RELIGIOUS INSIGHTS ABOUT MARRIAGE

A selection of marriage wisdom and blessings from many traditions for couples coming together from around the world to dedicate or rededicate their marriage.

WISDOM FROM VARIOUS TRADITIONS

Biblical Wisdom

* For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. - Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6

Christian Wisdom

* 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. - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Jewish Wisdom

* From every human being there rises a light that reaches straight to heaven, and when two souls that are designed to be together find each other, their streams of light flow together and a single, brighter light goes forth from their united being. - Bal Shem Tov

Native American Wisdom

* God in heaven above please protect the ones we love. We honor all you created as we pledge our hearts and lives together.  
  We honor mother-earth and ask for our marriage to be abundant and grow stronger through the seasons;  
  We honor fire and ask that our union be warm and glowing with love in our hearts;  
  We honor wind and ask we sail though life safe and calm as in our father's arms  
  We honor water to clean and soothe our relationship that it may never thirsts 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. - Cherokee Prayer

Islamic Wisdom

* Among His signs is that He created spouses for you among yourselves that you may console yourselves with them. He has planted affection and mercy between you. - Qur’an 30.21

Hindu Wisdom

* Sweet be the glances we exchange,  
  Our faces showing true concord.  
  Enshrine me in your heart and let  
  One spirit dwell within us. - Atharva Veda 7.36
* You have become mine forever. Yes, we have become partners. I have become yours. Hereafter, I cannot live without you. Do not live without me. Let us share the joys.  
  We are word and meaning united.  
  You are thought and I am sound.  
  May the nights be honey-sweet for us.  
  May the mornings be honey-sweet for us.  
  May the plants be honey-sweet for us.  
  May the earth be honey-sweet for us.
* I *am He, you are She;*  
  I am Song, you are Verse,  
  I am Heaven, you are Earth.  
  We two shall here together dwell,  
  becoming parents of children. - Atharva Veda 14.2.71

Buddhist Wisdom

* We aspire to make our spiritual path the core of our life together. We will help each other on the path to enlightenment, watering the seeds of love, compassion, generosity, ethics, patience, joyous effort, concentration and wisdom in each other. As we age and undergo the various ups and downs of cyclic existence, we aspire to transform them into the path of love, compassion, joy and equanimity. - Ven. Thubten Chodron

Sikh Wisdom

* Not those are true husband and wife that with each other [merely] consort; truly wedded are those that in two frames, are as one light. - Adi Granth, Var-Suhi-Ki, M.3, p. 788

Chinese Wisdom

* When two people are at one in their inmost hearts, they shatter even the strength of iron or bronze.  
  And when two people understand each other in their inmost hearts, their words are sweet and strong, like the fragrance of orchids. - I Ching
* When father, mother, sons, elder and younger brothers all act in a manner suited to their various positions within the family, when husbands play their proper role and wives are truly wifely, the way of that family runs straight. It is by the proper regulation of each family that the whole world is stabilized. I Ching

PRAYERS OF BLESSING

* Irish Blessing  
  May your mornings bring joy and your evenings bring peace. May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase.  
  May the saddest day of your future be no worse than the happiest day of your past. May your hands be forever clasped in friendship and your hearts joined forever in love.  
  Your lives are very special. God has touched you in many ways. May his blessings rest upon you and fill all your coming days.
* Old English Blessing  
  May your joys be as bright as the morning, your years of happiness as numerous as the stars in the heavens, and your troubles but shadows that fade in the sunlight of love.
* Jewish Blessing  
  Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hath created joy and gladness, bridegroom and bride, mirth and exultation, pleasure and delight, love and brotherhood, peace and friendship.  
  May there soon be heard the voice of joy and gladness,the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the jubilant voice of bridegrooms from the wedding canopy,and of youths from their feasts of song.  
  Blessed art thou, O Lord,who gives the Bridegroom joy in his bride.