



## *Readings and Verses* *for your Wedding Ceremony*

### 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 me  
I love you for the part of me that you bring out.  
I love you for passing over all my foolish and weak traits,  
That you can't help but see  
I love you for drawing out into the light my beauty,  
That no one else had looked quite far enough to find  
I love you.

### FROM THE SANSKRIT

Look to this day for it is life  
The very life of life in its brief course  
lie all the varieties and realities of your existence  
The bliss of growth  
The glory of action  
The splendour of beauty  
For yesterday is already a dream  
And tomorrow is only a vision  
But today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness  
And every tomorrow a vision of hope  
Look well, therefore, to this day.

## THE PROPHET

Excerpt by Kahil Gilbran

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.  
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.  
Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.  
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,  
And let the winds of heavens dance between you.

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 a lute are alone though 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.

## ESKIMO LOVE SONG

You are my husband, you are my wife  
My feet shall run because of you  
My feet dance because of you  
My heart shall beat because of you  
My eyes see because of you  
My mind thinks because of you  
And I shall love, because of you.

## EXTRACT FROM CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

by Louis de Bernières

Love is a temporary madness; it erupts like volcanoes and 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 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 blossoms have fallen from their branches, they find that they are one tree and not two.

## THIS DAY I MARRIED MY BEST FRIEND

Anonymous

This day I married my best friend  
... the one I laugh with as we share life's wondrous zest,  
as we find new enjoyments and experience all that's best.  
... the one I live for because the world seems brighter  
as our happy times are better and our burdens feel much lighter.  
... the one I love with every fibre of my soul.  
We used to feel vaguely incomplete, now together we are whole.

## APACHE WEDDING POEM

Now we will feel no rain, for each of us will be shelter to the other.  
Now we will feel no cold, for each of us will be warmth to the other.  
Now there is no loneliness.  
We are two bodies but there is one life before us, and one home.  
When evening falls I will look up and there you'll be.  
I'll take your hand and you'll take mine and we'll turn together to look  
at the road we travelled to reach this -- the hour of our happiness.  
It stretches behind us as the future lies ahead, a long and winding road  
whose every turning means discovery, old hopes, new laughter, and shared tears.  
The adventure has just begun.

## TRUE LOVE

Author Unknown

True love is a sacred flame  
that burns eternally  
And none can dim it's special glow  
or change its destiny  
True love speak in tender tones  
and hears with gentle ear  
True love gives with open heart  
and try love conquers fear  
True love makes no harsh demands  
it neither rules nor binds  
And true love holds with gentle hands  
the heart that it entwines.

## HINDU MARRIAGE POEM

You have become mine forever.  
Yes, we have become partners.  
I have become yours.  
Hereafter, I cannot live without you.  
Do not live without me.  
Let us share the joys.  
We are word and meaning, unite.  
You are thought and I am sound.  
May the nights be honey-sweet for us.  
May the mornings be honey-sweet for us.  
May the plants be honey-sweet for us.  
May the earth be honey-sweet for us.

## 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 any 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 are talents that are available to anyone.  
But these skills need to be developed, if the marriage picture that we paint is to be  
anything like the masterpiece intended.

## MARRIAGE JOINS TWO PEOPLE IN THE CIRCLE OF ITS LOVE

by Edmund O'Neill

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 an 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 spirit 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.

# THE ART OF MARRIAGE

by Wilfred A Peterson

A good marriage must be created. In the art of 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 at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship

should not end with the honeymoon,

it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family. It is doing things for

each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice,

but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have the wings of an angel. It is not

looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor. It is having the

capacity to forgive and forget.

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

It is finding room for the things of the Spirit. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is

mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is BEING the right partner.

This is The Art of Marriage.

## I KNEW THAT I HAD BEEN TOUCHED BY LOVE

I knew that I had been touched by love the first time I saw you,  
and I felt your warmth, and I heard your laughter.

I knew that I had been touched by love  
when I was hurting from something that happened,  
and you came along and made the hurt go away.

I knew that I had been touched by love  
when I quit making plans with my friends,  
and started dreaming dreams with you.

I knew that I had been touched by love  
when suddenly I stopped thinking in terms of "me",  
and started thinking in terms of "we".

