

Readings Suitable for Partners to address Each Other

These readings can be used by either, or both partners to address each other as part of the wedding promises they make to each other. They can also be read by the attendants or the celebrant on behalf of the couple.

No. 1

Wherever you go, I shall go
Wherever you live, so shall I live.
Your people will be my people
And your God, my God, too.
Wherever you die, I shall die,
And there shall I be buried beside you,
We will be together forever,
Our love the gift of life.

No. 2

I do not want to change you,
You know what is best for you much better than I.

I do not want you to change me.
I want you to accept me and respect me the way I am.

In this way we can build a strong relationship
Based on reality rather than a dream.

No. 3

What will I give you since you asked,
is all my time together;
Take the rugged, sunny days,
the warm and rocky weather,
Take the roads that I have walked along looking for tomorrow's time...
peace of mind.
As my life spills into yours,
changing with the hours,
Filling up the world with time,
turning time to flowers,

I can show you all the songs
that I never sang for someone before.
We have seen a million stones
lying by the water,

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

You have climbed the hills with me
to the mountain shelter,
Taken off the days one by one,
setting them to breathe in the sun.
Take the lilies and the lace,
from the days of childhood,
All the willow winding paths
leading up and outward.
This is what I give,
This is what I ask for - nothing more.

No. 4

Some people are always alone
I was, until I met you.
Some people cannot trust others
I could not, until I met you.

Some people are not able to appreciate the flowers and the trees,
I could not, until I met you.
Some people are never able to experience a sincere love,
I could not, until I met you.

No. 5

I love you for what you are, but I love you yet more for what you are
going to be.
I love you not so much for your realities, as for your ideals.

I pray for your desires, that they may be great,
Rather than for your satisfaction, which may be so little.
A satisfied flower is one whose petals are about to fall.

The most beautiful rose is one hardly more than a bud,
Wherein the pangs, ecstasies of desire are working for larger and finer
growth.

Not always shall you be what you are now.
You are going forward towards something great.....
I am on the way with you, and therefore I love you.

No. 6

Had I not know the depth of love

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

Life would have been poorer,
But with the happiness it brings, nothing could be surer.
For love is...just relaxing, and trusting, and believing.
Just the very simple process of giving and receiving.

No. 7

I cannot promise you a life of sunshine,
Nor can I promise you riches, wealth or gold,
And an easy pathway that leads from change or growing old.

But I can promise all my heart's devotion,
A smile to chase away your tears of sorrow,
A love that's ever true and ever growing,
A hand to hold in yours through each tomorrow.

No. 8

I want to say something, to you who have become a part of the fabric of
my life,
The colour and texture which you have brought into my being
have become a song - and I want to sing it forever.

There is an energy in us that makes things happen when the paths of other
persons touch ours,
and we have to be there and let it happen.

When the time of our particular sunset comes,
Our thing, our accomplishment won't matter a great deal,
But the clarity and care with which we have loved others
will speak of the gift of life we have been for each other.

No. 9

At the beginning of our love we could never have guessed,
How our time together would affect the quality of our lives,
And give them added dignity.

Now we have reached the stage of our love,
In which the admiration we have for each other is such,
That we want to spend the rest of our lives together.

The quiet thoughts of two people in love, touch lightly,
Like birds nesting in each other's warmth.

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

You know them by their laughter, but to each other they speak through their solitude.

If they find themselves apart,
They may dream of sitting undisturbed in each other's presence,
Of wrapping themselves warmly in each other's ease.

Love expands; it not only sees more and enfolds more,
It causes its object to bloom.

No. 10

This day we shall remember well,
As in our married love we dwell.
And cast our minds back to the time, you made me yours, and I made you mine.

In wedded love we chose to be,
Each binding each, yet each one free.
As the days and months and years go on, our love will hold us firm and strong.

The marriage vows we say today, are vows we'll build on day by day.
As we walk the path of life, the world will know we're man and wife.
For in this life we each shall care that all we do is at all times fair.
We pledge this day to be as one, in all our wondrous years to come.

