

## Marriages - Some Readings to Consider

### **From The Art Of Marriage (William A Petersen)**

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 at no time taking the other for granted;  
the courtship should not end with the honeymoon,  
it should continue through all the years.  
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.  
It is standing together facing the world.  
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.  
It is doing things for each other,  
not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice,  
but in the spirit of joy.  
It is speaking words of appreciation,  
and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.  
It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo  
or the wife to have the wings of an angel.  
It is not looking for perfection in each other.  
It is cultivating flexibility, patience,  
Understanding and a sense of humor.  
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.  
It is giving each other an atmosphere  
in which each can grow.  
It is finding room for the things of the Spirit.  
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.  
It is establishing a relationship in which  
the independence is equal, dependence is mutual,  
and the obligation is reciprocal.  
It is not only marrying the right partner,  
it is BEING the right partner.

This is "The Art of Marriage".

## Blessing of the Hands'- Author Unknown

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.

'A Lovely Love Story' by Edward Monkton.

The fierce Dinosaur was trapped inside his cage of ice.  
Although it was cold he was happy in there. It was, after all, his cage.  
Then along came the Lovely Other Dinosaur.  
The Lovely Other Dinosaur melted the Dinosaur's cage with kind words  
and loving thoughts.  
I like this Dinosaur thought the Lovely Other Dinosaur.  
Although he is fierce he is also tender and he is funny.  
He is also quite clever though I will not tell him this for now.  
I like this Lovely Other Dinosaur, thought the Dinosaur.  
She is beautiful and she is different and she smells so nice.  
She is also a free spirit, which is a quality I much admire in a dinosaur.  
But he can be so distant and so peculiar at times, thought the Lovely  
Other Dinosaur.  
He is also overly conservative with money.  
Are all Dinosaurs so conservative with money?  
But her mind skips from here to there so quickly thought the Dinosaur.  
She is also uncommonly keen on shopping.  
Are all Lovely Other Dinosaurs so uncommonly keen on shopping?  
I will forgive his peculiarity and his concern with money, thought the  
Lovely Other Dinosaur.  
For they are part of what makes him a richly characterized individual.  
I will forgive her skipping mind and her fondness for shopping, thought  
the Dinosaur.  
For she fills our life with beautiful thoughts and wonderful surprises.  
Besides, I am not unkeen on shopping either.  
Now the Dinosaur and the Lovely Other Dinosaur are old.  
Look at them.  
Together they stand on the hill telling each other stories and feeling the  
warmth of the sun  
on their backs.  
And that, my friends, is how it is with love.  
Let us all be Dinosaurs and Lovely Other Dinosaurs together.  
For the sun is warm.  
And the world is a beautiful place.

"The Keys to Love" by Anon.

The key to love is understanding.....

The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word but those unspoken gestures, the little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness.....

To accept each others faults and pardon mistakes  
Without forgetting, but with remembering what you learn from them.

The key to love is sharing.....

Facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together  
Both conquering problems, forever searching for ways  
To intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving

Without thought of return  
But with the hope of just a simple smile  
And by giving in but never giving up.

The key to love is respect.....

Realizing that you are two separate people, with different ideas  
That you don't belong to each other  
That you belong with each other, and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all.....

It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients  
That will take you to its threshold  
It is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work.....  
But the rewards are more than worth the effort....  
And that is the key to love.

### **Love is patient**

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...

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

### **Love, from The Prophet by Kahil Gibran**

Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself.

But if you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires:  
To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night.

To know the pain of too much tenderness.

To be wounded by your own understanding of love;  
And to bleed willingly and joyfully.

To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving;  
To rest at the noon hour 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 on  
your lips.

The Art of Marriage by, Wilferd A. Peterson

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Why Marriage? Mari Nichols

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.