I knew that I had been touched by love  
when suddenly I couldn't make any decisions by myself anymore,  
and I had the strong desire to share everything with you.

I knew that I had been touched by love  
the first time we spent alone together,  
and I knew I wanted to stay with you forever  
because I had never felt this touched by love.



## HE NEVER LEAVES THE SEAT UP

by Unknown Author

He never leave the seat up  
Or wet towels upon the floor  
The toothpaste has the lid on  
And he always shuts the door!

She's very clean and tidy  
Though she may sometimes delude  
Leave your things out at your peril  
In a second they'll have moved!

He's a very active person  
As are all his next of kin  
Where as she likes lazy days  
He'll still drag her to the gym!

He romances her and dines her  
Home cooked dinners and the like  
He even knows her favourite food  
And spoils her day and night!

She's thoughtful when he looks at  
her

A smile upon his face  
Will he look that good in 50 years  
When his dentures aren't in place?

He says he loves her figure  
And her mental prowess too  
But when gravity takes her over  
Will she charm with her IQ?

She says she loves his kindness  
And his patience is a must  
And of course she thinks he's  
handsome  
Which in her eyes is a plus!

They're both not wholly perfect  
But who are we to judge  
He can be pig headed  
Where as she won't even budge!

All that said and done  
They love the time they spent  
together  
And I hope as I'm sure you do  
That this fine day will last forever.

He'll be more than just her husband  
He'll also be her friend  
And she'll be more than just his wife  
She'll be his soul mate 'til the end!

## THE KEY TO LOVE

The key to love is understanding...  
The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word,  
but those unspoken gestures,  
the little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness...  
to accept each others faults and pardon mistakes,  
without forgetting, but with remembering  
what you learn from them.

The key to love is sharing...  
Facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together;  
both conquering problems, forever searching for ways  
to intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving...  
without thought of return,  
but with the hope of just a simple smile,  
and by giving in but never giving up.

The key to love is respect...  
realising that you are two separate people, with different ideas; that you don't belong to  
each other,  
that you belong with each other, and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all...  
It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients that will take you to its threshold;  
it is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work... but the rewards are more  
than worth the effort...  
and that is the key to love.

## A MARRIAGE PRAYER

Bud Henry Bowen

As we begin our journey down the road of life together. We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends. But help us to make the best of whatever comes our way.

Help us to hug each other often ... laugh a lot, talk more, and argue less.

Help us to continue to enjoy each other as we did when we first met.

Help us to realise that nothing or no one is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people including ourselves.

Help us to respect each other's likes and dislikes, opinions and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears even though we may not always understand them.

Help us to learn from each other and to help each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Help us to realise that there is design and purpose in our lives as in the world and no matter what happens to us we will hold on to each other and know that things have a way of working out for the good.

Help us to create for our children a peaceful, stable home of love as a foundation on which they can build their lives.

But most of all, help us to keep lit the torch of love that we now share in our hearts to that by our loving example we may pass on the light of love to our children and to their children and to their children's children forever.

## OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO

Dr Seuss

Congratulations! Today is your day.  
You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!  
You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.

You're on your own. And you know what you know.  
And YOU are the couple who'll decide where to go.  
You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care.  
About some you will say, "We don't choose to go there."

With your heads full of brains and your shoes full of feet,  
you're too smart to go down, any not-so-good street.  
And you may not find any you'll want to go down.  
In that case, of course, you'll head straight out of town.

It's opener there in the wide open air,  
Out there things can happen and frequently do  
to people as brainy and footsy as you.

And when things start to happen, don't worry. Don't stew.  
Just go right along. You'll start happening too.

OH! THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

You'll be on your way up! You'll be seeing great sights!  
You'll join the high fliers who soar to great heights!  
You won't lag behind, because you'll have all the speed.  
You'll pass the whole gang, and you'll soon take the lead.

Wherever you fly you'll be best of the best.  
Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.  
Except when you don't. Because sometimes, you won't.  
You'll get mixed up of course, as you already know.

You'll get mixed up with so many strange birds as you go.  
So be sure when you step. Step with great care and great tact  
and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act.

Just never forget to be dexterous and deft.  
And never mix up your right foot with your left.  
And will you succeed? Yes! You will indeed!  
(98 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  percent guaranteed.)

