

## Component Samples

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### Readings

#### **~Lazaris**

Enchanted moments shatter the masks of illusion  
and crack the lies of separation.  
Beyond the world's disguise,  
within an enchanted moment,  
there is a love-so-beautiful.  
This love stretches beyond emotion  
and touches pure beauty and rare truth.  
This love-so-beautiful is at the heart of all creation,  
all manifestation, and all right action.  
It is within the sparkle of all hopes,  
all dreams, and all visions.  
It is within the essence of Oneness.

#### **YOU AND I**

**by Kuan Tao-Sheng**

13th century, A.D.

You and I  
Have so much love  
That it  
Burns like a fire,  
In which we bake a lump of clay  
Molded into a figure of you  
And a figure of me.  
Then we take both of them,  
And break them into pieces,  
And mix the pieces with water,  
And mold again a figure of you,  
And a figure of me.  
I am in your clay.  
You are in my clay.  
In life we share a single quilt.  
In death we will share one bed.

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**~Rumi**

The minute I heard my first love story I started looking for you, not knowing.  
How blind that was. Lovers don't finally meet somewhere. They're in each other  
all along.

**~Rumi**

**Looking for your Face**

From the beginning of my life  
I have been looking for your face  
but today I have seen it.

Today I have seen the charm, the  
beauty,  
the unfathomable grace  
of the face  
that I was looking for.

Today I have found you  
and those who laughed  
and scorned me yesterday  
are sorry they were not looking  
as I did.

I am bewildered by the  
magnificence  
of your beauty  
and wish to see you  
with a thousand eyes.

My heart has burned with passion  
and has searched forever  
for this wonderous beauty  
that I now behold.

I am ashamed  
to call this love human  
and afraid of God  
to call it divine.

Your fragrant breath  
like the morning breeze  
has come to the stillness of the  
garden.  
You have breathed new life into me.  
I have become your sunshine  
and also your shadow.

My soul is screaming in ecstasy  
Every fiber of my being  
is in love with you.

Your effulgence  
has lit a fire in my heart  
and made radiant for me  
the earth and sky.

My arrow of love  
has arrived at the target  
I am in the house of mercy  
and my heart  
is a place of prayer.

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**Cherokee Prayer:**

"God in heaven above please protect the ones we love.  
We honour all you created as we pledge our hearts and lives together.  
We honour mother earth - and ask for our marriage to be abundant and grow stronger through the seasons;  
We honour fire- and ask that our union be warm and glowing with love in our hearts;  
We honour wind - and ask we sail through life safe and calm as in our father's arms;  
We honour water - to clean and sooth our relationship - that it may never thirst for love;  
With all the forces of the universe you created, we pray for harmony and true happiness as we forever grow young together. Amen.

**Oprah Magazine Article Quote**

"This is the ephemeral and elusive happiness that you can't even look for because it doesn't have a name or a web site. It floats and soars through luck, karma, destiny's twists and turns. If you are very blessed, you turn around and it grabs you tight around your heart. And you have the intuition to Grab back, smiling and breathless, stupid and brave."

**~Damaris**

**Chorus to song "Face of Love"**

\* all the things we throw into the face of love  
when all we've ever wanted was the courage  
to look into the face of love

**FIRST Letter To The Corinthians**

Can be read by one or two people

[First:]

Love is patient and kind; is never envious or boastful or conceited, does not count up offenses, takes no pleasure in injustice, but rejoices in the truth; includes all things, has faith in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

[Second:]

Love never ends. If there are prophecies, they will disappear; if there is ecstasy, it will cease; if there is knowledge, it will vanish... but faith, hope, and love remain forever these three; the greatest of these is love.

### **The Christian Marriage Prayer**

Lord Jesus, grant that [Groom] and [Bride] may have a true understanding love for each other granted that they may both be filled with faith and trust.

Give them the grace to live with each other in peace and harmony may they always bear with one another's weakness and grow from each others strength, help them forgive one another's fails and grant them patients, kindness, cheerfulness and spirit of putting one another ahead of self. May the love that brought them together grow mature with each passing year, bring [Groom] and [Bride] closer to you through their love for each other let their love grow to perfection. Amen.

### **Velveteen Rabbit**

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in your joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

"I suppose you are real?" said the Rabbit. And then he wished he had not said it, for he thought the Skin Horse might be sensitive. But the Skin Horse only smiled.

"The Boy's Uncle made me Real," he said. "That was a great many years ago; but once you are Real you can't become unreal again. It lasts for always."

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**Selected excerpts from Christmas 1984 by Linda Heron Wind**

*Before we met, I thought my life was complete.*

*I had everything arranged in neat little compartments... so much time for this so much time for that.*

*It was a satisfactory plan, and I thought that I was happy.*

*And then you walked into my world.*

*Loving you is an adventure. It has opened so many new windows on the world.*

*For me to love is to commit myself freely and without reservation I am sincerely interested in your happiness and well-being.*

*... Everyday we live, we learn more of how to love.*

*I will not defer my love nor neglect it, for if I wait until tomorrow, Tomorrow never comes.*

*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*

**~Roy Croff**

*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 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  
All the foolish, weak things  
That you can't help  
Dimly s belongings  
That no one else had looked  
Quite 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 every day  
Not a reproach  
But a song.*

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**~Kahil Gibran**

Marriage is the golden ring in a chain whose beginning is a glance and whose ending is Eternity

**Sonnets from the Portuguese XXII**

**~Elizabeth Barrett Browning**

When our two souls stand up erect and strong,  
Face to face, silent, drawing nigh and nigher,  
Until the lengthening wings break into fire  
At either curved point, --what bitter wrong  
Can the earth do to us, that we should not long  
Be here contented? Think. In mounting higher,  
The angels would press on us and aspire  
To drop some golden orb of perfect song  
Into our deep, dear silence. Let us stay  
Rather on earth, beloved, --where the unfit  
Contrarious moods of men recoil away  
And isolate pure spirits, and permit  
A place to stand and love in for a day,  
With darkness and the death-hour rounding it.

**~ Louis de Bernieres** followed by a musical piece.

Love is a temporary madness; it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides. And when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is. Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of eternal passion. That is just being in love, which any fool can do. Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident. Those that truly love have roots that grow towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossoms have fallen from their branches, they find that they are one tree and not two.

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## **Art of Marriage**

**~Wilferd Arlan Peterson**

In the art of marriage, the little things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted;

the courtship should not end with the honeymoon,

it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice,  
but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of an angel.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for the things of the spirit.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner,

it is being the right partner.