

The following quote was taken from a love letter written by Margaret Lawrence to Benedict Greene on September 15, 1942:

“The little, secret sacred movements of love between a man and a woman are the deepest, most mystic things of life. I have learned in your arms the lovely joy of asking for love, of reaching up towards you to receive your love, as if I held myself out to you; a flower to be nourished, a cup to be filled. There are no words to tell of the meeting of love...the emptying of all feeling, the giving of food from the body itself. Sometimes it is more than all these things. For it is done in remembrance of union. To tell us we are not alone but together...and that alone and apart we would be forlorn and unfinished. For I believe this union is the meaning of the delight together, the ecstasies of abandon and the thankfulness afterwards.”

TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL By Maya Angelou

We, unaccustomed to courage  
exiles from delight  
live coiled in shells of loneliness  
until love leaves its high holy temple  
and comes into our sight  
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives  
and in its train come ecstasies  
old memories of pleasure  
ancient histories of pain.  
Yet if we are bold,  
love strikes away the chains of fear  
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity  
In the flush of love's light  
we dare be brave  
And suddenly we see  
that love costs all we are  
and will ever be.  
Yet it is only love  
which sets us free.

A History of Love", by Diane Ackerman

“Love. What a small word we use for an idea so immense and powerful. It has altered the flow of history, calmed monsters, kindled works of art, cheered the forlorn, turned tough guys to mush, consoled the enslaved, driven strong women mad, glorified the humble, fuelled national scandals, bankrupted robber barons, and made mincemeat of kings. How can love's spaciousness be conveyed in the narrow confines of one syllable? Love is an ancient delirium, a desire older than civilization, with taproots spreading into deep and mysterious days. The heart is a living museum. In each of its galleries, no

matter how narrow or dimly lit, preserved forever like wondrous diatoms, are our moments of loving, and being loved.”

excerpt from “Any Husband or Wife”, by Carole Haynes

“Let us be guests in one another’s house, with a deferential “No” and courteous “Yes.” Let us take care to hide our foolish moods behind a certain show of cheerfulness. Let us avoid all sullen silences. We should find fresh and sprightly things to say. I must be fearful lest you find me dull, and you must dread to bore me any way. Let us knock gently at each other’s heart, glad of a chance to look within—and yet let us remember that to force one’s way is the unpardoned breach of etiquette. So we shall be host and hostess, until all need for entertainment ends. We shall be lovers when the last door shuts. But what is better still, we shall be friends.”

"Benediction of the Apaches"

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"

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 that 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.”

### "Blessing of the Hands"

"These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. 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 tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch."

### "Desiderata", by Max Erhmann (1927)

"Go placidly amid the noise and the 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 to the dull and the 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 or 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 not this 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 as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel 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 dark 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 the 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 labors and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams; it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy."

### "Friendship" , by Judy Bielicki

"It is often said that it is love that makes the world go round. However, without doubt, it is friendship which keeps our spinning existence on an even keel. True friendship provides so many of the essentials for a happy life-it is the foundation on which to build an enduring relationship, it is the mortar which bonds us together in harmony, and it is the calm, warm protection we sometimes need when the world outside seems cold and chaotic. True friendship holds a mirror to our foibles and failings, without destroying our sense of worthiness. True friendship nurtures our hopes, supports us in our disappointments, and encourages us to grow to our best potential. (Bride) and (Groom)

came together as friends. Today, they pledge to each other not only their love, but also the strength, warmth and, most importantly, the fun of true friendship.”

“Hug O' War”, by Shel Silverstein

“I will not play at tug o' war. I'd rather play at hug o' war, where everyone hugs instead of tugs, where everyone giggles, and rolls on the rug, where everyone kisses, and everyone grins, and everyone cuddles, and everyone wins.”

