

# MARRIAGE

## *Union and Unity*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 3002 Marriage is not a matter of two halves but of four quarters,  
(male-active, male-passive, female-passive, and female-  
active) uniting in balanced harmony of reciprocal  
fecundation.  
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 3003 Matrimony - the high sea for which no compass has yet  
been invented.  
Heine (1797-1856)
- 3004 Marriage - a community consisting of a master, a mistress,  
and two slaves - making in all two.  
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)
- 3005 Marriage is one long conversation, checkered by disputes.  
Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1895)
- 3006 The ritual of marriage is not simply a social event;  
it is a crossing of threads in the fabric of fate.  
Many strands bring the couple and their families together  
and spin their lives into a fabric that is woven on their  
children.  
Portuguese-Jewish Wedding Ceremony

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 3007 Unity can only be manifested by the Binary. Unity itself  
and the idea of Unity are already two.  
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 3008 Of earthly goods, the best is a good wife;  
A bad, the bitterest curse of human life.  
Simonides (B.C. 556?-468?)
- 3009 The land of marriage has this peculiarity: that strangers  
are desirous of inhabiting it, while its natural  
inhabitants would willingly be banished from it.  
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 3010 Maids want nothing but husbands, and when they have them,  
they want everything.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 3011 The calmest husbands make the stormiest wives.  
Thomas Dekker (1577-1632)

- 3012 Men should keep their eyes wide open before marriage,  
and half shut afterward.  
Madeleine Scuderi (1608-1701) 2 of 10
- 3013 Thus grief still treads upon the heels of pleasure,  
Marry'd in haste, we may repent at leisure.  
William Congreve (1670-1729)
- 3014 Men dream in courtship, but in wedlock wake.  
Pope (1688-1744)
- 3015 Where there's marriage without love,  
there will be love without marriage.  
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 3016 Marriage has many pains, but celibacy has no pleasures.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 3017 In the opinion of the world marriage ends all, as it does in  
a comedy. - The truth is precisely the reverse; it begins  
all.  
Anne Swetchine (1782-1857)
- 3018 Love-making is radical, while marriage is conservative.  
Eric Hoffer (1902-1983)
- 3019 Love is the dawn of marriage,  
and marriage is the sunset of love.  
French Proverb

### 3. INSIGHT

- 3020 A close bond is possible only between two persons.  
A group of three engenders jealousy.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 3021 From of old the things that have acquired unity are these:  
Heaven by unity has become clear;  
Earth by unity has become steady;  
The Spirit by unity has become spiritual;  
The Valley by unity has become full;  
All things by unity have come into existence.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 3022 All things appear and disappear because of the concurrence  
of causes and conditions. Nothing ever exists entirely  
alone; everything is in relation to everything else.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)

- 3023 When without any apparent cause a young wife, pulling her  
old husband by the hair and hugging him unmercifully,  
kisses him, there will be a reason for it.  
The Hitopadesa (600?-1100? A.D.)
- 3024 We're like the sea, people our waves;  
Necessarily we are associated with everyone.  
Ni'matullah Wali (1331-1431?)
- 3025 The wedlocks of minds will be greater than that of bodies.  
Erasmus (1466-1536)
- 3026 A good marriage (if any there be) refuses the conditions  
of love and endeavors to present those of amity.  
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 3027 One year of Joy, another of Comfort, the rest of Content,  
make the married Life happy.  
Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)
- 3028 Society is the union of men but not men themselves;  
the citizen may perish, but man remains.  
Montesquieu (1689-1755)
- 3029 Marriage is the only adventure open to the timid.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 3030 We must, indeed, all hang together,  
or most assuredly we shall hang separately.  
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 3031 I believe it will be found that those who marry late  
are best pleased with their children, and those who marry  
early with their partners.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 3032 In married life three is company and two is none.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 3033 A man who marries a woman to educate her falls into the same  
fallacy as the woman who marries a man to reform him.  
Elbert Hubbard (1859-1915)
- 3034 A man may be a fool and not know it, but not if he is  
married.  
H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)

