

Become a Spiritual Leader for Life Cycle Events

# Additional Selected Wedding Readings

## **LOVE**

~ By Roy Croft ~

I love you,

Not only for what you are,

But for what I am

When I am with you.

I love you,

Not only for what

You have made of yourself,

But for what

You are making of me.

I love you

For the part of me

That you bring out;

I love you

For putting your hand

Into my heaped-up heart

And passing over

All the foolish, weak things That you can't help Dimly seeing there, And for drawing out Into the light All the beautiful belongings That no one else had looked Quite far enough to find. I love you because you Are helping me to make Of the lumber of my life Not a tavern But a temple; Out of the works Of my every day Not a reproach But a song. I love you Because you have done More than any creed Could have done To make me good, And more than any fate To make me happy.

You have done it

Without a touch,

Without a word,

Without a sign.

You have done it

By being yourself.

# **MY LOVE**

~ Linda Lee Elrod ~

When I met you, I had no idea how much my life was about to be changed... but then, how could I have known?

A love like ours happens once in a lifetime.

You were a miracle to me, the one who was everything I had ever dreamed of, the one I thought existed only in my imagination.

And when you came into my life,
I realized that what I
had always thought
was happiness

couldn't compare to the joy loving you brought me.

You are a part of everything

I think and do and feel,
and with you by my side,

I believe that anything is possible.

(this day) gives me a chance
to thank you for the miracle of you...
you are, and always will be,
the love of my life.

## somewhere i have never travelled

By e.e. cummings

somewhere i have never travelled, gladly beyond any experience, your eyes have their silence: in your most frail gesture are things which enclose me, or which i cannot touch because they are too near

your slightest look easily will unclose me
though i have closed myself as fingers,
you open always petal by petal myself as Spring opens
(touching skilfully, mysteriously) her first rose

or if your wish be to close me,i and my life will shut very beautifully, suddenly, as when the heart of this flower imagines the snow carefully everywhere descending;

nothing which we are to perceive in this world equals the power of your intense fragility:whose texture compels me with the colour of its countries, rendering death and forever with each breathing

(i do not know what it is about you that closes and opens; only something in me understands the voice of your eyes is deeper than all roses) nobody, not even the rain, has such small hands

## **SONNET LXIX**

~ By Pablo Neruda

Maybe nothingness is to be without your presence, without you moving, slicing the noon like a blue flower, without you walking later through the fog and the cobbles,

without the light you carry in your hand, golden, which maybe others will not see, which maybe no one knew was growing like the red beginnings of a rose.

In short, without your presence: without your coming

suddenly, incitingly, to know my life, gust of a rosebush, wheat of wind:

since then I am because you are, since then you are, I am, we are, and through love I will be, you will be, we'll be.

# **TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL**

By Maya Angelou

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives

and in its train come ecstasies

old memories of pleasure

ancient histories of pain.

Yet if we are bold,

love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity

In the flush of love's light

we dare be brave

And suddenly we see

that love costs all we are

and will ever be.

Yet it is only love

which sets us free.

# TRUE LOVE

~ By Author Unknown ~

True love is a sacred flame

That burns eternally,

And none can dim its special glow

Or change its destiny.

True love speaks in tender tones

And hears with gentle ear,

True love gives with open heart

And true love conquers fear.

True love makes no harsh demands

It neither rules nor binds,

And true love holds with gentle hands

The hearts that it entwines.

#### UNTITLED

~ By Christina Rossetti ~

What is the beginning? Love.

What the course. Love still.

What the goal. The goal is Love.

On a happy hill

Is there nothing then but Love?

Search we sky or earth

There is nothing out of Love

Hath perpetual worth;

All things flag but only Love,

All things fail and flee;

There is nothing left but Love

Worthy you and me.

## 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.

## **I CHING**

~ Excerpt ~

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.

## ON MARRIAGE

From The Prophet

~ By Kahlil Gibran ~

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.

You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.

Ay, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.

But let there be spaces in your togetherness,

And let the winds of 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 one of you be alone,

Even as the strings of a 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.

And stand together yet 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.