“I Am Love”

“Some say I can fly on the wind, yet I haven't any wings. Some have found me floating on the open sea, yet I cannot swim. Some have felt my warmth on cold nights, yet I have no flame. And though you cannot see me, I lay between two lovers at the hearth of fireplaces. I am the twinkle in your child's eyes. I am hidden in the lines of your mother's face. I am your father's shield as he guards your home. And yet... Some say I am stronger than steel, yet I am as fragile as a tear. Some have never searched for me, yet I am around them always. Some say I die with loss, yet I am endless. And though you cannot hear me, I dance on the laughter of children. I am woven into the whispers of passion. I am in the blessings of Grandmothers. I embrace the cries of newborn babies. And yet... Some say I am a flower, yet I am also the seed. Some have little faith in me, yet I will always believe in them. Some say I cannot cure the ill, yet I nourish the soul. And though you cannot touch me, I am the gentle hand of the kind. I am the fingertips that caress your cheek at night. I am the hug of a child. I am love.”

“I Love You”, by Roy Croft

“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, without a sign. You have done it by being yourself. Perhaps that is what being a friend means, after all.”

“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 fiber 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."

"Love Is Friendship Caught Fire", by Laura Hendricks

"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."

"Marriage Advice From 1886", by Jane Wells

"Never go to bed angry.

Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger.

Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is easier 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 kindness you bestow on your friends.

Please pass this on to your children and their children's children.

The more things change the more they are the same."

"Marriage Joins Two People in the Circle of Its Love", by Edmund O'Neill

"Marriage is a commitment to life, to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal; a 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. 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 love through the seasons of life. When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique to 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, which takes a lifetime to fulfill."

"On Love", by Thomas a Kempis

"Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good. Love alone lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth. It bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable. Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God. Love flies, runs and leaps for joy. It is free and unrestrained. Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds. Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil, attempts things beyond its strength. Love sees nothing as impossible, for it feels able to achieve all things. It is strange and effective, while those who lack love faint and fail. Love is not fickle and sentimental, nor is it intent on vanities. Like a living flame and a burning torch, it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle."

"On Love" excerpts from "The Prophet", by Kahlil Gibran

"Then said the student Almitra, Speak to us of love. And he raised his head and looked upon the people, and there fell a stillness upon them. And with a great voice he said: When love beckons to you, follow him, though his ways are hard and steep. And when his wings enfold you yield to him, though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you. And when he speaks to you believe in him, though his voice may shatter your dreams as the north wind lays waste the garden. For even as love crowns you so shall he crucify you. Even as he is for your growth so is he for your pruning. Even as he ascends to your height and caresses your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun, so shall he descend to your roots and shake them in their clinging to the earth."

"On Marriage" excerpts from "The Prophet", by Kahlil Gibran

"Then Almitra spoke again and said, and what of Marriage master? And he answered saying: You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore. You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days. Ay, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God. But let there be spaces in your togetherness, and let the winds of the 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."

"Sonnet 17", by Pablo Neruda

"I don't love you as if you were the salt-rose, topaz or arrow of carnations that propagate fire: I love you as certain dark things are loved, secretly, between the shadow and the soul. I love you as the plant that doesn't bloom, and carries hidden within itself the light of those flowers, and thanks to your love, darkly in my body lives the dense fragrance that rises from the earth. I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where, I love you simply, without problems or pride: I love you in this way because I know no other way of loving but this, in which there is no I or you; so intimate that your hand upon my chest is my hand, so intimate that when I fall asleep it is your eyes that close."

"Sonnet 18", by William Shakespeare

"Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;  
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade  
Which in eternal lines to time thou grow'st  
So long as men can breathe and eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee."

"Sonnet 116", by William Shakespeare

"Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove.  
Oh 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 his 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 be error and upon me prov'd,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved."

"Sonnet XLIII", from "Sonnets from the Portuguese", by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old grief's, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints, -- I love thee with the breath,

Smiles, tears, of all my life! -- and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death."

"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 favorite 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."