KIDS, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!  
So, be your name Buxbaum or Dowrie or Bass  
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,  
you're off to great places! Today is your day!  
Your mountain is waiting. So ... get on your way

## I LIKE YOU

by Sandol Stoddard Warburg

I like you, And I know why. I like you because when I tell you something special, you know it's special, and you remember it a long, long time. You say, remember when you told me something special? And both of us remember.

When I think something is important, you think it's important too. We have good ideas. When I say something funny, you laugh. I think I'm funny and you think I'm funny too.

You know how to be silly. That's why I like you. Boy are you ever silly. I never met anybody sillier than me til I met you. I like you because you know when it's time to stop being silly. Maybe day after tomorrow. Maybe never.

And I like you because If we go away together, and if we are in Central Station, and if I get lost, then you are the one that is yelling for me.

I like you because if I am mad at you, then you are mad at me too. It's awful when the other person isn't. They are so nice and hoo-hoo and you could just about punch them in the nose.

If you find two four-leaf clovers, you give me one. If I find four, I give you two. If we only find three, we keep on looking. Sometimes we have good luck, and sometimes we don't.

I like you because I don't know why, but everything that happens is nicer with you. I can't remember when I didn't like you. I would go on choosing you, and you would go on choosing me, over and over again. That's how it would happen every time. I don't know why.

I guess I don't know why I like you, really. Why do I like you?

I guess I just like you, Because I like you.

# LOVE IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FEELING IN MARRIAGE

by Susan Schutz

Love is the strongest feeling known  
An all encompassing passion  
An extreme strength  
An overwhelming excitement.

Love is trying not to hurt the other person  
Trying not to change the other person  
Trying not to dominate the other person  
Trying not to deceive the other person.

Love is understanding each other  
Listening to each other  
Supporting each other  
and having fun with each other.

Love is not an excuse to stop growing  
Not an excuse to stop making yourself better  
Not an excuse to lessen one's goals  
Not an excuse to take the other person for granted

Love is being completely honest with each other  
Finding dreams to share  
Working towards common goals  
Sharing responsibilities equally.

Everyone in the world wants to love  
Love is not a feeling to be taken lightly  
Love is a feeling to be cherished, nurtured and cared for  
Love is the reason for life.

## THE BEGINNING TO END

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 "someday" 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.



FAMOUS QUOTE by Bob Marley

He's not perfect. You aren't either.

And the two of you will never be perfect.

But if he can make you laugh at least once a day, causes you to think twice,  
and if he admits to being human and making mistakes, hold onto him and give  
him the most you can.

He isn't going to quote poetry, he's not thinking about you every moment, but  
he will give you a part of him that he knows you could break.

Don't hurt him, don't change him and don't expect for more than he can give.  
Don't analyse.

Smile when he makes you happy, yell when remakes you mad, and miss him  
when he's not there.

Love hard when there is love to be hard.

Because perfect guys don't exist, but there's always one guy that is perfect  
for you.

## ON YOUR WEDDING DAY

by an Unknown Author

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.

## A GOOD WEDDING CAKE

by an Unknown Author

4lb of love  
1/2lb of sweet temper  
1lb of butter of youth  
1lb of blindness of faults  
1lb of pounded wit  
1lb of good humour  
2lbs of sweet argument  
1 pint of rippling laughter  
1 wine glass of commonsense  
A dash of modesty

Put the love, good looks and a sweet tempers in a well-furnished house.

Beat the butter of youth into 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 forever.

## HERE'S TO RIGHT NOW

by Ms Moem

You're surrounded by your loved ones  
And all are wishing you well  
As you create a brand new chapter  
In the story that's yours to tell

We talk about the memories  
You have yet to make together  
And the moments you've already shared  
To be carried with you forever

But take the time to live today  
As your marriage begins  
Look around and soak it up  
the moment we are in.

For this is where the magic starts  
When you both say your vows  
You pledge to spend your lives as one  
Because of the love you feel now.

So yes, here's to a future  
that is bright and warm and clear  
But more than that, here's to right now  
And what it means to be here.

## IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May God be with you and bless you;  
May you see your children's children.  
May you be poor in misfortune,  
Rich in blessings,  
May you know nothing but happiness  
From this day forward.

