

Marriage

Introduction

Declarations

Vows

Giving of rings

Proclamation

*Blessing of the
marriage*

Poem - Read by Donna Lindsay- Rimmer

This is Love Monkey

It was once the custom that every monkey would carve for himself a wooden heart. And the heart that Love Monkey carved was the most beautiful of all. Its contours were soft and rounded, like an ancient pebble sculpted by the oceans. Its surface was smooth and shiny like liquid silk, and it shone as bright as a ruby in the desert sun. "Take your hearts with you wherever you go," said their teacher. "Nurture them as a mother nurtures her new-born baby. For when you want to give of yourself fully, your heart is the only true gift you will have."

That night, Love Monkey had a dream. He dreamt of a monkey whose smile lit up his soul like sunshine. He held out his heart to her, so radiant, so splendid and so new. She took him in her arms and he felt truly, perfectly, at peace. When Love Monkey awoke he resolved that, from that day forward, he would search for his Dream Monkey until he could stand before her and give to her his perfect heart.

He travelled through deserts...and climbed over mountains, he trekked across forests and sailed many oceans. Love monkey looked after his heart the best he could, but the storms that he endured on his travels chipped away at it's surface and each new adventure reshaped it. By the time he arrived on the last distant shore, his heart was so changed by the patina of time that it barely resembled his old heart at all.

And then, he saw her. Standing before him, as radiant and beautiful as the sunshine, was his dream monkey. At first he could not speak, but then from somewhere deep within himself, he found a voice. "I've travelled the world over to find you, and to give you my heart," he said. "But now that I am finally with you, I see how foolish I have been. You are so beautiful, so perfect. And my heart that once was smooth, so bright and so new is not something that I could ever bring myself to show you." and he turned to go. "Let me see it," said Dream monkey. She took his heart and held it up to the light. Nothing to me is more beautiful. Every fissure tells a story. Every blemish makes you more real. All my life I have been waiting for a heart like this; A heart that speaks the truth." "Come here" she said. "I have something for you too." In her hand was a tiny golden heart. It was as worn and as scratched as Love monkey's own.... and it was the most precious thing that he had ever seen.

Love Monkey put his arms around her and they held each other for a long, long time. "I shall treasure this heart for as long as I live," said Dream Monkey, running her fingers over its ridged and dimpled surface. Then they looked into each others eyes, and feeling the joy of truth in their souls for the first time, they began to laugh. And often they sit together still, holding each others hearts in their warm hands, lifting them up to the light..... and laughing. Always laughing.

Bible Reading

1 Corinthians read by Anna Finnegan

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love

Reflection and Prayers

Rev. Anne Peachey

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory

for ever and ever.

Amen.