From "The Hungering Dark" , by Frederick Buechner

"Matrimony is called holy, because this brave and fateful promise of a man and a woman, to love and honor and serve each other through thick and thin, looks beyond itself to more fateful promises still, and speaks mightily of what human life at its most human and most alive and most holy must always be. Every wedding is a dream, and every word that is spoken there means more than it says, and every gesture - the clasping of hands, the giving of rings - is rich with mystery. And so it [is that] we hope with every bride and groom, that the love they bear one another, and the joy they take in one another, may help them grow in love for this whole world where their final joy lies."

From "The Hymn of the Universe", by Teilhard de Chardin

"Only love can bring individual beings to their perfect completion, as individuals, by uniting them one with another, because only love takes possession of them and unites them by what lies deepest within them. This is simply a fact of our everyday experience. For indeed at what moment do lovers come into the most complete possession of themselves if not when they say that they are lost in one another? And is not love all the time achieving - in couples, in teams, all around us - the magical and reputedly contradictory feat of personalizing through totalizing? And why should not what is thus daily achieved on a small scale be repeated one day on world-wide dimensions? Humanity, the spirit of the earth, the synthesis of individuals and peoples, the paradoxical conciliation of the element with the whole, of the one with the many: all these are regarded as utopian fantasies, yet they are biologically necessary; and if we would see them made flesh in the world what more need we do than imagine our power to love growing and broadening, till it can embrace the totality of human beings and of the earth?"

From "The Irrational Season", by Madeleine L'Engle

"Ultimately there comes a time when a decision must be made. Ultimately two people who love each other must ask themselves how much they hope for as their love grows and deepens, and how much risk they are willing to take. It is indeed a fearful gamble. Because it is the nature of love to create, a marriage itself is something which has to be created. To marry is the biggest risk in human relations that a person can take. If we commit ourselves to one person for life this is not, as many people think, a rejection of freedom; rather it demands the courage to move into all the risks of freedom, and the

risk of love which is permanent; into that love which is not possession, but participation. It takes a lifetime to learn another person. When love is not possession, but participation, then it is part of that co-creation which is our human calling."

"The Magic of Love" , by Helen Steiner Rice

"Love is like magic, and it always will be,  
For love still remains life's sweet mystery.  
Love works in ways that are wondrous and strange,  
And there's nothing in life that love cannot change!  
Love can transform the most commonplace  
Into beauty and splendor and sweetness and grace.  
Love is unselfish, understanding and kind,  
For it sees with its heart, and not with its mind.  
Love is the answer that everyone seeks;  
Love is the language that every heart speaks.  
Love can't be bought, it is priceless and free.  
Love, like pure magic, is life's sweet mystery!!"

"The Merchant of Venice", Act 4, Scene 1 (spoken by Portia), by William Shakespeare

"The quality of mercy is not strain'd,  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;  
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:  
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes  
The throned monarch better than his crown;  
His scepter shows the force of temporal power,  
The attribute to awe and majesty,  
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;  
But mercy is above this sceptred sway;  
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,  
It is an attribute to God himself;  
And earthly power doth then show likest God's  
When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, [Jew,]  
Though justice be thy plea, consider this,  
That, in the course of justice, none of us  
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;  
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render  
The deeds of mercy."

"You Were Born Together", by Kahlil Gibran

"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 the 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 of you be alone, even as the strings of the lute are alone though they quiver with the same music. Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping. For only the land 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."

"MY LOVE" by Linda Lee Elrod

When I met you, I had no idea how much my life  
was about to be changed...but then, how could I have known?

A love like ours happens once in a lifetime.  
You were a miracle to me, the one who was everything I had ever dreamed of, the one I  
thought existed only in my imagination.

And when you came into my life, I realized that what I had always thought was  
happiness couldn't compare to the joy loving you brought me.

You are a part of everything I think and do and feel, and with you by my side, I believe  
that anything is possible. This day gives me a chance to thank you for the miracle of  
you...you are, and always will be, the love of my life.

