

## POEMS AND READINGS USED IN ITALIAN WEDDINGS

### **BLESSING OF THE APACHE**

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other.  
Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other.  
Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other.  
Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you.  
May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years,  
May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth.

### **NAVAJO WEDDING BLESSING**

Now you have lit a fire and that fire should not go out.  
The two of you now have a fire that represents love, understanding and a philosophy of life.  
It will give you heat, food, warmth and happiness.  
The new fire represents a new beginning - a new life and a new family.  
The fire should keep burning; you should stay together.  
You have lit the fire for life, until old age separates you.

### **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 though life safe and calm as in our father's arms;  
We honour water - to clean and soothe 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."

### **A RED, RED ROSE - ROBERT BURNS**

O My Luve's like a red, red rose, That's newly sprung in June;  
O My Luve's like the melodie That's sweetly played in tune.  
As fair art thou, my bonnie lass, So deep in luve am I;

And I will luvve thee still, my dear,

Till a' the seas gang dry. Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear, And the rocks melt wi' the sun: O I will love thee still, my dear,

While the sands o' life shall run. And fare thee well, my only luvve. And fare thee well awhile!

And I will come again, my luvve,

Though it were ten thousand mile.

### **SOUND OF SILENCE - RAYMOND J. BAUGHAN**

Here in the space between us and the world  
lies human meaning.

Into the vast uncertainty we call.

The echoes make our music,  
sharp equations which can hold the stars,  
and marvellous mythologies we trust.

This may be all we need

to lift our love against indifference and pain.

Here in the space between us and each other  
lies all the future

of the fragment of the universe  
which is our own.

### **KEYS OF LOVE BY ROBERT M. MILLAY**

The key to love is understanding... the ability to comprehend not only the spoken word, but those unspoken gestures, the little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness... to accept each other's faults and pardon mistakes, without forgetting-but with remembering what you learn from them...

The key to love is trust... though dark doubts lay in hollowed thoughts, it must shine brightly on with reassuring radiance that suppresses fear with faith.

The key to love is sharing... facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together; both conquering problems-forever searching for ways to intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving... without thought of return, but with the hope of just a simple smile and by giving-in, but never up.

The key to love is respect... realizing that you are two separate people with different ideas; that you don't belong to each other, but that you belong with each other and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all... it takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients that will take you to its threshold; it is a continual learning process that demands a lot of work...but the rewards are more than worth the effort...

**SONNET 18 - WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimmed.  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of the fair thou ow'st;  
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:  
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

**SONNET 43 - ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING**

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.

I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old grief, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose

With my lost saints,--I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life!--and, If God choose,  
I shall love thee better after death.

**SONNET 14 - ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING**

If thou must love me, let it be for naught  
Except for love's sake only. Do not say  
"I love her for her smile--her look--her way  
Of speaking gently,--for a trick of thought  
That falls in well with mine, and certes brought  
A sense of pleasant ease on such a day"--

For these things in themselves, Beloved, may  
Be changed, or change for thee--and love, so wrought,  
May be unwrought so. Neither love me for  
Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry:  
A creature might forget to weep, who bore  
Thy comfort long, and love thy love thereby!  
But love me for love's sake, that ever more  
Though mayst love on, through love's eternity.

**STANZAS FOR MUSIC - LORD BYRON**

There be none of Beauty's daughters  
with a magic like thee;  
And like music on the waters  
Is thy sweet voice to me:  
When as if its sound were causing  
The charmed ocean's pausing,  
the waves lie still and gleaming,  
and the lulled winds seem dreaming.

And the midnight moon is weaving  
Her bright chain o'er the deep;

Whose breast is gently heaving,  
As an infant's asleep.  
So the spirit bows before thee,  
To listen and adore thee;  
With a full but soft emotion,  
Like the swell of Summer's ocean.