**"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"

**"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!!"

"Foundations Of Marriage", by Regina Hill

"Love, trust, and forgiveness are the foundations of marriage. In marriage, many days will bring happiness, while other days may be sad. But together, two hearts can overcome everything... In marriage, all of the moments won't be exciting or romantic, and sometimes worries and anxiety will be overwhelming. But together, two hearts that accept will find comfort together. Recollections of past joys, pains, and shared feelings will be the glue that holds everything together during even the worst and most insecure moments. Reaching out to each other as a friend, and becoming the confidant and companion that the other one needs, is the true magic and beauty of any two people together. It's inspiring in each other a dream or a feeling, and having faith in each other and not giving up...even when all the odds say to quit. It's allowing each other to be vulnerable, to be himself or herself, even when the opinions or thoughts aren't in total agreement or exactly what you'd like them to be. It's getting involved and showing interest in each other, really listening and being available, the way any best friend should be. Exactly three things need to be remembered in a marriage if it is to be a mutual bond of sharing, caring, and loving throughout life: love, trust, and forgiveness."

*From The Awakened Heart* by Gerald May

"There is a desire within each of us, in the deep center of ourselves that we call our heart. We were born with it, it is never completely satisfied, and it never dies. We are often unaware of it, but it is always awake. It is the human desire for love. Every person in this earth yearns to love, to be loved, to know love. Our true identity, our reason for being, is to be found in this desire..."

...love is the 'why' of life: why we are functioning at all, what we want to be efficient for... I am convinced it [love] is the fundamental energy of the human spirit, the fuel on which we run, the wellspring of our vitality. And grace, which is the flowing, creative activity of love itself, is what makes all goodness possible.  
Love should come first; it should be the beginning of and the reason for everything."

### From the *The Alchemist*

"When he looked into her dark eyes, and saw that her lips were poised between a laugh and silence, he learned the most important part of the language that all the world spoke -- the language that everyone on earth was capable of understanding in their heart. It was love. Something older than humanity, more ancient than the desert. Something that exerted the same force whenever two pairs of eyes met, as had theirs here at the well. She smiled, and that was certainly an omen -- the omen he had been awaiting, without even knowing he was, for all his life. The omen he had sought to find with his sheep and in his books, in the crystals and in the silence of the desert.

"It was the pure Language of the World. It required no explanation, just as the universe needs none as it travels through endless time. What the boy felt at that moment was that he was in the presence of the only woman in his life, and that, with no need for words, she recognized the same thing. He was more certain of it than of anything in the world. He had been told by his parents and grandparents that he must fall in love and really know a person before becoming committed. But maybe people who felt that way had never learned the universal language. Because, when you know that language, it's easy to understand that someone in the world awaits you, whether it's in the middle of the desert or in some great city. And when two such people encounter each other, and their eyes meet, the past and the future become unimportant. There is only that moment, and the incredible certainty that everything under the sun has been written by one hand only. It is the hand that evokes love, and creates a twin soul for every person in the world. Without such love, one's dreams would have no meaning."

-- *Paulo Coelho*

## **"The Promises of Marriage"**

*"Marriage is a promise of companionship,  
Of having someone to share  
All of life's experiences.*

*Marriage does not promise that there will  
Not be any rough times,  
Just the assurance that there will  
Always be someone  
Who cares and will help you through  
To better times.*

*Marriage does not promise eternal romance,  
Just eternal love and commitment.  
Marriage cannot prevent disappointments,  
Disillusionment, or grief,  
But it can offer hope, acceptance,  
And comfort.*

*Marriage can't protect you from making  
Individual choices  
Or shelter you from the world,  
But it will help to reassure you  
That there is someone by your side  
Who truly cares,  
When the world hurts you  
And makes you feel vulnerable,  
Marriage offers the promise that there will  
Be someone waiting to listen,  
To console, to inspire.*

*Marriage is the joining of two people  
Who share the promise  
That only marriage can make -  
To share the sunshine and the shadows,  
And to experience a richer, more fulfilling life  
Because of it."*