

PROCESSION

The wedding party walks up the aisle to the altar, usually accompanied by music.

INVOCATION (M.C)

Beloved Creator, Essence of Love, and Source of Hope, Open our hearts and fill us with Your Presence. You graciously give to us the longing for love and the capability of loving, and we give you thanks for Denice and Ricardo, for their beautiful hearts and willing spirits, and for the example of love that they embody here today. Elevate us to an awareness of the Sacred and the Eternal, as we celebrate this miraculous moment in their lives. Be with them on this joyous occasion of showing their love and making their vows; and be with us, their witnesses, that we might all be inspired by the blessings shared today. Amen.

WELCOMING (OFFICIANT)

Good afternoon. We gather here today to witness and celebrate an act of deep love.

Denice and Ricardo, in their devotion, respect and love for each other wish to unite in the holy bond of marriage, and to dedicate themselves to each other's happiness and well-being as life mates and partners. Ricardo and Denice wanted to keep to the simple theme of this being a celebration of their finding the right person to spend forever with and of sharing that joy with those they love. There are so many wonderful parallels to the journey of marriage. Ricardo and Denice have decided to incorporate many customs into their wedding ceremony today thus making their wedding, their vows, unique to them and what they stand for. Everything speaks of new beginnings and of nurturing that which is good in our lives with a commitment to continue in faith, hope, and love. On behalf of them, I welcome you all.

AIR CEREMONY(M.C)

As soon as we call to mind the air element within the body- the air in our lungs and other cavities, even the gases dissolved in our blood- we're immediately aware of the breathing, aware that air is flowing rhythmically in and out of the body. So almost simultaneously we recall the Air element outside of us -the air surrounding us and touching the skin in this very moment, the winds and clouds and breezes that we see and hear. In this ceremony the couple will be taking in and giving out these elements to each other. The Air element will enter and leave their bodies as they breath in and out. Air will enter, oxygen is dissolving in the bloodstream, being taken to cells to provide energy, and carbon dioxide is being exhaled. This ceremony will symbolize their connection to their souls and the breath of life. Their purpose is that the Air carries away their troubles, blows away strife, and carries positive thoughts. There is no boundary between inner Air and outer Air. There is only one Air element, and is within us as is within them. The couple will join us now. Please let's quietly observe and meditate on their purpose.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

A wedding is more than a celebration of the Love that lives in our Bride and Groom's hearts today. It reaches into the future and proclaims their intentions for that which all of their tomorrows shall hold. A couple who we are joined by their firm resolves that come what may, they remain together through time. Yet very little is said as to how they are to do this, and of how as the years pass they shall remain close to one another in spirit. It is with this in mind that I will begin by asking you to make your promises together...

PROCESSION

The Groom shows up.

The Bride's wedding party walk up the aisle to the altar, accompanied by music.

The Bride shows up.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

A wedding is more than a celebration of the love that lives in our Bride and Groom's hearts today. It reaches into the future and proclaims their intentions for that which all of their tomorrows shall hold. A couple who wed are joined by their firm resolve that come what may, they remain together through time. Yet very little is said as to how they are to do this, and of how as the years pass they shall remain close to one another in spirit. It is with this in mind that I will begin by asking you to make your promises together...

By the Air that is your Breath,

Do your pledge to one another your openness and honesty, that the love for one another shall be in the foreground of your thoughts always,

Guiding your actions and that you shall leave no parts of self unknowable to one another?"

(Ricardo & Denice) "We do."

By the Fire is your Spirit,

Do you pledge to continue to love one another wholly and fearlessly, that you will share each other's laughter and work together to spark creativity and inspire passion in all aspects of your life together?"

Ricardo & Denice "We do."

By the Waters of your Blood,

Do you pledge that you will always be there to comfort, soothe, and heal one another, and that you will stand together when the future is unclear, proving that times may change but your love is constant?"

Ricardo & Denice: "We do."

By the Earth of your Body,

Do you pledge that your home will always be a place of warmth and welcome, a safe haven and sanctuary to body, mind, and spirit that shall sustain and nourish your roots as you grow in to all that is and shall be your life together?"