May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home  
And may the hand of a friend always be near.

May green be the grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you.

## BLESSING FOR A MARRIAGE

by James Dillet Freeman

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 to 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 you and you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness. May you want one another, but not out of lack. May you entice one another, but not compel one another. May you embrace one another, but not out 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 hope to 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 – no more physical than spiritual, 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!

## APACHE BLESSING

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.

## BLESSED LOVE AND LAUGHTER

by Wendy Haynes

May this marriage be blessed with love, laughter, peace and happiness.

With love that support and nurtures you and your family.

With laughter that fills your home and family life.

With a lightness and joy that is contagious.

With smiles that welcome and relax.

May you find peace in your space together and in your time apart.

May true contentment and happiness be yours.

May this marriage be blessed with love, laughter, peace and happiness.

## HAPPINESS AND MARRIAGE

by Wendy Haynes

May you always feel as close as you do this day.

May your lives be graces with good health and abundance.

May you always find happiness in your home

And may it be a refuge from the storms of life,

A sanctuary that you enrich with your love.

May your love grow ever stronger as you share your lives together,

And may your future be even more wonderful than you ever dreamed possible.

## FROM A NAVAHO WEDDING CEREMONY

Now you have lit a fire and that fire should not go out.

The two of you now have a fire that represents love,  
understanding and a philosophy of life.

It will give you heat, food, warmth and happiness.

The new fire represents a new beginning - a new life and a new family.

The fire should keep burning; you should stay together.

You have lit the fire for life, until old age separates you.

## LOOKING FOR YOUR FACE

by Rumi

From the beginning of my life I have been looking for your face, but today I have seen it. Today I have seen the charm, the beauty, the unfathomable grace of the face that I was looking for.

Today I have found you, and those who laughed and scorned me yesterday are sorry that they were not looking as I did. I am bewildered by the magnificence of your beauty, and wish to see you with a hundred eyes.

My heart has burned with passion and has searched forever for this wondrous beauty that I now behold. I am ashamed to call this love human, and afraid of God to call it divine.

Your fragrant breath, like the morning breeze, has come to the stillness of the garden. You have breathed new life into me. I have become your sunshine, and also your shadow. My soul is screaming in ecstasy.

Every fibre of my being is in love with you. Your effulgence has lit a fire in my heart, and you have made radiant for me the earth and sky. My arrow of love has arrived at the target.

I am in the house of mercy, and my heart is a place of prayer.



EXTRACT from  
GIFT FROM THE SEA

by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

When you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. It is an impossibility. It is even a lie to pretend to. And yet this is exactly what most of us demand.

We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, of relationships. WE leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We are afraid it will never return.

We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity - in freedom, in the sense that the dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in the same pattern.

The only real security is not in owning or possessing, not in demanding or expecting, not in hoping, even. Security in a relationship lies neither in looking back to what was in nostalgia, nor forward to what it might be in dread or anticipation, but living in the present relationship and accepting it as it is now.

Relationships must be like islands, one must accept them for what they are, here and now, within their limits - islands, surrounded and interrupted by the sea, and continually visited and abandoned by the tides.

## A WEDDING READING

by Unknown Author

Once upon a time, a boy met a girl.  
She gave him her hand and he held it tight.  
Together, they set off down the unknown path in front of them.  
Sometimes they walked slowly; sometimes at a quicker pace.  
Sometimes they ran so fast it felt kind of like flying.  
Whenever he lost his footing, she steadied him;  
and whenever she tripped, he helped her back up.  
Whenever she grew weary, he'd carry her.  
Sometimes they didn't know which direction to go  
but though they would occasionally lose their way  
they never lost each other.  
They wandered contentedly and lived happily,  
forever and always side by side.

## Extract from "A Bridge Across Forever"

by Richard Bach

A soulmate is someone who has locks that fit our keys, and keys to fit our locks. When we feel safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly who we are; we can be loved for who we are and not for who we're pretending to be. Each unveils the best part of the other. No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that one person, we're safe in our own paradise. Our soulmate is someone who share our deepest longing, our sense of direction. When we're two balloons, and together our direction is up, chances are we've found the right person. Our soulmate is the one who makes life come to life.

