

Marcus and Gayle
July 19th, 2015
1:00 pm
Glen, NH

Welcome:

Welcome to New Hampshire, everyone, and thank you for joining us for this special occasion.

We have gathered today to witness the union of two people, Marcus and Gayle, and the joining of their two families. We have two people who met by accident, who had no intention of marrying anyone ever again, but after realizing how much they cared for one another, and to make it easier for Marcus to get Gayle on his company's health insurance plan, decided to do just that."

Marriage:

Marriage: It's a hard term to define. Still, there's no denying the fact that marriage ranks right up there with birth and death as one of the three biggies in the human safari. It's the only one, though, that we'll celebrate with a conscious awareness. Very few of you remember your arrival, and even fewer of you will attend your own funeral.

You pick a society, any society: Zuni, Ndembo, Pennsylvania Dutch. What's the one thing they all have in common? Marriage. It's like a cultural handrail. It links folks to the past and guides them to the future.

That's not all, though. Marriage is the union of disparate elements. Male and female. Yin and yang. Proton and electron. What are we talking about here? Nothing less than the very tension that binds the universe.

You see, when we look at marriage, we are looking at creation itself. "I am the sky," says the Hindu bridegroom to the bride. "You are the earth. We are sky and earth united."

(to groom) You are my husband.

(to bride) You are my wife.

My feet shall run because of you. My feet shall dance because of you. My heart shall beat because of you. My eyes see because of you. My mind thinks because of you, and I shall love because of you. Now, are you guys cool with that?

(bride and groom nod happily)

Vows:

The couple have written their own vows and we will begin with Marcus

Rings:

All right, let's seal this deal with some rings.

Marcus, as you place the ring on Gayle's finger, please repeat after me

I, Marcus Gladstone Ollington, take you Gayle to be my wife;
to have and to hold, from this day forward;

for better and for worse;
for richer or poorer;
in sickness and in health;
to love and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live.

Gayle, as you place the ring on Marcus's finger, please repeat after me

I, Florence Gayle Coston, take you Marcus to be my husband;
to have and to hold, from this day forward;
for better and for worse;
for richer or poorer;
in sickness and in health;
to love and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live.

PRONCEMENT:

Today I am privileged to share with you the moment you begin your new life together. In the years ahead, may you always apply tenderness and strength to the trials that may befall you. May your love be a shield from the unpredictability of life. May you remember to rejoice in good times and good fortune and may you always appreciate the life that you found with each other.

CLOSING:

And now, it gives me great pleasure to say:

By the power vested in me by the State of New Hampshire, I now pronounce your union as complete in the eyes of the law and the universe. Marcus, you may kiss your bride!