TRUE LOVE ~ By Author Unknown ~

True love is a sacred flame  
That burns eternally,  
And none can dim its special glow  
Or change its destiny.  
True love speaks in tender tones  
And hears with gentle ear,  
True love gives with open heart  
And true love conquers fear.  
True love makes no harsh demands  
It neither rules nor binds,  
And true love holds with gentle hands  
The hearts that it entwines.

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.

#### I PROMISE ~ Dorothy 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 in bad,  
with all I have to give and all I feel inside in the only way I know how.  
Completely and forever.

### Union by Robert Fulghum

You have known each other for years, through the first glance of acquaintance to this moment of commitment. At some moment, 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. Just two people working out what they want, what they believe, what they hope for each other.

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. You have learned that good company and friendship count for more than wealth, good looks or position. And you've learned that marriage is a maze into which we wander - a maze that is best got through with a great companion.

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.

### Heaven Sent by Cheyenne Cole

Love ruled the day when the angels came to meet  
Sweeping them up and off of their feet  
Neither of them knowing what the future would bring  
Two hearts together and one diamond ring  
Today it's a promise, so sweet and so pure  
Together forever, for love shall endure

A blessing from above, this story is told  
A love to last a lifetime and a hand to hold  
It was no accident that this came to be  
Now you must realize that it really takes three  
So, go hand and hand to a future unknown  
Knowing that with the Lord, you will never be alone

With the angels still near and dear to the heart  
This couple shall prosper and never grow apart  
For it's not always the eye that is the first to see  
What really matters in life and what is meant to be

So remember that to love is time well spent  
And what brought you two together was heaven sent.

I Know That I Have Found Her” -Jeff Kovich

To proclaim that I love her, Is so easy to say  
And for that, I will tell her, In my own special way  
Through meaningful words, and the warmth of my touch  
Through these nights of romance, She deserves o' so much  
She's trapped in my heart, She's always on my mind  
She gives me her love, Our hearts intertwine  
For the woman I love, I have searched my whole life  
But I know that I have found her, Because I made her my wife

THE MIRACLE OF LOVE (El Milagro del amor)

Hoy celebramos el milagro del amor. Una boda es la celebracion de el milagro de el amor, Y para eso estamos aqui; para celebrar que los Milagros ocurren en cualquier momento, lo inesperado puede cambiar cuando menos lo esperamos, el paso de nuestra vida entera puede cambiar. [Nombre del Novio y Novia] hay un modo especial de ustedes estar juntos el cual no es como el estar juntos con cualquier persona. Ustedes han cruzado muchos puentes para estar aqui hoy, han vencido muchos obstaculos y ustedes pueden mirar atraz y ver, al igual que Dios dijo en la creacion: Y TODO HA SIDO BUENO. Cada Puente cruzado ha hecho su Amor mas fuerte. Este amor especial que ustedes sienten. Tiene a Dios como centro, pues el los ha traído a este momento, para ustedes comprometer su amor y construir una vida juntos. Den gracias a Dios el uno por el otro. El amor es un regalo. El amor es un milagro. Abran su Corazon, sus manos y sus ojos y permitan que este milagro irradie a ustedes de su luz sin fin.

A wedding is the celebration of the miracle of love, and that's what we're here to do; to celebrate that miracles do occur' that at any moment, the unexpected can happen' and that when we least expect it, the path of our entire lives can change. [BRIDE AND GROOM'S NAMES] there is a special way you are together that's just not like the way you've ever been with anyone else. You've crossed many bridges to be here today, overcome many obstacles and with each one you can look back and see, as it was in the creation when God said, AND IT WAS GOOD. For each bridge you have crossed has made your love stronger. That special love you feel for one another with God at its center has brought you to this moment, when you are committing your love to one another, and building a life together. Be thankful for one another. Love is always a gift. Love is a miracle. Open your heart, your hands, your eyes and allow the radiance of this miracle to utterly and endlessly illuminate you.