Ricardo & Denice: "We do."

Living by these promises that you make today, may your lives together be blessed with love and laughter, wisdom and wonder.

SILENT BLESSING (by other than the Officiant)

We now close our eyes and bring to mind any loved ones who could not be here today.

Though they are absent physically, we invoke, through our thought and prayers, their loving presence. We pray that God might multiply beyond measure the blessings from these loved ones to this loving couple, and their children. Now, from our hearts, we ourselves visualize and sanctify all the blessing we would bestow on Denice and Ricardo in their lives as a couple and their family. And in our sincere desire to bless, we in turn, are blessed also. Blessed Be.

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Within each human being burns the spark of the Divine. The lighted candle is symbolic of the cosmic creation and the light and truth in the human heart, mind and soul. Fire also symbolizes both purity and passion. Let it light your way on the journey of life that you are about to embark on. In committing to one another today, in the spirit of being born new to one another, you kindle each other's divine light and promise always to see that light in one another -to nurture and tend that divine flame in your partner as best you can each day-especially at the times it may be hardest to see, and the times your partner may doubt or forget the existence of that light within him -or herself.

Denice, take this candle now and symbolically enter the sacred trust to honor the divine spark in Ricardo by lighting it from this candle representing the Divine Source. (She lights candle).

Ricardo, take this candle new and symbolically enter the sacred trust to honor the divine spark in Denice by lighting it from this candle representing the Divine Source. (He lights candle).

If at this time you wish to affirm your free choice to unite as partners in marriage, please light the unlit candle together now. (They light unit candle together) As you bring your individual flames together to symbolically from the new and greater flame of your marriage, never forget that the light of your union is made up of your unique, individual expressions of light and is continually sustained and renewed by your connection to the Divine Spark, the eternal light of God.

The candle you lit together symbolizes your marriage, your willingness to surrender to something greater than yourselves. May the light of your marriage, Denice and Ricardo, be a beacon in the night, a safe harbor from the storms of life. May your future be made infinitely brighter by the light and the love that you share.

WATER CEREMONY

Those who take it sacred vows have their lives blended together into one, as the waters of two rivers are joined when they come together to form and even greater one. There is a saying in Eastern tradition that when you have love, even plain water is sweet. The clear water that you share today reflects the beauty and simplicity that is available to you both in remembering and devoting yourselves to the principal of love in your marriage. May grow sweeter with each passing year. You may now drink from this fountain of love. (Couples give each other a drink from the same glass).

SAND CEREMONY

Please note this empty glass. Glass, itself, is made from sand and the sands of time have come together, melting into one piece to make this vessel. Today, this relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand one, representing your BRIDE and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be, and the other representing you, GROOM, and all that you were and all that you are, and all that you will ever be. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be. Please Denice and Ricardo take your separate glass of sand and alternate the pouring of sand into this joining vessel and united, repeat after me: *“You are my love for eternity. I blend with you; my heart is like these grains of sands, merging with yours. I am yours. You are mine. We are together forever like the sand, like the wind. We are one.”*

THE UNITY COIN CEREMONY

The thirteen coins, which represent the universal tenets of marriage; Love, Trust, Commitment, Respect, Joy, Happiness, Harmony, Wisdom, Wholeness, Nurturing, Caring, Cooperation and Peace. The coins represent the groom’s commitment to support his family and the couple’s dedication to mutually contribute to the relationship.

At this time I ask you to hand the coins to me. Let’s together bless this coins that represent prosperity, and unity. These coins show more than just wealth. They symbolize the man’s role in caring for his bride. To secure her future, to ensure she has her every need met, and to ensure his promise to do so will not be in vain nor broken. The coins are used to show the strength and wisdom in which this Groom will use to care for his Bride (the coins are then handed to the Groom) This coins are handle to you and your acceptance of the coins you recognize your responsibility as a provider and your promise to support and take care of your bride as well as your family (the coins will now be handle to the Bride Denice). These coins are handed to you and your acceptance means taking that your trust and confidence unconditionally with total dedication and prudence. By their acceptance these 13 coins represent wealth, prosperity, security and a mutual agreement as well as a promise that each shall contribute to the welfare of the other, while the Groom fully accepts his role to care and provide security for his Bride (coins are handle to the Officiant): I Knowledge this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May His blessing rain forth on you both from this day forward, and may you never know hunger or cold as long as you both shall live. (Everyone: Amen).