No. 11

Today I will marry my friend,
The one I have laughed with and cried with,
The one I have learned from and shared with,
The one I have trusted my heart to and shared my feelings with.
The one I have chosen to support, encouraged and given myself to
through all the days we have to share:

A love of emotion, a love that is real.

Today I marry the one I love.

No. 12

Love has flourished in my dreams,
Now that I know, what love means
It's all the things I give to you
To make your happy dreams come true.

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

It's the flames your heart has lit
Pieces of my heart that fit
Two souls that are joined as one
It's all the little things I've done.
Love is the thought of you and the pieces of your heart too.

No. 13

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 the foolish, weak things that you can't help dimly seeing
there, and for drawing out into the light all the beautiful belonging that no
one else had looked 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 works of my everyday, 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 could have done to make me
happy.
You have done it without a touch, without a word, without a sign.
You have done it, by being yourself.

No. 14

Come let us join for as long as we can,
The patience of woman, the power of man.
Two separate lives to be lived out as one,
Each stretching full like a plant in the sun.

Let me not harm you, nor you unto I,
Let love protect, like a sheltering sky.
Come let us walk through the passion of life,
One as a husband, one as a wife.

Let time smooth our love like the river a rock,
Let it open your heart like a key to a lock.
I'll always respect you no matter what may,

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

And listen with love to the words that you say.

Come let us go where our minds meet the sea,
To a world full of hope where we can be free,
I promise to give you all that I can,
The patience of woman, the power of man.

No. 15

How will I know you?
I will know you by your song, rather than your voice.
And I will know you by your smile rather than your face.
I will look at you and see the strength I have never seen before.
And I will see the sensitivity that will be a partner to that strength.
 And I will become encircled in your glow,
 And thus will we walk together always.

I cannot say what you will say,
But when you say it I will know you.
And my response will be such that there will be no doubt,
That this is the sign we have waited for.
 And you will know me, as the message will rise into the heavens,
 And permeate the earth around us.
And I will look at you and not see the shadow but the substance.
And you will look at me and see beyond the cover to the content.
And we will see glorious things that no one else has ever seen before,
But have always been there unnoticed.

And we will see glorious things that have not been there before,
But will now be there because we will see them in each other,
 And make them so.

We will forget all those who knew us falsely.
And those who knew us partially, for they did not know us at all.
And we will not focus on one thing, giving or not giving approval
 On the basis of a part, as others have wrongly done.
But we will see a totality, the good and the bad,
Accepting it all with joy.
 And thus will we say, I - Thou, for the first time.

You will know me as I really am.
And I will know you truly, not even as we know ourselves
 And present ourselves, but to the very core of our being.

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

And we will see the good and bad, accepting it all with joy.
And from that time on our souls will be locked in harmony.

I will become you, you will become me,
And we call each other - Love.

No. 16

My beloved spoke, and said to me,
The winter is past;
Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
The rain is over and gone,
The time of the singing of birds is come,
And the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;
The fig tree puts out her green figs,
And the vines with the tender grape gives a good smell.
Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

No. 17

All that I am, I give to you
All that I have, I share with you.
I will serve you with tenderness and respect,
And encourage you to develop the potential within you.
Whatever the future holds, I will strengthen you with my love.

No. 18

Deep is the joy of being together in one heart, and for me that's just
where it is.
As we make our way through all the joys and pain, can we sense
our younger, truer selves?

Laughter, joy and presence; the only gifts you are!
Have you time! I'd like to be with you.

Persons come into the fibre of our lives, and then their shadow
fades and disappears.
But all I ask of you, is forever to remember me as loving you.

No. 19

We've only just begun to live,
White lace and promises, a kiss for luck, and we're on our way.
Before the rising sun - we fly,
So many roads to choose, we start out walking and learn to run.

