

(You are invited to select passages and poems that best suit your hopes and goals. If you wish, you may also write your own or have a family member or friend make a special statement)
(Of shared love in marriage and one best way to show love - by Victor Hugo)

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

(Love reflects love in return: The Divine Comedy by Dante)

" The love of God, Unutterable and perfect, flows into a pure soul the way light rushes into a transparent object. The more love we receive, the more love we shine forth; so that, as we grow clear and open, the more complete the joy of loving is. And the more souls who resonate together, the greater the intensity of their love for, mirror like, each soul reflects the other."

Classic Reading from "The Prophet"

" Love one another, but make not a bond of that love. Let it rather be like a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
And stand together, and yet not too near together. For even the pillars of the temple must stand apart; and the oak tree and the cypress will not grow in each other's shadow.
Remember that love gives nothing but from itself. Love possesses not, nor would it be possessed, for love is sufficient unto love.
And think not that you can direct the course of love. For love, if it finds you worthy, will direct your course."

(Love as a challenge – causing advancement, personal evolution and a shared life quest by Rainer Rilke)

" For one human being to love another human being; this is perhaps the most difficult task that has been entrusted to us – the ultimate task, the final test and proof, the work for which all other work is merely preparation. Loving at first does not mean merger, surrender and uniting with another person.
Love is a high inducement for the individual to ripen, to become something in ourselves, to become world in ourselves for the sake of another person. Love is a great, demanding claim on us, something that chooses us and calls us to vast distances."

(As you travel through life together, you may find you lose your sense of priority. This is one of life's most important of all priorities – love. By L. Brownlow)

" We all need love. With all our complexities, we are not easy creatures to satisfy. We cannot meet the conditions of a satisfied life by gorging ourselves, lying down on the grass and staring at the

clouds.

We have deeper needs and deepest need of all is love.

Too often we think in terms of receiving love instead of giving it. It is gratifying to receive. But there is much for fulfillment in having a heart so filled with love that it is more a joy in giving love than in receiving.

The need for love is born within us, and is as universal as the human race itself. Where ever we walk, on every shore and in every land, the need for love walks by our side. This implanted knowledge is proof that we are akin to Go, for "God is Love".

It is not trite, therefore, to say that love is necessary for life, no more than to say that food sustains life. Without food, we will die. Without love, we die a death worse than physical death. Do not depreciate love's value. Preserve the value of love and live as exalted creatures on the high summit of tender affections that many will never obtain. Never forget the true value and the true need for love."

"APACHE BLESSING":

This is often called the "Apache Blessing". If used, it is near the end of the ceremony:

"Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be the shelter for the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be the warmth to the other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. Go now to your dwelling, to enter into the days of your life together, and may your days be good and long upon the earth."

(This is often added:) "Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship - as they threaten all relationships at one time or another - remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives - remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight."

CHEROKEE PRAYER:

"God in heaven above please protect the ones we love.

We honour all you created as we pledge our hearts and lives together.

We honour mother-earth - and ask for our union to be abundant and grow stronger through the seasons;

We honour fire - and ask that our union be warm and glowing with love in our hearts;

We honour wind - and ask we sail though life safe and calm as in our father's arms;

We honour water - to clean and soothe our relationship - that it may never thirst for love;

With all the forces of the universe you created, we pray for harmony and true happiness as we forever grow young together. Amen."

Jewish Traditional Breaking of the Bottle...

Below is one explanation I offer of the breaking of the bottle in a ceremony, which is placed immediately before declaring the couple to be husband and wife:

"The breaking of the glass at the end of a ceremony serves to remind of two very important aspects of a union.

The couple - and everyone - should consider these marriage vows as an IRREVOCABLE ACT - just as permanent and final as the breaking of this glass is unchangeable.

But the breaking of the glass also is a warning of the FRAILTY of a relationship. That sometimes a single thoughtless act, breach of trust, or infidelity can damage a relationship in ways that are very difficult to undo - just as it would be so difficult to undo the breaking of this glass.

Knowing that this Union is permanent, the couple should strive to show each other the love and respect befitting their partner and love of their life."

*(The bottle is usually a light bulb wrapped in a white towel. The best man will place the bottle before the groom. However, it is not broken at this point. Instead, the officiant continues to declare the bride and groom to be "husband and wife". With "**congratulations, you may kiss your bride !**" **the groom then smashes the bottle with his foot and kisses the bride. Applauding is appropriate in most ceremonies with the breaking of the bottle.**)*

Kahlil Gibran on Marriage

From Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*

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,

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.