## ONLY YOU

Only you him bring brightness and Love to my Heart.  
Only you look at me with purity and inner beauty.  
Only you fill Soul with Joy.  
Only you know my secrets, desires and yearnings.  
Only you transmit heat with your hands.  
Only you give me strength to continue living.  
Only you speak to me sweetly.  
Only you listen to me with patience.  
Only you caress me with much gentleness.  
Only you kiss me with much tenderness.  
Only you understand me in subtle ways.  
Only you cause me to be the Happiest Being in the Universe.  
Only you make have faith in myself.  
Only you calm me and relax me when I am anxious.  
Only you are the one that enters my Heart and my very being.  
Only you give me warmth when I am cold.  
Only you are the Owner of my Heart.  
Only you are my dreams made reality.  
Only you are and will be the one that loves me and loves me eternally.  
Only you are the one I love and will love eternally eternally!

## Solo Tu

Sólo tú le das brillo y Amor a mi Corazón.  
Sólo tú me miras con tanta pureza y belleza interior.  
Sólo tú llenas de Alegría a mi Alma.  
Sólo tú conoces mis secretos, deseos y anhelos.  
Sólo tú me transmites calor con tus manos.  
Sólo tú me das fuerzas para seguir viviendo.  
Sólo tú me hablas con tanta dulzura.  
Sólo tú me escuchas con tanta paciencia.  
Sólo tú me acaricias con tanta delicadeza.  
Sólo tú me besas con tanta ternura.  
Sólo tú me comprendes con tanta sutileza.  
Sólo tú haces que me sienta el Ser más Feliz del Universo.  
Sólo tú me das tanta seguridad en mí misma.  
Sólo tú me calmas y tranquilizas cuando estoy mal.  
Sólo tú eres el que puede entrar en mi Corazón y en mi Ser.  
Sólo tú me abrigas cuando tengo frío.  
Sólo tú eres y serás el Dueño de mi Corazón.  
Sólo tú eres mi Sueño hecho realidad.  
Sólo tú eres y serás el que me ama y me amará siempre.  
Sólo tú eres al que amo y amaré eternamente!

### DEFINIENDO EL AMOR by Francisco de Quevedo.

Es hielo abrasador, es fuego helado,  
es herida que duele y no se siente,  
es un soñado bien, un mal presente,  
es un breve descanso muy cansado.

Es un descuido que nos ha cuidado,  
un cobarde con nombre de valiente,  
un andar solitario entre la gente,  
un amar solamente ser amado.

Es una libertad encarcelada,  
que dura hasta el postrero parasismo,  
enfermedad que crece si es curada.

Esta es el niño Amor, éste es tu abismo:  
mirad cual amistad tendrá con nada  
el que en todo es contrario de sí mismo.

### ORACION DE LOS NOVIOS.

En mi corazón, señor, se ha encendido el amor por una criatura que tu conoces y amas. Tu mismo me la haz hecho encontrar y me la has presentado. Te doy gracias por este don que me llena de alegría profunda. me hace semejante a ti, que eres amor, y me hace comprender el valor de la vida que me has dado.

Haz que no malgaste esta riqueza que tu has puesto en mi corazón: enseñame que el amor es don y que no puede mezclarse con ningún egoísmo; que el amor es puro que no puede quedar en ninguna baja; que el amor es fecundo y desde hoy debe producir un nuevo modo de vivir en los dos.

Te pido, Señor, por quien me espera y piensa en mi; por quien camina a mi lado; haznos dignos el uno del otro; que seamos ayuda y modelo.

Ayúdanos en nuestra preparación al matrimonio, a su grandeza, a su responsabilidad, a fin de que desde ahora nuestras almas dominen nuestros pensamientos y los conduzcan en el amor.

Humanae Vitae, an excerpt from the Encyclical Letter of His Holiness Pope Paul VI [In marriage]...love is total, that is to say, it is a very special form of personal friendship, in which husband and wife generously share everything, without undue reservations or selfish calculations. Whoever truly loves his marriage partner loves not only for what he receives, but for the partner's self, rejoicing that he can enrich his partner with the gift of himself.

