

Wedding Ceremony - Spiritual 2

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OPTIONAL: ~ Hawai'ian Chant

ONA ONA I KA HALA, ME KA LEHUA E HALALEHUA, OIA NA KE NOE
OKA Ô U NO KA HIKI MAI A HIKI MAI NO OKUOU, A HIKI NO ME KE ALOHA

The Oli Aloha is a chant which offers a word of greeting. It says, in part, this is the sight for which I have longed. Now that you are here, love has come with you.

OPTIONAL: ~ Hawai'ian Blessing

A O KA MEA NONA KA MANA
E HANA MAI AI I NA MEA A PAU
A KAKOU E NOI AKU AI, ÔA E MANAO IHO AI
A NUI LOA AKU HOI

If it were possible to begin this ceremony by gathering together all the wishes of happiness for _____ and _____ from all present here, if we could gather together those precious wishes of affection and our very fondest hopes and turn them into music, we would be listening now to a most inspiring anthem, where it would be composed of the most harmonious notes possible to produce.

Even though this is not possible, just speaking of it should assure _____ and _____ that our hearts are attuned to theirs in these moments so meaningful to all of us, for "what greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labor, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness".

Marriage is an act of faith and a personal commitment as well as a moral and physical union between the parties. Marriage has been described as the best and most important relationship that can exist between two human beings; the construction of their love and trust into a single growing energy of spiritual life. It is a moral commitment that requires and deserves daily attention since no earthly happiness exceeds that of a reciprocal satisfaction in the conjugal state. Marriage should be a lifelong consecration to the ideal of loving kindness, backed with the will to make it last.

We read in "The Prophet".

True love gives nothing but itself
And takes nothing but from itself
Love does not possess, nor would it be possessed
For love is sufficient unto love.
Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself,
To awake at dawn with a winged heart and
Give thanks for another day of loving.
To rest at noon and meditate love's ecstasy;
To return home at eventide with gratitude
And then to sleep with a prayer for the beloved in your heart
And a song of praise upon your lips.

OPTIONAL:

Being assured that your love and your choice of each other as lifelong companions, and that you have your families blessings, I now ask who gives this woman to be married to this man?

(Bride's father): Her mother and I do.

VOWS

(Groom), will you take (Bride) to be your wedded wife, to love, to cherish, to continually bestow upon her your heart's deepest devotion?

And (Bride), will you take (Groom) to be your wedded husband, to love, to cherish, to continually bestow upon him your heart's deepest devotion?

Please hold hands and repeat after me:

Groom: _____, you are consecrated to me now as my wife, from this day forward, to love, to cherish and to have and to hold, for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health, in sadness and in joy, to share together as long as we both shall love.

Bride: _____, you are consecrated to me now as my husband, from this day forward, to love, to cherish and to have and to hold, for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health, in sadness and in joy, to share together as long as we both shall love.

RING EXCHANGE

(Said by Minister)

What token of your devotion do you offer your beloved?

(Minister takes the rings and says while holding them)

May these rings be blessed as the symbol of this affectionate unity. These two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle. Wherever they go, may they always return to one another in their togetherness. May these two find in each other the love for which all men and women yearn. May they grow in understanding and in compassion. May the home which they establish together be such a place of sanctuary that many will find there a friend. May these rings on their fingers symbolize the touch of the spirit of love in the heart.

(Minister hands ring to Groom)

(Groom), in placing this ring on (Bride's) finger repeat after me: " _____, I give you this ring as the pledge of my love and as the symbol of our unity."

(Minister hands ring to Bride)

(Bride), in placing this ring on (Groom's) finger repeat after me: " _____, I give you this ring as the pledge of my love and as the symbol of our unity."

PRONOUNCEMENT

In as much as _____ and _____ have consented together in marriage before this company, have pledged their faith and declared their unity by each giving and receiving a ring, and are now joined in mutual esteem and devotion, I, as an ordained Minister, pronounce that they are husband and wife together, and offer them the Benediction of the Apaches:

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 for the other

Now you are two persons, but there is only one life inside you.

Go now to your dwelling, to enter the days of your life together, and may your days be good and long upon the earth.

You may kiss the bride!