

# Buddhist Wedding Ceremony Script

B\_\_\_\_\_ = Brides First Name      G\_\_\_\_\_ = Grooms First Name

Processional

Play Introductory Music

Welcome Statement

**Celebrant:** Dearly beloved, we meet here today to witness a sacred ceremony: the union of B\_\_\_\_\_ and G\_\_\_\_\_. With great regard, we come together to celebrate the love and devotion shared by these two children of the Universe that stand here before us. We are particularly blessed to be joined today by family and friends. The Bride and Groom are honored you could be here to participate in one of the most important days of their lives.

In the words of spiritual leader Thich Nhat Hanh: "The Buddha spoke about four elements that constitute true love: the capacity to be kind and offer happiness, maitri in Sanskrit, compassion, the capacity to relieve suffering, karuna; the capacity to bring joy every day, mudita; and finally, the capacity of nondiscrimination, upeksha. When there is true love, there is nondiscrimination. The pain of the other is our own pain; the happiness of the other is our own happiness... To make our love meaningful, we need to nourish our bodhicitta, our mind of boundless love and compassion... First, we learn to love one person with all our understanding and insight; then we expand that love to embrace another person, and another, until our love is truly boundless."

Over the course of their relationship, B\_\_\_\_\_ and G\_\_\_\_\_ have developed a concrete bond based on shared values and mutual respect. With a concrete foundation from which to grow, they have made the decision to take the vow of marriage and spend the rest of their lives together.

Let us rejoice in the joy and love before us here today. May we treasure these memories as B\_\_\_\_\_ and G\_\_\_\_\_, Under the eyes of the Universe, get set to begin their new life together.

Family Blessing

**Celebrant:** Who gives this bride

**Bride's Companion:** I do.

## Wedding Sermon

**Celebrant:** *(Addressing the guests)* Marriage is a respected institution, and one deserving of deep regard. Today we observe the union of B\_\_\_\_\_ and G\_\_\_\_\_ in holy matrimony, a commitment they have chosen to accept with all the sincerity that it warrants.

While marriage is a sacred and serious tradition, it also brings for tremendous joy. Married life is full of surprises, adventures, and memory making, all made possible by the everlasting power of love. When B\_\_\_\_\_ and G\_\_\_\_\_ finalize this union, they will begin a new life together, one defined by shared hopes, dreams, and successes.

*(Addressing the couple)* B\_\_\_\_\_ and G\_\_\_\_\_, as you learn to live as one; you will face many challenges that will help you grow. Spend time doing the things that make life precious – cooperate with each other, always make time to laugh together, and never lose appreciation for the love that you both share. Remember to adhere to the vows that you will make today. Find strength in each other, give hope to each other, and let your trials help you grow as one. They say love can build bridges and climb mountains – and they're right. You will find that as it grows and matures over time, your love for one another will prove both fulfilling and empowering.

There will be challenges in life, but the strength of your bond will give you protection against life's difficulties. Always make your relationship a priority, and continue to nurture one another. Through a commitment of love, and with the power of faith, together you will be able to navigate any obstacles that come your way.

## Consecration

**Celebrant:** Under the eyes of the Universe, I solemnly bear witness to these matrimonial proceedings. I will now finalize the sacred covenant you will both enter into on this day.

The rite of marriage is an ancient institution, an important ritual that binds two people together for the rest of their days. Today, as you form this union, you're choosing to take a vow that is as sacred today the same as it was to your ancestors.

Consider the guidance found in Buddha's sermon at Rajagaha: "Do not deceive, do not despise each other anywhere. Do not be angry nor bear secret resentments; for as a mother will risk her life and watches over her child, so boundless be your love to all, so tender, kind and mild. Cherish goodwill right and left, early and late, and without hindrance, without stint, be free of hate and envy, while standing and walking and sitting down, whatever you have in mind, the rule of life that is always best is to be loving-kind."

## Vows

**Celebrant:** B\_\_\_\_\_ and G\_\_\_\_\_, I invite you to express your sacred vows to one another. Please face each other as you declare these vows before the Universe and in the presence of your family and friends.

B\_\_\_\_\_, you may start.

**B\_\_\_\_\_:** I, B\_\_\_\_\_, take you, G\_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawfully wedded husband. I promise to keep you by my side through good times and bad, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. I vow to stay true to you, honor you, and love you for the rest of my days until death do us part.

G\_\_\_\_\_, now is the time for your promise.

**G\_\_\_\_\_:** I, G\_\_\_\_\_, take you, B\_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawfully wedded wife. I promise to keep you by my side through good times and bad, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. I vow to stay true to you, honor you, and love you for the rest of my days until death do us part.

## Declaration of Intent

**Celebrant:** B\_\_\_\_\_ and G\_\_\_\_\_, please join hands with one another. Under the eyes of the Universe, G\_\_\_\_\_, do you take B\_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded wife? Do you promise to support her completely and love her unconditionally, so long as you both shall live?

G \_\_\_\_\_: I do.

**Celebrant:** Under the eyes of the Universe, B \_\_\_\_\_, do you take G \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded husband? Do you promise to support him completely and love him unconditionally, so long as you both shall live?

B \_\_\_\_\_: I do.

**Celebrant:** Very well, let us proceed.

### Ring Exchange

**Celebrant:** Now it's time to exchange the rings. The circle that is formed by these rings is a symbol of your love and eternal commitment to one another. May these rings forever remind you of the sacred promises you've made to each other here today in the company of your family and friends.

G \_\_\_\_\_, you will go first. Please repeat after me as you place the ring on the hand of your loved one.

I, G \_\_\_\_\_, give you, B \_\_\_\_\_ this ring as a symbol of my love, commitment, and the eternal vows we have made today to each other. With this ring, I thee wed.

B \_\_\_\_\_, your turn.

I, B \_\_\_\_\_, give you, G \_\_\_\_\_ this ring as a symbol of my love, commitment, and the eternal vows we have made today to each other. With this ring, I thee wed.

### Pronouncement

**Celebrant:** By the power vested in me, by the state of \_\_\_\_\_ I now pronounce you, G \_\_\_\_\_ and B \_\_\_\_\_ as husband and wife, lawfully wedded before the Universe.

### Kiss

**Celebrant:** G \_\_\_\_\_, you may now kiss the bride.

Presentation

**Celebrant:** Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great honor and joy that I officially present to you Mr. and Mrs.

G\_\_\_\_\_ and B\_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_!!

Recessional

Play Exit Music