

Marriage of S. C. and L. B.

June 30, 2007

Guitarist: [pre-ceremony doodling]

Dawn and Akien: [Go quietly stand at front]

Akien: [Requests that everyone get up, stretch, reach into pockets/purses, gather cell phones and turn off.]

Dawn: Now we ask you, the Witnesses, to please be seated while H., S. C.'s youngest sibling, creates sacred space here in Nature's temple by circling the space with flower petals. As she does this, please lend your attention and intention to include all good and positive energies, while leaving any negative or destructive energy outside of this circle. Our collective thoughts and energies will create the sacred space in which this marriage will take place.

H.: [Creates sacred space. Enters from back, sprinkling flower petals. She circles around behind stump, in front of redwood trees, back around the audience, and then comes up center aisle, scattering the remainder of the petals in the center stage area.]

M./K. entrance

C./E. entrance

S. C./T. entrance

L. B./P. entrance

Akien: [gets rapt attention from audience] We are gathered here today to witness the coming together of L. B. and S. C., whose hearts and spirits are entwined as one.

Dawn: Rings are a traditional symbol of marriage, of love without end, a reminder of words spoken and intentions pledged.

Akien: [To S. C. and L. B.] Let *these* rings serve not as locks binding you together—but instead as keys, unlocking the secrets of your hearts for each other to know, and thus bringing you closer together forever.

Dawn: [To Audience] Please take a moment or two to pass these rings amongst yourselves, each imbuing them briefly with your thoughts, hopes, and good wishes for S. C. and L. B. as they embark on this new partnership.

C.V.: [Starts rings at back of audience.]

Akien: The beliefs and thoughts about love which motivate L. B. and S. C. can also be expressed in the words of the poet Kahlil Gibran, read now by S. C.'s father, G..

G.:

"You were born to be together, and together you shall be forevermore.
You shall be together when the wings of death scatter your days.
Ay, you shall be together even in your silent memory.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of the heaven dance between you.
Love one another, but make not a bondage 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 of the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each 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."

Dawn: S. C. and L. B. now desire to profess before all the world their intention to walk the road of life together.

L. B.: [Answer to question]

S. C.: [Answer to question]

Guitarist: [Plays music as needed, allowing time for rings to arrive at front]

[Rings arrive at front, passed by **P. to K/M, C/H, S/L.**]

Akien: [to H.] May I have the rings please?

H.: [Takes rings from parents. and hands to nuptial couple]

Akien: Do you, L. B. and S. C.'s gathered family and friends, commit to support and cherish the love recognized in this bond between them?

All: Yes!

Dawn: Do you, [parents] promise to uphold and encourage this partnership and advocate for its fulfillment?

'Rents: Yes!

Akien: Do you L. B., knowing S. C.'s love for you and returning it, realizing his strengths and learning from them, recognizing his weaknesses and helping him to overcome them, promise to be his equal and partner in all things, supporting him and being supported by him?

L. B.: I do.

S. C.: [puts ring on L. B.]

Dawn: Do you S. C., knowing L. B.'s love for you and returning it, realizing her strengths and learning from them, recognizing her weaknesses and helping her to overcome them, promise to be her equal and partner in all things, supporting her and being supported by her?

S. C.: I do.

L. B.: [puts ring on S. C.]

Dawn: By the power vested in us by the State of California,

Akien: And by the trust given to us by you, your family, and your community,

Dawn: And by the experience of our own lives,

Akien: We welcome you into the joys of marriage.

Dawn: [To L. B.] You may now kiss the groom!

Akien: [To audience] As you leave this space and move toward the reception, please take your chair with you, as you will need it if you wish to eat with your new family while seated.