

Assorted prayers and blessings

- **A Sacred Space - written by Lao Tzu**

Your love requires space in which to grow.

This space must be safe enough to allow your hearts to be revealed.

It must offer refreshment for your spirits and renewal for your minds.

It must be a space made sacred by the quality of your honesty, attention, love, and compassion.

It may be anywhere, inside or out, but it must exist.

- **A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything and if I have faith in all it's fullness, to move mountains-but without love, then I am nothing at all.

If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I ever let them take my body to burn it, but am without love-it will do me no good whatsoever.

Love is always patient and kind. It is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited.

It is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense, and it is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth. It is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.

This is the word of the Lord. .

- **Longer version of the Corinthians**

This passage 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians reminds you of your individual duties and roles in the marriage to prepare you for the vows you are about to take.

1 Corinthians 13 - Love Is the Greatest

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.

If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!

Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture!

But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.

Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.

All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

- **Celtic Reading**

Above you are the stars, below you are the stones, as time doth pass, remember.....

Like a stone should your love be firm; like a star, should your love be constant.

Let the powers of the mind and of the intellect guide you in your marriage. Let the strength of your wills bind you together.

Let the power of love and desire make you happy and the strength of your dedication make you inseparable.

Be close to each other but not too close.

Have patience with one another, for storms will come but they will pass quickly.

Be free in giving affection and warmth.

Have no fear and let not the ways of the unenlightened give you unease.

- **An Irish Blessing**

May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

The rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May God be with you and bless you;

May you see your children's children.

May you be poor in misfortune,

Rich in blessings,

May you know nothing but happiness  
From this day forward.  
May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home  
And may the hand of a friend always be near.  
May green be the grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you.

- **7 blessings – Alison Brooks**

May your marriage be as sweet as the fruit of the vine.  
May you work together to build a relationship of substance and quality.  
May the honesty of your communication build a foundation of understanding, connection and trust.  
May you respect each other's individual personality and philosophy, and give each other room to grow and fulfill each other's dreams.  
May your sense of humor and playful spirit continue to enliven your relationship.  
May you understand that neither of you is perfect: you are both subject to human frailties; and may your love strengthen when you fall short of each other's expectations.  
May you continue to be best friends, better together than either of you are apart.

- **Foundation of Marriage by Regina Hill- Diane Desjardins**

Love, trust, and forgiveness are the foundations of marriage. In marriage, many days will bring happiness, while other days may be sad. But together, two hearts can overcome everything...In marriage, all of the moments won't be exciting or romantic, and sometimes worries and anxiety will be overwhelming. But together, two hearts that accept will find comfort together. Recollections of past joys, pains, and shared feelings will be the glue that holds everything together during even the worst and most insecure moments. Reaching out to each other as a friend, and becoming

the confidant and companion that the other one needs, is the true magic and beauty of any two people together. It's inspiring in each other a dream or a feeling, and having faith in each other and not giving up... even when all the odds say to quit. It's allowing each other to be vulnerable, to be himself or herself, even when the opinions or thoughts aren't in total agreement or exactly what you'd like them to be. It's getting involved and showing interest in each other, really listening and being available, the way any best friend should be. Exactly three things need to be remembered in a marriage if it is to be a mutual bond of sharing, caring, and loving throughout life: love, trust, and forgiveness.

- **A Reading** -By Anne Morrow Lindbergh

When you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. It is impossibility. It is even a lie to pretend to.

And yet this is exactly what most of us demand. We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, of relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror of its ebb. We are afraid it will never return.

We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity, in freedom. In the sense that dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in the same pattern.

The only real security is not in owning or possessing, not in demanding or expecting, not in hoping, even. Security in a relationship lies neither in looking back to what was in nostalgia, nor forward to what it might be in dread or anticipation, but living in the present relationship and accepting it as it is now.

Relationships must be like islands, one must accept them for what they are here and now, within their limits – islands, surrounded and interrupted by the sea, and continually visited and abandoned by the tides.

- **Blessing of Unity: Modified Irish Blessing**

May your mornings bring joy and your evenings bring peace.

May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase.

May the saddest day of your future

Be no worse than the happiest day of your past.

May your hands be forever clasped in friendship

And your hearts joined forever in love.

Your lives are very special.

God has touched you in many ways.

May his blessing rest upon you and fill all your coming days.