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

And when the evening comes - we smile,
So much of life ahead, we'll find a place where there's room to grow,
And, yes, we've just begun.

Sharing horizons that are new to us, watching the signs along the way,
Talking it over just the two of us,
Working together day to day, together....
We've only just begun.

No. 20

I am here with you by your side, sheltering your heart from the night.
Wherever you go, whatever you do, I'll be always loving you,

I will be your God, your comforter.
I will hold you close in my heart.
Let me love the world through your heart.
Let me heal your wounds with my touch.
Wherever you go, whatever you do, I'll be always loving you.

I will be your God, your comforter.
I will hold you close in my heart.
Let me see the world through your eyes.
Let forgiveness shine through your smile.
Wherever you go, whatever you do, I'll be always loving you.

No. 21

In love we are made visible as in a magic bath are unpeeled to the sharp
pit so long concealed.

With love's alertness we recognise the soundless whimper of the soul
behind the eyes a shaft opens and the timid thing at last leaps to the
surface with full-spread wing.

In love we are set free objective bone and flesh no longer insulate us to
ourselves alone
We are released and flow into each other's cup
Our two frail vials pierced drink each other up.

No. 22

All that I am and all that I have
I offer to you in joy, in service, in sacred union.

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

All that I dream and all I desire
I ask from you in thanksgiving, in anticipation, in celebration.

All that I need and all that is broken in me I present to you
for your healing, for your nurturing and mending, for your soothing love.

All that I have been and all that I shall be I bring into your midst
for your blessing, for your reflection, for your witness.

All that I am and all that I have I entrust to your heart
on this sacred day, and tomorrow, and always.

No. 23

I will love you freely as the sky loves the bird, as the sunset loves the early evening.

I will love you grandly, with my tender fine emotions, with my loving words and all my actions.

I will love you purely, with my honour, with my knowing, with all the best intentions of my being.

I will love you joyfully, with my body, with my laughter, with my foolishness and playing.

I will love you truly, with my finest kindness and my deepest care.

I will love you always, now, from this day forward, endlessly and forever.

No. 24

I give you my love, I give you my heart, I give you my hope,
I give you with joy, from the coffers of my precious time, the rest of the days of my life;

To delight in your body,

To nourish your mind,

To be at home with your spirit, the way a star is at home in the sky;

To celebrate your whole being with joy as the sun emblazons the sea with its light;

To know you, love you, hold you, warm you through all the long days of our lives.

No. 25

I give you my love, the steadfastness of my purpose, my will, my hope, and my highest intention that always, in one another's presence, we may unflinchingly become who we are, and with unswerving commitment be willing to do what we came here to do.

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

You are my lover, my teacher, my model, my accomplice, and my true counterpart.

I will love you, hold you, and honour you, respect you, encourage you, and cherish you, in health and in sickness through sorrow and success, for all the days of my life.

No. 26

I'll walk with you hand in hand
 across all the years to come,
 through all the hours of our life time together.

I'll grow with you, not away from you
 as we experience life to its full measure,
 discovering each day as it passes, in our togetherness.

I'll do for you what your love has done for me
 giving you as much joy as you have given me.

And, all the days of my life I'll love you as much as I do on this day.

No. 27

Our love is something we have built from passions, hopes and dreams.
It's safe from any passing moods,
Secure from all extremes.
It's something real and special,
Something solid, something pure.
It's something we can always count on,
Ringing sound and sure.
It's something grounded in the heart, emitting confidence
It lives in our emotions,
It is something we can sense.
Our love remains a binding force,
Resistant to all strife.
Amidst the outer pressures,
It's our anchor throughout life.

No. 28

Two lives, two people, so different yet so similar
Together we stand as one, sharing our future as it comes

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

The past is past
With care and trust the best is yet to be
Honesty, kindness, are the fruits of love
Let this day enrich us, so our love will never end.

No. 29

When I think of all the wonderful times
That you and I have known,
The joys that you made happen just by being you,
I fall in love with you all over again.