Again, this love is faithful and exclusive until death. Thus in fact do bride and groom conceive it to be on the day when they freely and in full awareness assume the duty of the marriage bond. A fidelity, this, which can sometimes be difficult, but is always possible, always noble and meritorious, as no one can deny. The example of so many married persons down through the centuries shows, not only that fidelity is according to the nature of marriage, but also that it is a source of profound and lasting happiness.

"I Wait" by Jordan Jones

I wait for you, anxious to see your face.

I stand and watch, looking for the first sign of your arrival.

I finally see you; I take a second look to make sure you're really there.

My pulse races and I crack a smile; this is what I've been waiting for.

You begin to approach, you say, "Sorry, I'm late."

I say, "No problem." But I think to myself, 'I would have waited forever.'

Wedding Day"

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 2:18 says, "The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"

Proverbs 31:10 says, "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies."

Proverbs 31:12 says, "She brings him good not harm, all the days of her life."

Proverbs 18:22 says, "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD."

Genesis 2:24 says, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

1 John 4:7-12: Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.

Ruth 1:16-17 (KJV):

And Ruth said, Intreat me to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Where thou diest, I will die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

Song of Solomon 3:1-5

**1** “On my bed during the nights I have sought the one whom my soul has loved. I sought him, but I did not find him. **2** Let me rise up, please, and go round about in the city; in the streets and in the public squares let me seek the one whom my soul has loved. I sought him, but I did not find him. **3** The watchmen who were going around in the city found me, ‘The one whom my soul has loved have YOU men seen?’ **4** Hardly had I passed on from them until I found the one whom my soul has loved. I grabbed hold of him, and I would not let go of him, until I had brought him into my mother’s house and into the interior room of her that had been pregnant with me. **5** I have put YOU under oath, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the female gazelles or by the hinds of the field, that YOU try not to awaken or arouse love [in me] until it feels inclined.”

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Phil. 2:1-5 **1** If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any sharing of spirit, if any tender affections and compassions, **2** make my joy full in that YOU are of the same mind and have the same love, being joined together in soul, holding the one thought in mind, **3** doing nothing out of contentiousness or out of egotism, but with lowliness of mind considering that the others are superior to YOU, **4** keeping an eye, not in personal interest upon just YOUR own matters, but also in personal interest upon those of the others.  
**5** Keep this mental attitude in YOU that was also in Christ Jesus.

### Ephesians 5:21-31

**21** Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. **22.** Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. **23.** For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. **24** Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. **25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; **26** That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, **27** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. **28** So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. **29** For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: **30** For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. **31** For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Mark 10:6-9 (New International Version)<sup>6</sup>"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>7</sup>'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>8</sup>and the two will become one flesh.'<sup>[c]</sup> So they are no longer two, but one. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

*Si no tengo amor, nada soy.*

### **Lectura de la Primera Carta del Apóstol San Pablo a los Corintios 12, 31-13,8**

Hermanos: Aspiren a los dones de Dios más excelentes. Voy a mostrarles el camino mejor de todos. Aunque yo hablara las lenguas de los hombres y de los ángeles, si no tengo amor, no soy más que una campana que resuena o unos platillos que aturden. Aunque yo tuviera el don de profecía y penetrara todos los misterios, aunque yo poseyera en grado sublime el don de ciencia y mi fe fuera tan grande como para cambiar de sitio las montañas, si no tengo amor, nada soy. Aunque yo repartiera en limosnas todos mis bienes y aunque me dejara quemar vivo, si no tengo amor, de nada me sirve.

El amor es comprensivo, el amor es servicial y no tiene envidia; el amor no es presumido ni se envanece; no es grosero ni egoísta; no se irrita ni guarda rencor; no se alegra con la injusticia, sino que goza con la verdad. El amor disculpa sin límites, confía sin límites, espera sin límites, soporta sin límites. El amor dura por siempre.

