.

I will be here,
When you feel like being quiet,
When you need to speak your mind I will listen,
Through the winning, losing, and trying we’ll be together,
And I will be here.
If in the morning when you awake,
The future is unclear,
I will be here.
As sure as seasons were made for change,
Our lifetimes were made for years,
I will be here.

I will be here,
And you can cry on my shoulder,
When the mirror tells us we’re older.
I will hold you, to watch you grow in beauty,
And tell you all the things you are to me,
We’ll be together and I will be here.
I will be true to the promises I’ve made,
To you and to the one who gave you to me,
I will be here.
(226) On Your Wedding Day

Today is a day you will always remember – the greatest in anyone’s life,
You’ll start off the 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 lies 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.

(2254) Sooner or Later

Sooner or later we begin to understand that Love is more than verses
on valentines and romance in the movies.

We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most
important thing in our lives.

For love is the creator of our favourite memories and the foundation of
our fondest dreams.

Love is a promise that is always kept,
A fortune that can never be spent,
A seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places.

And this radiance that never fades,
This mysterious and magical joy
Is the greatest treasure of all –
One known only by those who love.
**I Promise**

I promise to give you the best of myself and to ask no more than you can give.
I promise to respect you as your own person and to realise that your interests, desires and needs are no less important than my own.
I promise to share with you my time and my attention and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship.
I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the window of my world into my innermost fears and feelings, secrets and dreams.
I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face changes in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting.
I promise to love you in good times and in bad, with all I have to give and all I feel inside in the only way I know how.
Completely and forever

**Once In A Lifetime**

Once in a lifetime you find someone
Who touches not only your heart, but also your soul.
Once in a lifetime you discover someone who
Stands beside you, not over you.
You find someone who loves you for who you are
And not for who you could be.
Once in a lifetime, you find someone.....
As you/we have found each other.

**Today's the Day**

Today is a day you will always remember
It's a brand new beginning, the start of a journey
The dawn of a new life for you
You stand at the threshold, filled with hope and excitement
This, the day you'll become husband and wife

We, who love you, wish all your hopes and dreams can be real
Although we cannot promise you a life of sunshine
We cannot promise you riches and wealth
We cannot promise you an easy pathway
One that leads away from pain or misfortune

But, if you can let your love be stronger than your pride or anger
If you can learn the wisdom of compromise
That it is better to bend a little than to break
If you can come to know true friendship between you
Which is the basis for any lasting relationship

Then, we promise, tomorrow will bring you times of great joy
Shared moments of happiness, new experiences and much laughter
Love will be your anchor throughout life
Laughter will be the cement that makes you strong
Companionship will sustain you

And when times are dark and the way ahead seems bleak
The hand of a friend will always be near
Another will share your pain
And a smile will stem tears of sorrow

And when you grow old
The gaze that falls each upon the other
Will still be alive with love
And twinkle yet with laughter

Tomorrow will bring you a lifetime of memories to reassure and cherish
And we, your friends and family, will join you at times along the way
But today is the day it all starts
We wish you health, gladness, friendship and love
As, with joy, we celebrate your wedding day
**From Us To You**

Today is a very special day, for it is the day you start another chapter in your book of life. As parents we always know that one day our children will grow to need much more than we can offer. Now that day has finally arrived, and you have both found the special person with whom you want to share your love and your life. Someone who can make the sun shine in your heart – even on the cloudiest of days, and someone who will fill the next chapter in your life with happiness beyond your dreams.

Live the life you believe in and you will have everything you need to reach those dreams. Just look into your hearts and you will find the strength in each other that will make each new challenge easier to face – together. The close friends and family, sharing this day with you, all have memories very precious and personal to each of us, but we would ask only this of you:

Always give the best of yourselves to each other and ask no more than you can give. Accept one another for the way you are. You fell in love with the qualities and abilities and the outlook on life that you both have – don’t try to change them. Share your time, your close attention, and bring joy, strength and imagination into your relationship. Grow along with each other; be willing to face changes as you both change in order to keep your relationship alive and exciting. And, most importantly, love each other in good times and bad in the only way you know how.