When I think of the life we've built together,
Trusting one another through both good and trying times,
I fall in love with you all over again.

When I think of all the days and years ahead,
All that we have yet to learn about one another,
My heart is filled with a happiness so complete,
I fall in love with you all over again.

No. 30

Today, this day is a day we shall all remember,
For it is the day two people that we love,
Have chosen to live as one.

Dreams and fairytales come true when you dream together.
May God bless this day as He has blessed you both.

No. 31

Today I give you my hand so that you will never be alone.
I give you my laughter so that your happiness may always be my
happiness.
I give you my friendship to support and encourage you.
I give you my heart for it belongs to you.

No. 32

The love that I have is all that I have and the love that I have is yours
The love that I have of the life that I have is yours and yours and yours.

The sleep I shall have, the rest I shall have though death may be but a
pause

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

For the peace of my years in the long green grass, shall be yours and yours
and yours.

No. 33

I want somebody to share
Share the rest of my life
Share my innermost thoughts
Know my intimate details
Somebody who'll stand by my side
And give me support
And in return
She'll get my support
She will listen to me
When I want to speak
About the world we live in
And life in general
Though my views may be wrong
They may even be perverted
She'll hear me out
And won't be converted
To my way of thinking
She'll often disagree
At the end of it all
She will understand me
Oh...

I want somebody who cares
For me passionately
With every thought
And with every breath
Someone who'll help me see things
In a different light
All the things I detest
I will almost like
I don't want to be tied
To anyone's strings
I'm carefully trying to steer clear
Of those things
But when I'm asleep
I want somebody
Who will put their arms around me
Kiss me tenderly

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

And on a day like this
I know you'll find
My love for you
Will last a life-time
Oh...

No. 34

Our love is like a lovely bridge
Between your heart and mine
A bridge we've built down through the years
Just to our own design.

It's based on happy memories
Of the good times that we've known
The hopes and dreams we two have shared
The thoughtfulness you've shown.

It's stronger now than ever
For its grown with every smile
And every act of kindness
That makes life seem more worthwhile.

And now I know that, if you're near
Or if we're miles apart
Our love still unites us
With a bridge from heart to heart.

No. 35

I hereby give myself to you. You are the only being whom I can love absolutely with complete self, with all my flesh and mind and heart. You are my mate, my perfect partner, and I am yours. You must feel this now, as I do....It was a marvel that we ever met. It is some kind of divine luck that we are together now. As we look at each other we verify, we know, the perfection of our love, we recognize each other. Here is my life, here if need be is my death.

No. 36

Our love is like a flowing river forever flowing
Our love is like the sky too high to climb, too wide to walk
Our love is like the Sun and Moon always there for all to see
Our love is like a sea of grass moving and changing with the winds of time

READINGS FOR PARTNERS

But most of all our love is happiness.

No. 37

I stand beside you strong and sure, my dearest, dearest friend
And as we make our sacred vows, my thoughts of you transcend.

I give you my heart, my hopes, my dreams, accept these gifts of
mine

They are so precious and fragile they need your care divine.

Treat my trust with gentleness, treat me with loving care

I can but grow with patience and love as long as you are there.

No. 38

This day I married my best friend ...
the one I laugh with as we share life's wonderful zest, as we find new
enjoyments and experience all that's best.

... the one I live for because the world seems brighter and our happy times
are better and our burdens feel much lighter.

... the one I love with every fibre of my soul.

We used to feel vaguely incomplete, now together we are whole.

No. 39

Irish Blessing for a bride to her groom and vice versa:

You are the star of each night,

You are the brightness of every morning,

You are the story of each guest,

You are the report of every land.

No evil shall befall you, on hill nor bank,

In field or valley, on mountain or in glen.

Neither above, nor below, neither in sea,

Nor on shore,

In skies above, nor in the depths.

You are the kernel of my heart,

You are the face of my sun,

You are the harp of my music,

You are the crown of my company.