Palabra de Dios

### Palabras del Papa Francisco

"¿Qué entendemos por "amor"? ¿Solo un sentimiento, una condición psicofísica? Ciertamente, si es así, no se puede construir encima nada sólido. Pero si el amor es una relación, entonces es una realidad que crece y también podemos decir, a modo de ejemplo, que se construye como una casa. Y la casa se edifica en compañía, ¡no solos!. No querréis construirla sobre la arena de los sentimientos que van y vienen, sino sobre la roca del amor verdadero, el amor que viene de Dios".

### Evangelio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo según San Mateo 5, 13-16

Jesús dijo a sus discípulos: Ustedes son la sal de la tierra. Pero si la sal pierde su sabor, ¿con qué se la volverá a salar? Ya no sirve para nada, sino para ser tirada y pisada por los hombres. Ustedes son la luz del mundo. No se puede ocultar una ciudad situada en la cima de una montaña. Y no se enciende una lámpara para meterla debajo de un cajón, sino que se la pone sobre el candelero para que ilumine a todos los que están en la casa. Así debe brillar ante los ojos de los hombres la luz que hay en ustedes, a fin de que ellos vean sus buenas obras y glorifiquen al Padre que está en el cielo.

## **COLOSENSES 3:12-14**

Asuman entonces, como elegidos por Dios, santo y bienamado, compasivos, amables, humildes, modestos, y pacientes, sean indulgentes uno con el otro y, si uno ha tenido quejas contra el otro, perdónense mutuamente; como el Señor los ha perdonado a Uds., así Uds. deben perdonar. Y por encima de todo pongan el amor, que sujeta todas las cosas juntas en perfecta armonía.

Time for New Beginnings-Taylor Addison, 1989

"This is a time for reflection as well as celebration.

As you look back on the past year and all that has taken place in your life,  
Remember each experience for the good that has come of it  
and for the knowledge you have gained.

Remember the efforts you have made and the goals you have reached.

Remember the love you have shared and the happiness you have brought.

Remember the laughter, the joy, the hard work, and the tears

And as you reflect on the past year, also be thinking of the new one to come.

Love is so very special

Yet can make you feel so lost

It can arrive just like the springtime

And melt away like morning frost

You must find ways to nurture

Always grow your love with care

Never ever take for granted

The love that you both share

Mistakes are bound to happen

You may hurt each other's heart

Yet don't give up too easily

It will tear your love apart

Love resembles a bright flame

That lights a dark starry night

Never ever let this flame burn down

Rekindle with all your might

Take a moment every day

Look deep into each other's eyes

Never hesitate to show affection

Small gestures will keep a love alive

Talk openly about your feelings

Take time to show that you care

Treasure each and every moment

Because to find true love is rare.

excerpt from "The Art of a Good Marriage", by Wilferd Arlan Peterson

"A good marriage must be created.

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."

### **EL ARTE DEL MATRIMONIO~**

Las pequeñas cosas son las grandes cosas.

Nunca se es tan viejo para sostenerse las manos.

Es recordar decir "Te amo" al menos una vez al día.

Es nunca ir a dormir enojados.

Es nunca hablar con el otro solo por ser condescendiente;

el cortejo no debería terminar con la luna de miel,

debería continuar a través de los años.

Es tener un sentido mutuo de valores y objetivos comunes.

Es pararse juntos enfrentando al mundo.

Es formar un círculo de amor que se alimenta en la familia toda.

Es hacer cosas para el otro, no en la actitud de servicio o sacrificio, sino en el espíritu de gozo.

Es hablar con palabras de apreciación y demostrar gratitud de maneras consideradas.

Es no esperar que el esposo use una aureola o que la esposa tenga las alas de un ángel.

Es no buscar la perfección en el otro.

Es cultivar la flexibilidad, la paciencia, el entendimiento y el sentido del humor.