Completely and forever.

**The Union by Robert Fulghum**

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment.

At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes, to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way.

All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks - all those sentences that began with ‘when we’re married’ and continued with ‘I will and you will and we will’ - those late night talks that included ‘some day’ and ‘somehow’ and ‘maybe’ – and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart - all these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding.

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, ‘you know all those things we’ve promised and hoped and dreamed- well, I meant it all, every word.’

Look at one another and remember this moment in time.

Before this moment you have been many things to one another-acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years.

Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life and things will never quite be the same between you.

For after these vows, you shall say to the world, ‘this- is my husband’, ‘this- is my wife’.
(2258) **Today**

It’s such a joyous occasion there’s surely no doubt
But that’s not entirely what this is about
Of course there’ll be moments of wonderful laughter
With memories to cherish for many years after
The speeches, the banter, the drink and the food
All serve to enhance to jovial mood
The music, the dancing, the folks in the room
All wishing the best for the bride and groom
And being surrounded by family and friends
You’ll both make a wish – that this day never ends
But sadly the lights and the music will fade
And you’ll be alone with the vows that you made
For this is the moment your new life begins
It’s a great situation where everyone wins.

Together you’ve started a wonderful thing
As a husband and wife, all the joy that it will bring
The future is yours, and tomorrow it seems
Will bring you all the answers to all of your dreams
The road can be rocky, some stumble and fall
But you have a love that can conquer it all
You have started a journey, who knows where it ends
As partners, as lovers, and most of all – friends.
Remember to smile when problems arise
Make every day special, enjoy each surprise
Be honest and fair, understanding and kind
Try to always look forward and never behind
Because now you’ll discover what living is for
As a husband and wife – you can ask for no more

(223) **Hands of the Bride and Groom**

Girl, please face boy and hold his hands, palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands that will love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes: tears of sorrow and tears of joy. These are the hands that will comfort you in illness, and hold you when fear or grief fills you. These are the hands that will give you support and celebrate with you in your accomplishments.

Boy, please hold girl’s hands, palms up where you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times. They are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick or console you when you are grieving. These are the hands that will love you and cherish you through the years, for the lifetime of happiness. These are the hands that will give you support as she encourages you to fulfil your dreams. Together, as a team, everything you wish for can be realized.
(222) A Creed to Live By

Don’t undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others.
   It is because we are different that each of us is special.

Don’t set your goals by what other people deem important.
   Only you know what is best for you.

Don’t let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future.
By living your life one day at a time, you live all the days of your life.
   Don’t give up when you still have something to give.
   Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

Don’t be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect.
   It is this fragile thread that binds us to each other.

Don’t be afraid to encounter risks.
   It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.

Don’t shut love out of your life by saying it’s impossible to find.
   The quickest way to receive love is to give love.
   The fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly;
   And the best way to keep love is to give it wings.

Don’t dismiss your dreams.
   To be without dreams is to be without hope;
   To be without hope is to be without purpose.

Don’t run through life so fast that you forget not only where you’ve been,
   But also where you’re going. Life is not a race,
   But a journey to be savoured each step of the way,

(2259) FRIENDS

There is no better way
To live on this earth
   Than to be friends,
   Friends who will always
   Love and
   Stand by each other
   ‘Till life’s end.

   Friends,
   Who will share
   Their lives together
   Through good times
   And bad, and
   Who will bring joy
   And comfort
   To each other
   When times are sad.

   So may your love
   And your friendship
   As you begin
   Your life together
Last you for an eternity,
   And as friends
   May you both
   Forever be.
(2260) These I can promise

I cannot promise you a life of sunshine
I cannot promise riches, wealth or gold
I cannot promise you an easy pathway
That leads away from change or growing old.

