



Perpetual Imagination

*A Secular Summer Union
A Wedding Song and Service For A Lifelong Commitment*

By Solomon Deep

This service was performed in September 2013, and was conceived and written by Solomon Deep for a marriage of two friends in Brookline, Massachusetts.

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Today, we welcome you to the commitment of marriage offered between *[GROOM]* and *[BRIDE]*. Together we are in the presence of family and friends to joyfully witness the joining of this man and woman's lives in exalted wedlock.

This is an unparalleled moment of felicity, mirth, elation, and comfort, and let us hold these feelings in our hearts today as we celebrate the love of *[BRIDEFIRSTNAME]* and *[GROOMFIRSTNAME]*. Let us be reminded of these feelings whenever we see them together, and of the sheer joy we share on this beautiful day.

[BRIDEFIRSTNAME]... *[GROOMFIRSTNAME]*... Marriage is a blessed spiritual contract that we enter into during the short time we have on this planet. This contract is a commitment of our lives and our souls, an openness of consciousness and life, honesty and truth, trust and belief. It is binding ourselves to another human being, where we are no longer living a life open to interpretation, but rather a covenant where we must commit to understanding one another, to ceaselessly communicate and be open with one another, and to bridge the velvet existence between one another's crimson hearts that cannot be severed, given up, or released at any cost. The weight of your love and commitment will follow you for eternity.

But there is beauty in this, for just as difficult as it is, it is also a majestic and miraculous source of safety, comfort, grace, and joy.

[GROOMFIRSTNAME] and *[BRIDEFIRSTNAME]*... Do you both freely stand before us, your friends and family, without any reservations or apprehension, with the intention to commit yourselves to one another in this unparalleled contract of marriage?

[BOTH:] We do.

[GROOMFIRSTNAME], will you henceforward take *[BRIDEFIRSTNAME]* as your wedded wife and to live together in your bond of marriage? Will you selflessly love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her, in illness and in health, and forsaking all others, be singularly and completely faithful to her so long as you both shall live?

[groom replies:] I do.

[BRIDEFIRSTNAME], will you henceforward take *[GROOMFIRSTNAME]* as your wedded husband and to live together in your bond of marriage? Will you selflessly love him, comfort him, honor him, and keep him, in illness and in health, and forsaking all others, be singularly and completely faithful to him so long as you both shall live?

[bride replies:] I do.

Who gives *[BRIDEFIRSTNAME]* to be married to *[GROOMFIRSTNAME]*?

[bride's representative replies:] I do.

Friends... Family... The honor of your presence is a gift, as your bond to these two young souls in front of you have lasted a lifetime in most circumstances. A lifetime where you have loved their gentle spirits, their moving words, their grace and faithfulness to all of us. The simple gesture of being present today has brought an unmistakable atmosphere of love that seems to hum in the ground beneath our feet at this very moment.

It was not so long ago that we experienced the unmistakable magic in their voices when we heard of their new love. It was apparent that a spirit of enthusiasm and a radiance of distilled, pure bliss immediately took hold of every beat of their hearts. It was infectious. It was intoxicating. It was holy.

Now we are here today to witness these two amazing people as they give themselves to one another. Of course, we will still be a part of their lives for every moment hereafter. But their commitment to one another is so much more than friends, roommates, or entertainment for one another. These people that stand before you – people whom we have known and loved for so long – have emerged as the single most important thing in their lives. They shine with it, they share it with all of us, and they now commit to move to a new chapter of their lives where we are no longer concerned with anything – but we know that they are so loved, so happy, so content, and so worth it for one another. Their reign begins today.

Today they ascend. Today they claim their crowns of golden love. Their reign will last forever, and we shared in this, their glorious coronation.

[BRIDEFIRSTNAME] and *[GROOMFIRSTNAME]*... Today, you are one family, one kingdom.

Unlike the faces in attendance today, most of whom are engaged with you as immovable spirits who share your genetics as much as your wits, you have chosen one another. Whether the choice was astral, or earthly, driven by fate or chance, we are here to witness your commitment and your bond – a commitment you willfully enter. You are stating to all of us, to the world, and to the universe, that you are putting the needs of the other above the needs of yourself. You will love, honor, and support each other at all times, no matter the cost. That no matter the circumstance or the situation, the feast or the famine, the illness or health, the elation or depression, you will never think of yourself first. These are pledges you make today not only with your words, but with your blood, your heart, and your soul.

The rings, please.

[take rings]

[BRIDEFIRSTNAME] and *[GROOMFIRSTNAME]*, please face one another and join hands.

These unbroken rings, forged and shaped by man, were mastered for only one purpose: they are an unbroken, unending, eternal symbol of much more - the strength of your love, commitment, and duty to one another that you are bound to from this moment on. These rings are a spiritual link; the magnetic power that pulls you toward one another as compasses to true north. Your rings, like your love, will exist longer than all of us.

[GROOMFIRSTNAME], take *[BRIDEFIRSTNAME's]* left hand in your left hand, and with your right hand place this ring upon her finger as you repeat after me.

[GROOM'S VOWS]

From this day forward, I am always here.

Pure friendship and pure partnership

Bound by love, sacrifice, faith, and hope.

We are more than a promise, more than gravity,

More than myself, when today we are we.

I promise that I live for your happiness,

live for your strength, and live for your soul.

There are no words for my love,

but an energy that is simply incomplete

without you, my one and only.

[BRIDEFIRSTNAME], take*[GROOMFIRSTNAME's]* left hand in your left hand, and with your right hand place this ring upon his finger as you repeat after me.

[BRIDE'S VOWS]

You are my greatest inspiration and joy
Bound by love, sacrifice, faith, and hope.
We are more than a promise, more than gravity,
More than myself, when today we are we.
I promise that I live for your happiness,
live for your strength, and live for your soul.
There are no words for my love,
but an energy that is simply incomplete
without you, my one and only.

As you have placed these rings upon each other's fingers, you have entered this covenant and become one. These sacred rites we have performed have linked you physically and spiritually together, just as they have through cultures, religions, and empires for centuries, leading back to the beginning of our very existence. May your love and happiness last even longer than that, and any sorrows be swift and inconsequential.

By the power vested upon me by the State of *[STATE]* and witnessed by your friends, family, and the universe on this day, *[DATE]*, I pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.