Es tener la capacidad de perdonar y ser perdonados.

Es dar al otro un ámbito en el que pueda crecer.

Es encontrar espacios para las cosas del espíritu.

Es una búsqueda común del bien y la belleza.

Es establecer una relación en la cual la independencia sea por igual, la dependencia mutua y las obligaciones recíprocas.

Es no solamente casarse con la pareja perfecta, es ser la pareja perfecta.

“WISH”....

Today is a dream realized from years past  
The white dress, the wedding cake, the promise of a love that lasts

Today is the beginning of a journey the two of you now share  
The vow to love, honor, and cherish now seen in the rings you wear

But tomorrow, tomorrow you will wake as husband and wife  
Where the person next to you is yours for life

And so my wish to you both is that when you wake each day  
You will turn to each other with the same look you share today

LA MAS MARAVILLOSA DE TODAS LAS COSAS EN LA VIDA ~ Por Sir Hugh Walpole

La más maravillosa de todas las cosas en la vida es el descubrimiento de otro ser humano con quien una relación ha de crecer profundamente, con belleza y gozo según pasen los años. Esta progresividad interior de amor entre dos seres humanos es la cosa más maravillosa; que no puede ser encontrada buscándola o por más pasionales deseos que se tengan. Esto es una suerte de divino accidente, y la más maravillosa de todas las cosas.

Soneto XVII by Pablo Neruda

o te amo como si fueras rosa de sal, topacio  
o flecha de claveles que propagan el fuego:  
te amo como se aman ciertas cosas oscuras,  
secretamente, entre la sombra y el alma.

Te amo como la planta que no florece y lleva  
dentro de sí, escondida, la luz de aquellas flores,  
y gracias a tu amor vive oscuro en mi cuerpo  
el apretado aroma que ascendió de la tierra.

Te amo sin saber cómo, ni cuándo, ni de dónde,  
te amo directamente sin problemas ni orgullo:  
así te amo porque no sé amar de otra manera,

sino así de este modo en que no soy ni eres,  
tan cerca que tu mano sobre mi pecho es mía,  
tan cerca que se cierran tus ojos con mi sueño.

# I. The Archipelago Of Kisses by Jeffrey McDaniel

We live in a modern society. Husbands and wives don't grow on trees, like in the old days. So where does one find love? When you're sixteen it's easy, like being unleashed with a credit card in a department store of kisses. There's the first kiss. The sloppy kiss. The peck. The sympathy kiss. The backseat smooch. The we shouldn't be doing this kiss. The but your lips taste so good kiss. The bury me in an avalanche of tingles kiss. The I wish you'd quit smoking kiss. The I accept your apology, but you make me really mad sometimes kiss. The I know your tongue like the back of my hand kiss. As you get older, kisses become scarce. You'll be driving home and see a damaged kiss on the side of the road, with its purple thumb out. If you were younger, you'd pull over, slide open the mouth's red door just to see how it fits. Oh where does one find love? If you rub two glances, you get a smile. Rub two smiles, you get a warm feeling. Rub two warm feelings and presto-you have a kiss. Now what? Don't invite the kiss over and answer the door in your underwear. It'll get suspicious and stare at your toes. Don't water the kiss with whiskey. It'll turn bright pink and explode into a thousand luscious splinters, but in the morning it'll be ashamed and sneak out of your body without saying good-bye, and you'll remember that kiss forever by all the little cuts it left on the inside of your mouth. You must nurture the kiss. Turn out the lights. Notice how it illuminates the room. Hold it to your chest and wonder if the sand inside hourglasses comes from a special beach. Place it on the tongue's pillow, then look up the first recorded kiss in an encyclopedia: beneath a Babylonian olive tree in 1200 B.C. But one kiss levitates above all the others. The intersection of function and desire. The I do kiss. The I'll love you through a brick wall kiss. Even when I'm dead, I'll swim through the Earth, like a mermaid of the soil, just to be next to your bones.