

Native American Wedding Ceremony #75

Wedding Blanket Ceremony + Wedding Vase

Before we begin this sacred ceremony, I ask that everyone close their eyes, and take in two big breaths of air, and breath in and breath out, breath in and breath out.

And when you are ready, please slowly open your eyes and take in the beautiful surroundings of this sacred desert that the ancient ones once roamed, and the Great Spirit has created.

_____ (B) and _____ (G), please see the magnificent gift before you that you are about to receive, the gift of LOVE. May you hold it close, May you fight for your LOVE and guard it with your life. LOVE is sacred unto thee, it is strong and vibrant, while being very fragile.

Family and friends, please acknowledge the spirit of the person standing by your side, and welcome in this most treasured and sacred wedding day.

Words of Welcome

It is with great pleasure we gather this day to witness the joining of two beautiful and loving people in marriage. _____ **and** _____ have opened their hearts to one another, and today we are blessed as they open their hearts to us as well, inviting us to witness and share in this glorious moment.

We celebrate their union in a natural setting to honor the gifts of the Creator, the gifts of nature's bounty and the gift of love between man and woman. _____ **and** _____ bring the fullness of their being as a treasure to share with one another.

Their marriage is being entered into reverently, with the recognition of a true and faithful union. For what greater joy is there for two human souls than to join together to strengthen each other in all their endeavors.

Circle Of LOVE (Optional)

Everyone, Please join hands and form a circle **LOVE around** _____ **and** _____. Would anyone like to say something to _____ **and** _____ before we begin their smudge ceremony ?

Smudge

At this time I will perform a Native American Smudge Blessing.

Creator, giver of all life, Bless with your goodness _____ **and** _____ who come now to join in marriage. Grant that they give their sacred words to each other in the strength of your love. Enable them to grow in love and peace with you and with one another for all their days.

Smudge the outer circle of family and friends

Oh Great Spirit Bring The Blessings Of The East, The Spirit of Mother Hawk

Bring the blessings of the South, The Spirit Of Coyote

Bring the blessings of the West, The Spirit Of Mother Bear

Bring the blessings of the North, The Spirit of White Buffalo

Bring the blessings of Mother Earth and Father Sky, and Creator Of Our Souls Within.

Remembrance

One of the great joys of the wedding day is the joining together of the couple's families and friends. _____ **and** _____ are filled with

gratitude to each and every one of you for the loving, caring, friendship and support that you have given them throughout their lives. Being able to share their wedding day with you, surrounded by your love and support, is a treasured blessing. Let us continue to be there to support them in fulfilling the vows they are making here today.

At this time, we'd like to take a moment of silence to honor and remember those who are not here with us today. **(Family Remembrance)** Even though _____, _____ **and** _____ are not here physically, they are a part of the foundation that makes Steve and Ashley the people they are today.

May we always remember _____, _____ **and** _____. Please cherish the memories of _____ **and** _____ and all others who live on in our hearts today and always. Amen.

Reading Commitment Reading of the Pueblo Indian

Before we met, you and I were halves unjoined except in the wide rivers of our minds. We were each other's distant shore, the opposite wings of a bird, the other half of a seashell. We did not know the other then, did not know our determination to keep alive the cry of one riverbank to the other.

We were apart, yet connected in our ignorance of each other, like two apples sharing a common tree. Remember?

I knew you existed long before you understood my desire to join my freedom to yours. Our paths collided long enough for our indecision to be swallowed up by the greater need of love.

When you came to me, the sun surged towards the earth and moon escaped from darkness to bless the union of two spirits, so alike that the creator had designed them for life's endless circle.

Beloved partner, keeper of my heart's odd secrets, clothed in summer blossoms so the icy hand of winter never touches us. I thank your patience. Our joining is like a tree to earth, a cloud to sky and even more.

We are the reason the world can laugh on its battlefields and rise from the ashes of its selfishness to hear me say, in this time, this place, this way I loved you best of all.

Placing of the Ceremonial Blankets

At this time, I ask _____ **and** _____ to come forward placed blue blanket shawls over _____ **and** _____'s shoulders.

The blankets represent their lives before they found one another.

Affirmation of the Couple

_____ **and** _____ were friends before becoming partners, but had a deep affection for one another during that friendship. Now that they are partners in life, they love the story of how they met and the crushes they both unknowingly had on each other; crushes which endured **for** ____ **years** before committing to their partnership and leading them to this moment here today.