VOWS

Ricardo, do you take Denice to be your lawfully wedded wife?

Do you vow to love her and care for her for as long as you both shall live?

Do you accept her, with all of her faults and strengths, and offer yourself to her with all of your own faults and strengths?

Do you promise to help her when she needs help, and to turn to her when you need help?

Do you promise to be a faithful and loving companion and to always put the promises you make this day above all else?

Ricardo: “I do.”

Denice, do you take Ricardo to be your lawfully wedded husband?

Do you vow to love him and care for him?

For as long as you both shall live?

Do you accept him, with all of his faults and strengths, and offer yourself to him with all of your own faults and strengths?

Do you promise to help him when he needs help, and to turn to him when you need help?

Do you promise to be a faithful and loving companion and to always put the promises you make this day above all else?”

Denice: “I do.”

QUESTION/RING CEREMONY COMBINED (*A)

Do you have your rings? ~ May I have the rings? The circle has long been a symbol of God. Without beginning or end and with no pint of weakness, the circle is a reminder of the eternal quality of God and of unending strength. Let the seamless circle of these rings become the symbol of your endless love. Your wedding rings are most special because they say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bonded, to allow the presence of another human being to enhance who you are. Your rings carry a potent double message: We are

individual and yet we belong; we are not alone. As you wear them through time, they will reflect not only who you are by also the glorious union that you are now creating. As you look to your hand and your wedding band, it will softly speak of the great gift that you have been given and all that you have in one another. It shall also be a reminder in the times of great joy, that you have someone to share it with. Never again do you walk alone for your love shall be with you always.”

Ricardo place the ring on your beloved’s finger and repeat after me:

I Ricardo take you Denice to be my Wife

I will Love you, and Honor you,

Respect and cherish you,

For all the days of my Life.

Denice place the ring on your beloved’s finger and repeat after me:

I Denice take you Ricardo to be my Husband.

I will Love you, and Honor you,

Respect and cherish you for all the days of my Life.”

QUESTION/RING CEREMONY COMBINED (or *B)

Do you have your rings? ~ The circle has long been a symbol of God. Without beginning or end and with no pint of weakness, the circle is a reminder of the eternal quality of God and of unending strength. Let the seamless circle of these rings become the symbol of your endless love. Your wedding rings are most special because they say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bonded, to allow the presence of another human being to enhance who you are. Your rings carry a potent double message: We are individual and yet we belong; we are not alone. As you wear them through time, they will reflect not only who you are by also the glorious union that you are now creating.

God, bless these rings and you who exchange them. Fill them with your Holy Presence. Keep them safe in the circle of your protection and love.

Ricardo, as you place this ring on Denice, I now ask you: Do you take this woman to be your lawful wedded wife? Do you promise God, Denice and all of us here that from this point forward, your arms may be her shelter and your heart may be her guide? Do you promise to support her and nourish her and to love and respect and honor her for the rest of your days on earth? If so please answer “I do”.

Denice, as you place this ring on Ricardo, I now ask you: Do you take this man to be your lawful wedded wife? Do you promise God, Denice and all of us here that from this point forward, your arms may be her shelter and your heart may be her guide? Do you promise to support her and nourish her and to love and respect and honor her for the rest of your days on earth? If so please answer “I do”.

PRONOUNCEMENT

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 each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two bodies, but there is only one life before you.

As you go to your dwelling place to enter the days of your togetherness

May your days be good and long upon the earth?

By the power vested in me, are my legal right, greatest joy and privilege I now pronounce you Husband and Wife!

You may seal your marriage with a kiss.

Mr. & Mrs _____