

Mark & Leslie
8/95

Leslie ~~Ques~~ and Mark ~~Ques~~ August 26, 1995 C.E.

The Groom enters with his parents (Bridal party not seen)

The Groom stands outside the chupah.

The Maid of Honor enters with the Best Man.

The Bride enters with her brother and mother, bride pauses before Chupah, bride and groom enter the chupah from sides, stand facing each other (bride stands to the right of the groom).

The ceremony begins

WELCOME:

RICK: I am pleased to be here with Leslie, Mark, and their family and friends, all of whom are gathered to witness their marriage and to share in the joy of this occasion. Welcome!

STATEMENT:

In the Jewish tradition the word for marriage is kiddushin, from the word kadosh, which loosely translates as "sacred" or "holy." But in it's most essential meaning to be Kadosh is to be "unique," like nothing else in the world.

God is kadosh, and every one of us, God's creatures, has his or her kadosh quality, which makes each of us like no one else.

When the two of you began to become aware of that kadosh quality in each other, and began to discover more and more the uniqueness of yourselves,

and When you decided that this was the way it should be- kadosh and kadosh, I and Thou- for the rest of your lives, then you had come to discover this love and began your journey to this chupah.

Now here you are, and you will make very practical promises to each other:

To love, honor and cherish

To be responsible not only to each other but also to the marriage

To be willing to work through your differences, and even lose an argument for the sake of the marriage.

To be willing to have a sense of humor, about both yourselves and the marriage, for the sake of the marriage.

But there still remains that other: that reaching out, each to confirm who the other is,

and who the other is capable of becoming- I and Thou, kadosh and kadosh- in a never ending search and a never ending discovery.

And that's what marriage is; it's the practical responsibility and the romantic search; prose and poetry uniquely entwined in the lives of two people in love.

During the ceremony you will both drink from the cup of wine, the Jewish symbol of joy. In this cup is not only your private joy, but also your family's joy, your friends' joy, and humanities' joy. Today everybody's joy belongs to you.

At the end of the ceremony you will break a glass, the shattered pieces symbolising the tears from which no life is free. But these are not only your private tears, but also your family's and your friends; humanities tears.

All belong to you today, because marriage is not for children who keep house but for grown-up human beings who take on the joys and tears of the world.

And in a private place, in a kadosh place of that world, there is just the two of you, responsible to each other very practically/reaching out for each other romantically- kadosh and kadosh, with Gods blessing.

CHARGE AND QUERY:

Now Mark and Leslie, I ask you both to remember, as you stand in the presence of God, and your dearest friends and family, that love and loyalty alone are the foundation of a happy and enduring home.

No other human ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you will now assume.

RICK: Mark, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and foresaking all others keep only unto her?

MARK: I will

RICK: Leslie, will you have this man to be your wedded husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and foresaking all others keep only unto him?

LESLIE: I will

RICK: Who presents this man to be married to this woman?

MARK'S FAMILY: We do

RICK: Who presents this woman to be married to this man?

LESLIE'S FAMILY: We do

VOWS

Please join hands and repeat after me. (a few words at a time)

I, Mark, take thee, Leslie, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.

I, Leslie, take thee, Mark, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.

RINGS:

May we have the rings?
(Best man gives ring to Groom, Groom puts ring on Leslie's finger to first knuckle)

(To Mark) Repeat after me; 'With this ring I thee wed.' (pushes ring on finger)

(Maid of Honor gives ring to bride, places on Mark's finger to first knuckle)

(To Leslie) Repeat after Me; 'With this ring I thee wed' .
(push it on then
hold hands, turn and face Rick.)

WINE

Rick steps back and takes the partially filled glass of wine from the table behind him, lifts the glass and blesses the wine, singing in Hebrew. Rick hands the glass to Leslie, she drinks. Leslie hands the glass to Mark. he empties the glass and hands it back to Rick. Rick wraps the glass in a napkin he has taken from the table, hands the glass to the Best man who places the glass on the ground in front of Groom. Mark breaks glass.

PRONOUNCEMENT:

Forasmuch as Leslie and Mark have consented together in holy matrimony before this company, and have made solemn vows to each other and have declared this by exchanging rings, I pronounce them husband and wife.
(Kiss & applause)

RECESSION:

The statement used in this ceremony was written by Rabbi Jack Stern.

Kathryn and Warren

Prelude Music

Groomsmen pass out seed packets

Groomsmen seat family

Warren and Rick up front

Processional Music

Kendrick with Rings

Bridesmaids escorted by groomsmen

Maid of Honor & Best Man

Bride's Music

Kathryn and her mother

Draft an hour
before ceremony -
this one changed until
the last minute.

Welcome and Declaration (Rick)

Welcome to beautiful Vermont Family and friends

Thanks for coming Safe travel both ways

Wedding as a ritual, a ceremony,

Wedding as the visible sign of of less visible but

much more power force-unity

We are here to ~~perform a short wedding ceremony, which symbolizes a marriage. This marriage is not something we can perform, it is something~~ that Kathryn and Warren do in their hearts, with their hands, in the daily actions with each other. It is a marriage which has begun, and which will continue to grow, and which we are gathered together, as beloved friends and family, to celebrate. Kathryn and Warren have chosen to emphasize that their marriage is a personal, lifelong commitment and partnership by selecting three ^{FOR} signs to share with you today, as you celebrate their togetherness.

The first sign for us is the sign of the word, the sign of vows. At the start of a relationship, as friends and family, we hear the news. And Kathryn and Warren shared words with each other, sharing their feelings, their lives, their hearts. Today, they will share words, as a sign to us and to each other, of their continued commitment to sharing each other. The vows are ^{FOR} words, the words of signs, but they express the reality of the underlying love and harmony which Warren and Kathryn share and seek.

The second sign for us is the sign of rings on the hands. We often speak of getting married with the phrase, taking a hand in marriage. Hands joined show that while they are two persons, they have chosen to walk through life together, catching each other's weight when they stumble, showing each other the way, touching and sharing each other's lives. Today Kathryn and Warren join hands before you, and sharing words, they will also give each other signs that their hands are joined for life- rings. Rings that in their eternal circle symbolize the love that never dies. Rings that remind us and . . .

Final draft, probably.

Kathryn and Warren

Welcome to Vermont- friend and family, safe travel etc.

Today Kathryn and Warren are pleased to share with you this symbolic celebration of the joy they have found in one another.

The vows they will offer are a public proclamation and verbal attempt to represent their unconditional love.

The rings they will exchange are a gift representing a deep bond and commitment already present.

The candles they will light are a visual representation of the individuality they each bring to a single relationship.

(Best Man takes rings from pillow- give to Kate and Warren)

Warren's vows and ring to Kathryn

Kathryn's vows and ring to Warren

Lighting Candles

Best man and Maid of Honor light candles held by Warren and Kate

Kate and Warren light marriage candle.

This sign of light is from the warmth of each person, from their words, their hands and their hearts. The light of every person is the light of the world and every person shines in their own special way. Before they met, Kathryn and Warren, like each of us, were lights in the world. Coming together they still have their own hearts, their own hands, their own minds, their own glow.

And yet a new light is lit, a new warmth has new warmth is created by their love and commitment. Warren and Kathryn come together as two people, two lights which they will convert into three lights.

The light from these three candles will shine in your eyes as one, as surely as your love shines on them in one ray of warmth and love.

Kathryn and Warren have chosen an Apache indian poem to link their vows, rings, and light, their path together.'

We who are present for this ceremony now are delighted to greet them as Kathryn and Warren *cc*

Kiss, Applause, Recessional