

Contemporary Vows

Groom and bride, you are entering into that holy estate, which is the deepest mystery of experience, the greatest experience of divine love. The prophet has said, "Love gives naught but of itself and takes naught but from itself. Love possesses naught nor would it be possessed for love is sufficient unto love. When you love, you should not say "God is in my heart," but that "I am in the heart of God". And think not that you can direct the course of love, for love, if it finds you worthy, directs your course.

It is a brief moment in life, when two people, who once were strangers to one another, are drawn together by an irresistible attraction, so that henceforth, their lives will not be divide by space or time. When in a certain woman, a man finds that dream of love that has always haunted him; and when, in a certain man, a woman finds the rest and satisfaction that her heart has been unconsciously seeking; it is a revelation from the infinite, it is the hand of god and it cancels everything that is unlike love. You two are performing an act of complete and utter faith, believing in each other to the utmost.

The prophet has also said, "You are born together and together you shall be forever more. You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter you 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 hand of life can contain your hearts. Stand together, but 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."

If you wish this new estate to be touched with perennial beauty, cherish the vision that you have of each other right now! You must never forget or deny what you see in each other this Day! Amid the seeming reality of present imperfection, the ideal always exists. It is the truth.

So, Bride, this is the man, Groom, this is the woman that you love. Seeing that you have chosen each other in this holy estate would you face one another and join hands.

Groom in taking this woman, that you hold by the hands, to be your lawful wedded wife; you must promise to love her, to honor her, to cherish her and to be to her, in all things, a true and loving husband. Do you so promise?

Bride in taking this man, that you hold by the hands, to be your lawful wedded husband; you must promise to love him, to honor him, to cherish him and to be to him, in all things, a true and loving wife. Do you so promise?

May I have the rings?

The rings are symbolic, in a wedding ceremony, of two things. First of all, they are made of a material that will not tarnish. This is symbolic of your love remaining forever without tarnish. They are also made in a perfect circle, having no beginning and no ending. That too is symbolic of your love remaining forever without end.

Now, Groom as you place this ring upon your bride's third finger of the left hand, repeat after me, please.

“With this ring, I thee wed and let it ever be, to us, a symbol of our eternal love”.

Now, Bride as you place this ring upon your husband's third finger of the left hand, repeat after me, please.

“With this ring, I thee wed and let it ever be, to us, a symbol of our eternal love”.

By the authority vested in me by my church and the state of Arizona, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Let us Pray: Infinite father of all, bless these two that stand before us now. Be with them in their thoughts, words and deeds. Bless their lives with health, happiness, prosperity and with a love that grows and endures. I accept these things for them now and give thanks that it is already done for I know that it is. Amen.

Groom, You may kiss your Bride!