

## Selection of Marriage Readings

### The Art of Marriage

A good marriage must be created.  
In the 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 of love that gathers in the whole family.  
It is speaking words of appreciation and showing 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.

### Marriage joins two people in the circle of its love.

Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal. It is a physical and an emotional 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. And 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 a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto 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 each other and takes a lifetime to fulfil.

### The Recipe of Love

The recipe of love must always include  
Some herbs and spices for fortitude;  
A tablespoon of forgiveness-  
A clove of loyalty-  
A cup of faith-  
And a sprig of honesty;  
A pinch of patience-  
A teaspoon of trust-  
A cup of friendship-  
And a bit of lust;  
Mix all these herbs and spices well-  
No other recipe could ever excel;  
Add (bride's name) and (groom's name) for proper effect;  
Then sauté the whole in two cups of respect.

### What does marriage mean in today's world?

We live in a world where the old –fashioned social pressures to conform have all but gone.

No longer does a young woman wait for her husband to give her a new independence from her parents' home. And society no longer frowns upon couples who choose not to marry.

So why get married at all?

Perhaps when two people decide that, in the absence of these conformities, this is something they actually want to do- for themselves, for their families and for its own sake, that the meaning of marriage has shifted to the same extent as times have moved on.

Now, a cynic might say that a piece of paper alone will not guarantee that two people will stay together for life.... And a cynic might have a point.

But ridden of any outside pressures, the vows and intentions are totally pure and unadulterated.

There cannot really be a better guarantee than this.

## **Bride and Groom**

The Wedding March begins to play  
The bride appears with her bouquet  
The wedding dress a sheer delight  
It's so beautiful, a wonderful sight.  
She slowly walks across the room  
To stand beside her nervous groom.  
They wear a smile that can't disguise  
The look of love that's in their eyes.  
They take their vows  
He takes her hand  
Then they exchange their golden bands.  
A tender moment in their life  
They share a kiss as man and wife.  
Mere words alone cannot convey  
The beauty of their wedding day.

(And then they both begin to think  
"When's the bar open, I need a drink"!)

## **On your wedding day**

Today is a day you will always remember,  
The greatest in anyone's life.  
You'll start off the day just two people in  
love,  
And you'll end it as husband and wife.  
It's a brand new beginning, the start of a journey  
With moments to cherish and treasure,  
And although there'll be times when you both  
disagree,  
These will surely be outweighed by pleasure.

You'll have heard many words of advice in the past  
When the secrets of marriage were spoken,  
But you know that the answers lie hidden inside  
Where the bond of true love lies unbroken.

So be happy forever as lovers and friends,  
It's the dawn of a new life for you.  
As you stand there together with love in your eyes  
From the moment you whisper "I do"

And with luck all your hopes and your dreams can  
be real,  
May success find its way to your hearts.  
Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys,  
But today is the day it all starts.

## **Love is giving**

Love is giving, not taking,  
Mending, not breaking,  
Trusting, believing,  
Never deceiving,  
Patiently bearing and faithfully sharing  
Each joy, every sorrow today and tomorrow.

Love is kind, understanding,  
But never demanding.  
Love is constant, prevailing,  
Its strength never failing.  
A promise once spoken for all time unbroken,  
Love's time is for ever.

## **The Owl and the Pussy-Cat** - By Edward Lear

The owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea  
In a beautiful pea-green boat,  
They took some honey, and plenty of money,  
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.  
The owl looked up to the stars above,  
And sang to a small guitar,  
"O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,  
What a beautiful Pussy you are,  
You are, You are!  
What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl!  
How charmingly sweet you sing!  
O let us be married! Too long we have tarried:  
But what shall we do for a ring?"

They sailed away for a year and a day,  
To the land where the Bong-tree grows,  
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood,  
With a ring at the end of his nose,  
His nose, His nose,  
With a ring at the end of his nose.

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling,  
Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will"  
So they took it away, and were married next day,  
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.  
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,  
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;  
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,  
They danced by the light of the moon,  
The moon, the moon,  
They danced by the light of the moon.

## 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 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.

## Yes, I'll Marry You By Pam Ayres

Yes, I'll marry you, my dear,  
And here's the reason why;  
So I can push you out of bed  
When the baby starts to cry,  
And if we hear a knocking  
And it's creepy and it's late,  
I hand you the torch you see,  
And you investigate.

Yes, I'll marry you, my dear,  
You may not apprehend it,  
But when the tumble-drier goes  
It's you that has to mend it,  
You have to face the neighbour  
Should our labrador attack him,  
And if a drunkard fondles me,  
It's you that has to whack him.

Yes, I'll marry you,  
You're virile and you're lean,  
My house is like a pigsty  
You can help to keep it clean.  
That sexy little dinner  
Which you served by candlelight,  
As I do chipolatas,  
You can cook it every night!

It's you who has to work the drill  
And put up curtain track,  
And when I've got PMT it's you  
Who gets the flak,  
I do see great advantages,  
But none of them for you,  
And so before you see the light,  
I do, I do, I do!

## Always Love Each Other by Larry S. Chengges

If you can always be as close and happy as today,  
Yet be secure enough to grow and change along  
the way.

If you can keep for you alone your love as man and  
wife,  
Yet find the time to share your joy with others in  
your life.

If you can be as one and walk through marriage  
hand in hand,  
Yet still support the goals and dreams that each of  
you have planned.

If you can dare to always go your separate ways  
together,  
Then all the wonder of today will stay with you  
forever.

## Extract from Louis de Bernieres' Captain Corelli's Mandolin

"And another thing. Love is a temporary madness, it  
erupts like volcanoes and then subsides. And when  
it subsides you have to make a decision. You have  
to work out whether your roots have so entwined  
together that it is inconceivable that you should ever  
part. Because this is what love is. Love is not  
breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the  
promulgation of promises of eternal passion, it is not  
the desire to mate every second minute of the day, it  
is not lying awake at night imagining that he is  
kissing every cranny of your body. No don't blush, I  
am telling you some truths. That is just being "in  
love", which any fool can do. Love itself is what is  
left over when being "in love" has burned away, and  
this is both an art and a fortunate accident".