**4. POSITIVE**

- 3035 Honour not thy wife the less, because she is in thy power;  
and despise him that hath said, "Wouldst thou love her less?  
marry her!" What hath put her into thy power, but her  
confidence in thy virtue? Shouldst thou love her less,  
for being more obliged to her?  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 3036 Unity requires a collective moral force, together with a  
great leader. Ancestors unite the clan, and heaven unites  
nature. With unity the time is right for great deeds.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 3037 Happy and thrice happy are they who enjoy an uninterrupted  
union, and whose love, unbroken by any complaints, shall  
not dissolve until the last day.  
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 3038 Where there is unity there is always victory.  
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 3039 When many work together for a goal,  
Great things may be accomplished.  
It is said a lion cub was killed  
By a single colony of ants.  
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 3040 No happiness is like unto it, no love so great as that of  
man and wife, no such comfort as a sweet wife.  
Robert Burton (1576-1640)
- 3041 The joys of marriage are the heaven on earth,  
Life's paradise, great princess, the soul's quiet,  
Sinews of concord, earthly immortality,  
Eternity of pleasures.  
John Ford (1586-1640)
- 3042 Love is often a fruit of marriage.  
Moliere (1622-1673)
- 3043 Two persons who have chosen each other out of all the  
species with a design to be each other's mutual comfort and  
entertainment have, in that action, bound themselves to be  
good-humored, affable, discreet, forgiving, patient, and  
joyful, with respect to each other's frailties and  
perfections, to the end of their lives.  
Addison (1672-1719)

- 3044 Marriage is the most natural state of man, and...the state in which you will find solid happiness.  
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 3045 Marriage is the best state for man in general; and every man is a worse man in proportion as he is unfit for the married state.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 3046 No jealousy their dawn of love overcast,  
Nor blasted were their wedded days with strife;  
Each season looked delightful as it past,  
To the fond husband and the faithful wife.  
James Beattie (1735-1803)
- 3047 Union does everything when it is perfect. - It satisfies desires, simplifies needs, foresees the wishes, and becomes a constant fortune.  
Senancour (1770-1846)
- 3048 In the career of female fame, there are few prizes to be obtained which can vie with the obscure state of a beloved wife, or a happy mother.  
Jane Porter (1776-1850)
- 3049 But happy they, the happiest of their kind!  
Whom gentler stars unite, and in one fate  
Their Hearts, their Fortunes, and their Beings blend.  
James B. V. Thomson (1834-1882)
- 3050 All humanity is one undivided and indivisible family, and each one of us is responsible for the misdeeds of all the others. I cannot detach myself from the wickedest soul.  
Gandhi (1869-1948)
- 3051 A good marriage is that in which each appoints the other guardian of his solitude. Once the realization is accepted that even between the closest human beings infinite distances continue to exist, a wonderful living side by side can grow up, if they succeed in loving the distance between them which makes it possible for each to see the other whole and against a wide sky.  
Rilke (1875-1926)

## 5. NEGATIVE

- 3052 As to marriage or celibacy, let a man take which course he will, he will be sure to repent.  
Socrates (B.C. 469-399)

- 3053 Marriage, to tell the truth, is an evil, but it is a necessary evil.  
Menander (B.C. 342-291) 6 of 10
- 3054 Marriage is a covenant which hath nothing free but the entrance.  
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 3055 A man finds himself seven years older the day after his marriage.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 3056 One was never married, and that's his hell;  
another is, and that's his plague.  
Robert Burton (1576-1640)
- 3057 Suspicion, Discontent, and Strife,  
Come in for Dowrie with a Wife.  
Robert Herrick (1591-1674)
- 3058 There may be good, but there are no pleasant marriages.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 3059 There are few women so perfect that their husbands do not regret having married them at least once a day.  
La Bruyere (1645-1696)
- 3060 Every man plays the fool once in his life, but to marry is playing the fool all one's life long.  
William Congreve (1670-1729)
- 3061 Oh! how many torments lie in the small circle of a wedding ring.  
Colley Cibber (1671-1757)
- 3062 It destroys one's nerves to be amiable every day to the same human being.  
Isaac D'Israeli (1766-1848)
- 3063 Marriage resembles a pair of shears, so joined that they cannot be separated; often moving in opposite directions, yet always punishing any one who comes between them.  
Sydney Smith (1771-1845)
- 3064 Marriage is a feast where the grace is sometimes better than the feast.  
Colton (1780-1832)
- 3065 The boredom of married life is inevitably the death of love whenever love has preceded marriage.  
Stendhal (1783-1842)

- 3066 So heavy is the chain of wedlock that it needs two to carry it, and sometimes three.  
Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870)
- 3067 Of all sexual aberrations, chastity is the strangest.  
Anatole France (1844-1924)
- 3068 Men marry because they are tired, women because they are curious: both are disappointed.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 3069 How marriage ruins a man! It is as demoralizing as cigarettes, and far more expensive.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