They love that their friendship turned into a truly magical and loving partnership in which they have shared countless moments of joy and sorrow and laughter and tears; all in which has made them stronger and closer as a couple. **(Personal Words Of The Couple's Relationship)**

_____ **and** _____ want their marriage to continue honoring that deep bond of friendship, respect and love for one another that they have always carried, and they want to endeavor to be their best selves,

individually, so that their partnership continuously grows, flourishes and remains strong for the rest of their days.

_____ **and** _____, make the meaning of the vows you are about to share with one another deepen as the years pass and seek to discover the endless possibilities of this life together. Your love and your union must endure through daily routine, but flower in both adversity and joy.

Throughout your marriage, embrace your passion, revel in your companionship and cherish your intimacy. Give to one another new experiences of joy. Challenge one another so that you may grow. Never take each other for granted, but truly experience the wonder of your union.

Be slow to anger, quick to forgive, leaving no traces of resentment behind each day. Be a source of strength and inspiration to yourselves, your families, your friends, and to all whose lives you touch. Love is stronger than your conflicts and grander than life's changes.

It is a gift always inviting you to learn and to grow. It is to love that you must always return.

Intent

Do you, _____ **and** _____, pledge to treat one another with respect and compassion; praise one another often and criticize rarely; quarrel in private and tell no strangers of your discord; support and encourage your individuality within the context of a strong and loving union of equals? **We do.**

Do you, _____, **take** _____ into your life, as your wife in marriage to live with and love, to share all of what life has in store for the two of you? **'I do'**

Do you, _____, take _____ into your life, as your husband in marriage to live with and love, to share all of what life has in store for the two of you? **'I do'**

Exchange of Vows Couple's Personal Wedding Words

_____, **please share with us your vows to _____.** The bride read her vows .

_____, **please share with us your vows to _____.** The groom read his vows.

Blessing Of The Rings

(Smudge Rings As Couple Holds Their Rings In Their Hands)

_____ and _____ **have chosen pure golden wedding rings (Description Of The Couple's Wedding Rings)** as an outward sign of their internal commitment. The material used to make these rings had a previous noble life before its transformation to a new life of beauty reminding us that the gifts of nature and the creativity of humankind can come together in ways that ennoble us and honor our world.

These rings are symbols that remind us of the sun that shines above us and the Earth beneath us. They are freely offered as gifts of faith and hope as visible signs of the promises given this day. In this moment, bring blessings to these rings to be symbols of unity, commitment and renewal.

Exchange of Rings

_____ **and** _____, please look into each other's eyes repeating after me as you place the ring upon his/her finger.

Come health, happiness, and prosperity, I will stand with you;

come illness, trouble, or poverty, I will stand with you.

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and commitment.

With this ring I thee wed.

Exchange of Blankets

I ask _____ **and** _____ to step forward and removed the blue blanket shawls from the _____ **and** _____'s shoulders and place the large white shawl around both of them, representing their unity and wishes for a happy future together.

Native American Wedding Vase

_____ **and** _____ have just sealed their relationship with the giving and receiving of rings. Today their union is further symbolized by partaking from the Native American wedding vase.

The wedding vase has two spouts coming from the same vessel. As individuals, you have had different experiences and bring together different strengths.

The two spouts of the wedding vase represent each of you as individuals. As husband and wife, you will continue to be individuals, yet you will always drink from the same vessel of life.

_____ **and** _____, as you share this one water from two spouts, so may each of you share contentment, comfort and happiness from the common cup of your marriage. May you find life's joys great, its

bitterness sweetened and all things enriched by your companionship and your love.

Please Drink From Your Wedding Vase

Blessing of the Marriage

Great Spirit protect the ones we love. We honor all you created as we pledge our hearts and lives together. We honor mother earth and ask for our marriage to be abundant and grow stronger through the seasons;

We honor fire and ask that our union be warm and glowing with love in our hearts. We honor wind and ask we sail through life safe and calm as in our father's arms. We honor 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.

Declaration of Marriage

As _____ and _____ have pledged their lives to one another in our presence, it is with great honor we recognize them as husband and wife, partner's in life together, now and forever, united in marriage. You may now kiss as husband and wife !!!, partner's in life.

Native American Wedding Ceremony By The Vow Keeper

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