**LOVE'S PHILOSOPHY - PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY**

The Fountains mingle with the River  
And the Rivers with the Ocean,  
The winds of Heaven mix for ever  
With a sweet emotion;  
Nothing in the world is single;  
All things by a law divine  
In one spirit meet and mingle.  
Why not I with thine?-  
See the mountains kiss high Heaven  
And the waves clasp one another;  
No sister-flower would be forgiven  
If it disdained its brother,  
And the sunlight clasps the earth  
And the moonbeams kiss the sea:  
What is all this sweet work worth  
If thou kiss not me?

**SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY - LORD BYRON**

She walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies:  
And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:  
Thus mellow'd to that tender light  
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.  
One shade the more, one ray the less

Had half impair'd the nameless grace  
Which waves in every raven tress,  
Or softly lightens o'er her face:  
Where thoughts serenely sweet express  
How pure, how dear their dwelling place.  
And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,  
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,  
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,  
But tell of days in goodness spent,  
A mind at peace with all below,  
A heart whose love is innocent!

**SAIGYO JAPANESE POET**

You left impressions unforgettable  
and when I view our moon  
your image surfaces  
and that love seems forever.

**I LOVE THEE - THOMAS HOOD**

I love thee - I love thee!  
'Tis all that I can say;  
It is my vision in the night,  
My dreaming in the day;  
The very echo of my heart,  
The blessing when I pray:  
I love thee - I love thee!  
Is all that I can say.  
I love thee - I love thee!  
Is ever on my tongue;  
In all my proudest poesy  
That chorus still is sung;  
It is the verdict of my eyes,  
Amidst the gay and young:

I love thee- I love thee!  
A thousand maids among.  
I love thee - I love thee!  
Thy bright and hazel glance,  
The mellow lute upon those lips,  
Whose tender tones entrance;  
But most, dear heart of hearts, they proofs  
That still these words enhance.  
I love thee - I love thee!  
Whatever be thy chance.

#### **MARRIAGE - KAHLIL GIBRAN**

Then Almitra spoke again and said, "And what of Marriage, master?" And he answered saying: You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore. You shall be together when white wings of death scatter your days. Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God. But let there be spaces in your togetherness, And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.

Love one another but make not bond of love: Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.

Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup. Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf. Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone, Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music. Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping. For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts. And stand together, yet not too near together: For the pillars of the temple stand apart, And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

#### **SONNET 116 - WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments: Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove.  
O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks

Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom:  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

**COME LIVE WITH ME AND BE MY LOVE - CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE**

Come live with me and be my love,  
And we will all the pleasures prove  
That valleys, groves, hills, and fields,  
Woods, or steepy mountain yields.  
And we will sit upon the rocks,  
Seeing the shepherds feed their flocks,  
By shallow rivers to whose falls  
Melodious birds sing madrigals.  
And I will make thee beds of roses  
And a thousand fragrant posies,  
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle  
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle;  
A gown made of the finest wool  
Which from our pretty lambs we pull;  
Fair lined slippers for the cold,  
With buckles of the purest gold;  
A belt of straw and ivy buds,  
With coral clasps and amber studs:  
And if these pleasures may thee move,  
Come live with me, and be my love.  
The shepherds' swains shall dance and sing  
For thy delight each May morning:  
IF these delights thy mind may move,  
Then live with me and be my love.



**AN IRISH BLESSING FOR WEDDINGS**

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 the fields.

May the light of friendship guide your paths together.

May the laughter of children grace the halls of your home.

May the joy of living for one another trip a smile from your lips,

A twinkle from your eye.

And when eternity beckons,

at the end of a life heaped high with love,

May the good Lord embrace you

with the arms that have nurtured you

the whole length of your joy-filled days.

May the gracious God hold you both

in the palm of His hands.

And, today, may the Spirit of Love

find a dwelling place in your hearts. Amen.

**OLD WEDDING BLESSING**

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.

**BEAUTY AND LOVE - ANDREW YOUNG**

Beauty and love are all my dream;

They change not with the changing day;

Love stays forever like a stream

That flows but never flows away;  
And beauty is the bright sun-bow  
That blossoms on the spray that showers  
Where the loud water falls below,  
Making a wind among the flowers.

**ART OF MARRIAGE - WILFERD A. PETERSON**

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 humour.  
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.