## 6. ADVICE

- 3070 Remember thou art man's reasonable companion, not the slave of his passion; the end of thy being is not merely to gratify his loose desire, but to assist him in the toils of life, to soothe him with thy tenderness, and recompense his care with soft endearments.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 3071 When thou findest sensibility of heart, joined with softness of manners, an accomplished mind, with a form agreeable to thy fancy, take her home to thy house; she is worthy to be thy friend, thy companion in life, the wife of thy bosom.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 3072 If you would marry suitably, marry your equal.  
Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.)
- 3073 What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder.  
Matthew (50?-100? A.D.)
- 3074 The happiness of married life depends upon making small sacrifices with readiness and cheerfulness.  
John Selden (1584-1654)
- 3075 First get an absolute conquest over thyself, and then thou wilt easily govern thy wife.  
Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)
- 3076 If you would have the nuptial union last, let virtue be the bond that ties it fast.  
Nicholas Rowe (1674-1718)

- 3077 If you wish to ruin yourself, marry a rich wife. 8 of 10  
Jules Michelet (1798-1874)
- 3078 One should believe in marriage as in the immortality of the soul.  
Balzac (1799-1850)
- 3079 Marriage is a great responsibility. Do not trust altogether to, or be beguiled by, the eye, for marriages are not to be contracted by the hands and eye, but with reason and the heart.  
Lubbock (1834-1913)
- 3080 Let there be spaces in your togetherness.  
Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)
- 3081 Don't marry for money, you can borrow it cheaper.  
Scottish Proverb

## 7. POTPOURRI

- 3082 Water, everywhere over the earth, flows to join together. A single natural law controls it. Each human is a member of a community and should work within it.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 3083 He who experiences the unity of life sees his own Self in all beings, and all beings in his own Self, and looks on everything with an impartial eye.  
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 3084 To understand a holy unity, examine the flame rising from a candle. We see at first two kinds of light, one glistening white and one blue or black. The white light is above and rises in a straight line, the blue or black light is beneath and appears to be the source of the white; yet the two lights are so closely united they form one single flame. But the source formed by the blue or black light is, in turn, attached to the wick under it. The white light never changes, it always remains white; but several shades are distinguishable in the lower light. Moreover, the lower light moves in two opposite directions; above, it is connected to the white light, and below, it is attached to the burning matter; this matter continually consumes itself and rises toward the upper light. It is thus that all that is, reunites with the one unity.  
Zohar (120?-1200? A.D.)

- 3085 Men are April when they woo,  
December when they wed,  
and maids are May when they are maids,  
but the sky changes when they are wives.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 3086 Tho' marriage be a lottery in which there are a wondrous  
many blanks, yet there is one inestimable lot in which  
the only heaven on earth is written.  
John Vanbrugh (1666-1726)
- 3087 Under this window in stormy weather  
I marry this man and woman together;  
Let none but Him who rules the thunder  
Put this man and woman asunder.  
Swift (1667-1745)
- 3088 I know not which lives more unnatural lives,  
Obeying husbands, or commanding wives.  
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 3089 You cannot pluck roses without fear of thorns,  
Nor enjoy a fair wife without danger of horns.  
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 3090 A good wife is like the ivy which beautifies the building to  
which it clings, twining its tendrils more lovingly as time  
converts the ancient edifice into a ruin.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 3091 Man is lyrical, woman epic, marriage dramatic.  
Novalis (1772-1801)
- 3092 All comedies are ended by a marriage.  
Byron (1788-1824)
- 3093 When a husband and wife have got each other,  
the devil only knows which has got the other.  
Balzac (1799-1850)
- 3094 The moment a woman marries, some terrible revolution happens  
in her system; all her good qualities vanish, presto, like  
eggs out of a conjuror's box. 'Tis true that they appear on  
the other side of the box, but for the husband they are gone  
forever.  
Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)

- 3095 You know, my Friends, with what a brave Carouse  
I made a Second Marriage in my house;  
Divorced old barren Reason from my Bed,  
And took the Daughter of the Vine to Spouse.  
Edward FitzGerald (1809-1883)
- 3096 Thou shalt not separate thy being from BEING, and the rest,  
but merge the Ocean in the deep, the drop within the Ocean.  
H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)
- 3097 The whole world is strewn with snares, traps, gins and  
pitfalls for the capture of men by women.  
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)
- 3098 One should always be in love. That is the reason one should  
never marry.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 3099 There is nothing in the world like the devotion of a married  
woman. It is a thing no married man knows anything about.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 3100 A man marries to have a home, but also because he doesn't  
want to be bothered with sex and all that sort of thing.  
Somerset Maugham (1874-1965)
- 3101 The only real happy folk are married women and single men.  
H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)
- 3102 A deaf husband and a blind wife are always a happy couple.  
Danish Proverb