But I can promise all my heart's devotion
A smile to chase away your tears of sorrow
A love that's ever true and ever growing
A hand to hold in yours through each tomorrow

(2261) I'll Still Be Loving You

I'll Still Be Loving You
When your hair has turned to winter
And your teeth are in a plate
When your getter up and go
Has gone to stop and wait
I'll still be loving you

When your attributes have shifted
Beyond the bounds of grace
I'll count your many blessings
Not the wrinkles in your face
I'll still be loving you

When the crackle in your voice
Matches that within your knee
And the times are getting frequent
That you don't remember me
I'll still be loving you

Growing old is not a sin
It's something we all do
I hope you'll always understand
I'll still be loving you

(221) Poem By Linda Hersey

We are not meant to go through life alone. We need a partner who will forever remain by our side - someone to lean on at times, remembering, as well, that we will be leaned on too; someone to share our joy and hold us in sorrow.

Understand that there will be difficult times and doubt may cloud your lives. It is then you must trust each other the most and believe that love will sustain you. Do not give up easily; fight for what is precious- your marriage. Help it survive by nurturing it every single day.

Never hesitate to say “I love you” or to be the first one to say “I’m sorry.” Give a lot, overlook even more, and always expect as much in return. Never look back or lose yourself, but celebrate the special privilege of being a couple. Never lose sight of what brought you here in the first place: your special love for each other. Cherish that always. You have my best wishes as you take this giant step forward. I wish you nothing but happiness as you enter this wonderful new world of marriage.
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(2262) In The Opinion Of The World

In the opinion of the world
Marriage end all, as it does in a comedy
The truth is precisely the opposite:
It begins all

(2263) I Add My Breath

I add my breath to your breath
That our days may be long in the earth
That the days of our people may be long
That we may be one person
That we may finish our roads together

(2264) Extract From A Victorian Guide To Love

Don’t ever both be angry at the same time. Never let the cares of the world assume such importance that they cause you to neglect each other. Be genuinely sympathetic with each other’s trials and tribulations. Never make a remark calculated to bring ridicule upon the other. Make any criticism in the most loving and gentle way possible. Don’t be cross with an error which was done with a good motive and the best judgement at the time. Don’t boast about the sacrifices you make for each other.

When you part, make time for a loving goodbye.
If You Can Always Be

(2265) If you can always be as close and happy as today
Yet be secure enough to grow and change along the way
If you can keep for you alone your love as man and wife
Yet find the time to share your joy with others in your life
If you can be as one and walk through marriage hand in hand
Yet support the goals and dreams that each of you have planned
If you can dare to always to your separate ways together
Then all the wonders of today will stay with you forever.

Ancient Egyptian Song

(2266) While unhurried days come and go.
Let us turn to each other in quiet affection,
Walk in peace to the Edge of old age.

What Does Marriage Mean in Today’s World?

(2267) What does marriage mean in today’s world?
We live in a world where the old-fashioned social pressures to conform have all gone.

No longer does a young woman wait for her husband to give her a new independence from her parent’s home. And society no longer frowns upon couples who choose not to marry.

So why get married at all?

Perhaps when two people decide that, in the absence of these conformities, this is something they actually want to do – for themselves, for their families and for its own sake, that the meaning of marriage has shifted to the same extent as times have moved on.

Now, a cynic might say that a piece of paper alone will not guarantee that two people will stay together for life… and a cynic might have a point.

But ridden of any outside pressures, the vows and intentions are totally pure and unadulterated.

There cannot really be a better guarantee than this.

The following is a selection of the most popular readings, provided by our brides and grooms, that are suitable for a civil marriage ceremony. If you wish to use a reading not included in this booklet please supply us with a copy at least 14 days before the day of the wedding. It is important to note that your chosen readings must not be religious in any way.

You can have up to a maximum of four readings in your ceremony. These can be read by friends and family. If you wish, two of your readings can be read by the Superintendent Registrar conducting your ceremony.

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