



Marriage  
of  
Groom  
and  
Bride

City, State

Month Day, 2010



# *LOVE*

Love is patient and kind.  
Love is not jealous or boastful  
or proud or rude.  
Love does not demand its own way.  
Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record  
of when it has been wronged.  
It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices  
whenever the truth wins out.  
Love never gives up, never loses faith,  
is always hopeful, and endures  
through every circumstance.  
Love will last forever.



## Marriage of Groom and Bride

### WELCOME

**Officiant:** Welcome! We are here today in honor of the lives of Groom and Bride becoming one.

We are here in the presence of friends, family and the spirit of Nature to celebrate the joining of two hearts.

Gladly, in this natural, supportive setting, we are honored to share in their commitment to lifelong love and joy.

### MESSAGE TO BRIDE AND GROOM

**Officiant:** Groom and Bride, as your relationship began, love was spoken softly...in your hearts...during silent moments...through fleeting glances...with shy smiles.

Today, the whispers are gladly proclaimed aloud like wind down a canyon and water coursing over a falls.

And this love now gives you the courage to declare it to the world as friendship transforms itself marital love.



## FIRST READING

**Officiant:** Here is a special wish for your marriage:

May this be a day of new beginnings with sun shining on you like a fragrant apple.

May berries melt like honey on your tongues, and summer air blow softly on your hands.

May your hearts rise in wonder at the clouds drifting across the sky.

May the trails under your boots be covered in pine quills.

May leaves rain down like memories in the autumn of your hearts.

May snow beneath your footsteps be as soft as watered silk.

May the cold air kiss your cheeks, turn them red as summer's roses.

May rivers always flow with their amazing beauty as the first freshet of snow melts with the rush of early spring.

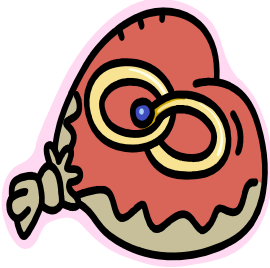
May you always walk in gladness on whatever path or highway.

May you always walk within the golden circle of your love.

## QUESTION OF CONSENT

**Officiant:** Groom and Bride, have you come here today of your own free will to marry?

**Groom and Bride:** Yes, we have.



## BLESSING OF THE RINGS

**Officiant:** I understand you wish to exchange rings as tokens of your love.

Officiant with hand over them during the blessing says:

**Officiant:** These circlets of precious metal are fitting symbols of the soul of your marriage; your love that has no beginning, no end.

We humbly ask the spirit of Nature that has given us the heavens, lives in the rivers and oceans, whose voice we can hear in the wind, whose heat we feel in fire and the cool of rain to bless this marriage.

And we ask all of Nature to grant blessing on your union that is symbolized by these rings.



## VOWS AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

**Officiant:** Groom, please place this ring on Bride's hand and repeat after me:

*I ask you, Bride, to be my wife.*

*I vow to love, honor and cherish you.*

*I will be at your side for all the risings and settings of the sun,  
for all the days of fullness and challenge.*

*I pledge my heart to you and promise you a shared life of friendship,  
adventure, and love.*

**Officiant:** Bride, please place this ring on Groom's hand, and repeat after me:

*I ask you, Groom, to be my husband.*

*I vow to love, honor and cherish you.*

*I will be at your side for all the risings and settings of the sun,  
for all the days of fullness and challenge.*

*I pledge my heart to you and promise you a shared life of friendship,  
adventure, and love.*



## HONORING NATURE

**Officiant:** Groom and Bride, you have pledged your love to each other by exchanging vows as a statement of your marital commitment and love for each other.

With those vows, you agreed to accept the most honorable title that can exist between a man and a woman - Husband and Wife.

Before the final Pronouncement, you have chosen to honor Nature on this day and all your days to come by exchanging a small part of Nature with each other.

The object each of you chose as a gift to your new spouse is blessed by the Earth and says, *I love you.*

Please exchange the objects you hold.

(Bride and Groom exchange gifts.)

## HONORING NATURE – Continued

**Officiant:** As you look at the new object in your hand, it may seem that you have done nothing special at all.

Just a moment ago, you were holding a tiny part of Nature – and now you still do.

But there's a significant difference.

You gave and received one of life's most valuable and precious gifts – one to be remembered always -the gift of abiding love.

Groom and Bride, wherever you make your home in the future - be it a large, elegant home or a small, humble one, reserve in it a special place for Nature.

And, on each anniversary, rekindle the memory of the simple exchange by going to Nature together and creating a new memory as a way of recommitting yourself to your partner and your marriage.

In times of angry emotions that will come between you, as they do, turn to Nature to nurture your relationship. If the words, *I'm sorry*, *or I forgive you*; *or I need you*, *or I am hurting* are difficult to say, gather a part of Nature and leave it for the other to find.

Let the natural object speak what matters most: *I still love you*. The recipient should accept it for the caring that could not be expressed, recalling fond memories of the love you share today.

**Officiant:** Groom and Bride, always remember that natural love for each other brought you here today, and only love will make assure a marriage that endures.



### **BLESSING**

**Officiant:** Here is a blessing from Nature for your marriage:

May you always have a warm fire burning in your hearth,  
a full moon to light a dark night, and sweet water in your well.

May you always have time to walk along winding river banks together  
and listen often to its song.

May you always give thanks for the love you share.

May your future bring adventure, peace, and great joy!

### **DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE**

**Officiant:** And now, by the power vested in me by the State of  
Washington, I am honored to pronounce you husband and wife.

### **KISS!**

**Officiant:** Congratulations; you may now kiss!

### **PRESENTATION**

**Officiant:** I now present for the first time Mr. & Mrs. Groom and Bride.

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