

Jessica & Daniel

March 14, 2010

Family and Friends, welcome to this beautiful garden. We are here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love; for the blending of two hearts and two lives.

Jessica and Daniel have long planned and anticipated this event and they will remember this day, and your supportive presence here, for the rest of their lives. They have expressed their love to each other every day for many months. Today is special because they will express and vow their love for each other in front of you. Without you, this moment would not exist and we are all grateful to you for being here today.

Jessica and Daniel want their ceremony to be simple and meaningful. This means that to some extent we will go with the flow, and we ask that you flow along with us and enjoy whatever happens.

Before they exchange rings, Jessica and Daniel have asked that the people most important to them participate in the "warming of the rings." Take the opportunity to wish them health, happiness, and all that is good in life when the rings pass to your care. Hold them for a moment and warm them with your love, making a silent wish for the future this couple will share before you pass them on to the next person.

When returned, these rings will contain in their precious metals that which is all the more precious--your love and pledge of support for their union. As a symbol of the union of these two families I ask that the rings start their journey with Donna, Daniel's mother and are passed from guest to guest finishing with Debbie, Jessica's mother. They will be retrieved by the Best Man for the ring exchange during the ceremony.

Jessica and Daniel, you have waited for this moment, planned for this moment and worked towards this moment for a long time. Now simply be in this moment. Just be silent while you, while all of us, stop thinking about where we are going to be in the future and simply celebrate where we are right now. Take a few deep breaths... and enjoy your wedding!

The great medieval philosopher, Thomas Aquinas, when asked to define true love, said that it was “to will the good of the other person”. If you truly love someone you want their success, their happiness, everything that is best for them. In the history of the world, people have died for those they love.

Nothing like that is called for here, but Jessica and Daniel do want you to know why they are marrying today. They could have chosen simply to live together. This seemingly is a “safer” course. It would give them more options; sustain their freedom, pose fewer risks. They have thought about this, and have decided that for them it is not enough. They see this ceremony today as a stronger commitment to their relationship. They call you together, their family and friends, to make this commitment clear to you and to call on your acknowledgement and support.

Mark Twain said of marriage: “... it makes of two fractional lives a whole; it gives to two purposeless lives a work, & doubles the strength of each whereby to perform it; it gives to two questioning natures a reason for living, & something to live for; it will give a new gladness to the sunshine, a new fragrance to the flowers, a new beauty to the earth, a new mystery to life...”

Daniel and Jessica have concluded that their relationship is for life. They have found each other, they want it to last; they will it to last. More than that, they will it to get better; they will it to get deeper. They want to be husband and wife. They want people to look at them and paraphrase the poet Homer, who said: “There is nothing nobler or more admirable than when two people who see eye to eye keep house as man and wife, confounding the disbelievers and delighting their friends.”

Jessica and Daniel, this is your day, your time, your celebration.

Today you declare the love and commitment you have expressed to each other many times before. Today, each of you declares for the whole world to see, that this other person has that special primary place in your life that can only be given to one other. We are focused here on something more beautiful than just romance.

As you know, no minister, no rabbi, no public official can do more than bless or sanctify your marriage. Only you can make your marriage lasting and meaningful.

You two have decided to make the journey through life together and to help each other make as much of it as two unique individuals can. Your families are here with you. Your friends are here, standing with you. Through all these people, you have become the two you are. All of them support you as you join your lives together into one.

Marriage is a commitment to life; the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal. It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, and listener.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller, memories are richer, commitment is stronger; even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfill.

For you, the families of Jessica and Daniel, this is a special day in your lives as well. You have gathered to celebrate this joyous occasion with this couple, who are accepting the responsibility of this marriage for themselves, to build together a life and tradition, as you, their families have prepared them. Their marriage will bring together your two families, drawing together the wisdom of many lives to build their own life.

Others here today are special friends of Jessica and Daniel, and you have become even more special by being here to share in this celebration. You have been as family with whom they have shared the good times and the not so good times. The qualities of your friendship have enriched their lives. Now you will witness and confirm the uniqueness of their friendship and love for each other.

All of us here wish to give Jessica and Daniel the gift of happiness. However, we are limited in our ability to provide such a gift. Happiness is the fulfillment that comes from building their marriage together. Marriage is more than words or ceremony. It is a commitment to be reaffirmed each and every day. Happiness is the product of contentment that each has the strength to accept in their lives what cannot be changed, and the love to change what cannot be accepted.

Jessica and Daniel, you can make your marriage a living thing. It will be you who begin every day making choices - to express caring or avoid it; to reveal love or to be too busy; to acknowledge respect and to take joy from one another or build walls -- and through those daily choices, to renew the wedding vows you will make today.

The last words of wisdom that I have for a happy marriage come from Ogden Nash: "To keep your marriage brimming, with love in the wedding cup, whenever you're wrong, admit it; whenever you're right, shut up. "

As the Sadoway's union brings together two family traditions and two different roots, it is their hope to plant a new family tree that will grow and flourish. Theirs is a personal choice and a decision for which they are responsible in undertaking. Yet their life is and will always be enriched with the support of the families from which each comes.

Do you, Patrick and Debbie, accept and support Daniel and Jessica in their marriage and promise to continue to stand beside them?

Pat & Debbie: We do

Do you, Jack and Donna, celebrate with them the decision they have made to choose each other and promise to continue to stand beside them?

Jack & Donna: We do

In the years which will bring Jessica and Daniel into greater age and wisdom, we hope that their love will be ever young; that they will be able to always recover from moments of despair. In this hope, may they remember the vows made on this day, in freedom, teaching each other who they are, what they yet shall be, enabling them to know that, in the fullness of being, they are more than themselves and more than each other, that they are all of us, and that together we share life on this earth, our home.

(((introduction of vows)))D&J, face each other, take hands and say your vows...

May I have the rings that Daniel and Jessica have chosen to exchange?

The wedding ring is a complete and perfect circle with no end and no beginning. These rings are the outer symbol of your inner love and the promises that you have made today. The giving and receiving of these rings will bind you both to the vows you have made.

Daniel, do you take Jessica to be your wife? Do you promise to love her and respect her, be honest with her, and stand by her through whatever may come, so that you can genuinely share your life together?

Daniel: I do

Jessica, do you take Daniel to be your husband? Do you promise to love him and respect him, be honest with him, and stand by him through whatever may come, so that you can genuinely share your life together?

Jessica: I do

Although I'm officiating here today, it is not in my power to sanctify, legitimize or bless your relationship in any way. The two of you have already done that in your hearts.

*You have each received the blessings of your families and friends. You have vowed to love each other. You have offered and accepted rings to wear as a symbol of those vows. And you have done this all in the presence of those who love you. As a legally ordained minister authorized by the state of Arizona, it is now my most humble honor to declare to you and all those assembled here that you are now, *legally and spiritually*, husband and wife.*

You may enjoy the first kiss of your long and fruitful marriage.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Sadoway.

Go-kekkon omedetou gozaimasu