

WEDDING READINGS

From the Hindu Marriage Ritual of Seven Steps:

We have taken the seven steps.
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, united.
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 heavens be honey-sweet for us.
May the plants be honey-sweet for us; may the sun be all honey for us; may the
cows yield us honey-sweet milk!
As the heavens are stable, as the earth is stable, as the mountains are stable,
as the whole universe is stable, so may our union be permanently settled.

APACHE BLESSING

Now you will feel no rain for each of you
Will be shelter for the other.
Now you will feel no cold for each of you
Will be warmth for the other.
Now there is no loneliness for you, 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 togetherness,
And may your days be good and long together.

SONG OF SOLOMON 8:6-7

Set me as a seal upon thine heart,
As a seal upon thine arm:
For love is strong as death...
Many waters cannot quench love,
Neither can the floods drown it.

OLD LOVE
(Author Unknown)

Is there anything more beautiful in life than a young couple clasping hands and pure hearts in the path of marriage? Can there be anything more beautiful than young love?

Yes, there is a more beautiful thing.

It is the spectacle of an old man and an old woman finishing their journey together on that path.

Their hands are gnarled, but still clasped; their faces are seamed, but still radiant; their hearts are physically bowed and tired, but still strong with love and devotion for one another.

Yes, there is a more beautiful thing than young love. Old love.

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

We may not know what the future holds,
But we know who holds the future
And we know who holds us.
As long as we're walking hand in hand
Together into the great unknown of tomorrow
And letting Him be our guide,
We can be sure that together,
We will triumph.

I TAKE YOU...

To have and to hold from this day forward,
For better or for worse,
For richer, for poorer;
In sickness and in health,
To love and to cherish;
Until death do us part.

ESKIMO LOVE SONG

You are my (husband/wife)
My feet shall run because of you
My feet shall 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.

IT IS TIME

It is time. The moment has come.
I look into your eyes, and the world vanishes.
All that exists is you and me and

This moment of moments,
The moment our souls will become one
United in the bonds of love,
Brought together by the God who
Made us for each other.
I'm speechless. I'm in awe.
I marvel that the one who made all of creation
Care so much for me that He would make you, my soul mate.
You are as much a part of my being
As the beating of my own heart.
When you hurt, I hurt.
When you cry, I cry.
When you rejoice, I rejoice.
Where you go, I go.
Wherever God leads us,
I will be by your side.
The one who created life created
Us for each other.
And because of His saving grace
Not even death can part us.

CELTIC VOW

I honor your gods
I drink at your well
I bring an undefended heart to our meeting place
I have no cherished outcome
I will not negotiate by withholding
I am not subject to disappointment

I PROMISE By Dorothy R. Colgan

I promise to give you the best of myself
And to ask of you no more than you can give.
I promise to respect you as your own person
And to realize 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 band,
With all I have to give and all I feel inside
In the only way I know how,
Completely and forever.

MARRIAGE ADVICE
By Jane Wells

Let your love be stronger than your hate and anger.
Learn the wisdom of compromise.,
For it is better to bend a little than to break.
Believe the best rather than the worst.
People have a way of living up or down
To your opinion of them.
Remember that true friendship
Is the basis for any lasting relationship.
The person you choose to marry
Is deserving of the courtesies
And kindnesses you bestow on your friends.
Please hand this down to your children
And your children's children.

THE VOWS I TAKE WILL BE FOREVER
By Nicholas Gordon

The vows I take will be forever.
I'll love you all my life.
There's no partway, no holding back
Once we are man and wife.
The choice is made, and now I swim
In a far different sea,

The shores of which are bright green hills
Raised up for you and me.
Our love is like a mountainside
Awash in lovely flowers;
It is our home, our solid rock
Where all bright things are ours.
And though of need we often must
Spend our days apart,
Our love will always be with us
Held within the heart.
I feel it now, so strong and free,
So part of every breath
That it must live—I swear it will!
Even after death.