

Wedding with rituals honouring parents, wine ceremony, unity tea, glass smashing

CALL TO GATHER AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

MARY:

Dear family and friends, we have gathered here today to witness and celebrate the wedding of David Taub and Seungah Jeong. Let us consider --

Love is the joy of the good
The wonder of the wise
The amazement of the Gods - Plato

Marriage is the fulfillment of love, and the promise of hope between two people who love each other sincerely, who honour each other as individuals, and who wish to unite their lives and share the future together. In this ceremony, this couple will dedicate themselves to the happiness and well-being of each other, in a union of mutual caring and responsibility.

Let us surround them with our love, our hope, and our respect.

[ASK EVERYONE to SIT]

INTRODUCTION

My name is Mary Beaty; I am a Humanist Chaplain, at the University of Toronto, and certified by the Ontario Humanist Society to officiate at weddings in the Province of Ontario. I am pleased and honored that Seungah and David have asked me to officiate at their wedding ceremony today.

Humanism is an ethical philosophy of life, affirming that by our human nature, we have the capacity and the responsibility to lead meaningful, ethical lives based on reason and compassion, for the greater good of all humanity and the natural environment we inhabit and respect.

It is a Humanist principle that there is equality between [men and women] in every way, and marriage is a cooperative relationship based on love, respect, and a determination on the part of each partner to adjust to the other's temperaments and conditions, in health or sickness, joy or sadness, ease or hardship. It is with this understanding of the shared responsibilities of marriage that this couple come to be joined.

READING

MARY:

We have been called together as witnesses
To the happiness which this couple
Has found together
And to the pledge which they will now make
Each to the other
For the mutual service
Of their common life.
We rejoice with them,
That out of all the world
They have found each other.

And that they will henceforth find the deeper
Meaning and richness of human life
In sharing it with each other.
Taught by our own joys,
By our own sorrow,
Even by our own failures,
We remind them
That in marriage
As in all life,
Whosoever insists upon saving his lesser goods
And his little self
Shall miss what is greater,
But whosoever forgets himself
In devotion to his beloved
And in consecration to their common enterprise,
Is surest to find a full and happy life.

PLEDGES OF SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY

MARY:

As we gather here today, in this special place, It is fitting that you, the families and friends of David and Seungah, be here to witness and to participate in their wedding, for the ideals, the understanding, and the mutual respect which they bring to their marriage have their roots in the love, friendship, and guidance you have given them.

(To couple)

David and Seungah, today you choose each other as lifelong companions. But you do not make this choice alone or in isolation from others. You have a community of friends and family who witness your choice.

(To guests)

Your role in their union is important, and they will need your love and support not only on this special day, but in all the days and years to come.

I entrust you all to support David and Seungah's commitment to each other through the years.

HONOURING FAMILY

(ask parents to stand)

MARY:

To Paul and Thelma (Taub) and Seungah's Jim and Mijo (Jeong).
David and Seungah would especially like to thank and honour their parents for the roles that they have played in shaping their values and their lives.

(Couple bows to both sets of parents)

Our community is also shared by those who cannot be here today, and those who have left this life. Their roles in the lives of Seungah and David are honoured and remembered as we savor today's joyous moments. Let us now bring these persons into our hearts and thoughts, especially Seungah's grandmother, **Harlmohni** .

(Moment of silence) (Ask parents to sit)

INTENTION TO MARRY/BETROTHAL

MARY:

David and Seungah: please face each other.

David, have you come here freely today be married to Seungah, stating there is no legal impediment to your being lawfully joined in Marriage? I have.

Seungah, have you come here freely today be married to David, stating there is no legal impediment to your being lawfully joined in Marriage? I have.

Do you, David, now declare your willingness to take Seungah to be your wife, believing the love you share and your faith in each other will endure all things?

DAVID: "I do."

Do you, Seungah, now declare your willingness to take David to be your husband, believing the love you share and your faith in each other will endure all things?

SEUNGAH: "I do."

MARY:

Will you please join hands?

VOWS AND RING CEREMONY

The pledges you will now repeat are a statement of present intent and commitment. They cannot endure unless you make them endure, with the resources you will draw from deep within yourselves and with the support of those who love and cherish you. May this be but the beginning of a relationship that will grow and mature with each passing year until the latter days become the promise of today.

INTENTION and VOWS

MARY:

Please join your hands and face each other

David: will you have Seungah to be your wedded wife to share your life with her?

Do you pledge that you will love her, honor her, and care for her in all the varying circumstances of your lives?

DAVID: "I will."

MARY (to Seungah):

Seungah: will you have David to be your wedded husband to share your life with him?

Do you pledge that you will love him, honor him, and care for him in all the varying circumstances of your lives?

SEUNGAH: "I will."

MARY:

Having exchanged your vows, it is customary to also exchange rings as a symbol of love and a token that you will fulfill your promises to each other.

David's brother Steven presents the rings,

MARY (prompting)

[What gift do you offer in token of your vows/ do you accept this gift?]

DAVID:

Seungah, I give this ring to you as a token of my love and appreciation for you and as a symbol of my devotion to our commitment.

MARY (prompting)

[What gift do you offer in token of your vows/ do you accept this gift?]

SEUNGAH

David, I give this ring to you as a token of my love and appreciation for you and as a symbol of my devotion to our commitment.

MARY:

Here in the space between you both lies all the future of the fragment of the universe which is now your own.

May every blessing and grace be yours
as your lives are now bound in each other's keeping.

Wine CEREMONY

MARY picks up special gourd

The years of our lives are as wine poured for us to drink.

Seungah and David, this cup will also serve as a sign of your unity. Although you are two persons, you have chosen to unit your lives and seek your happiness together.

You will now drink from the same cup to be reminded that you will share life's pain and pleasures, sorrows and joys. Drink now to each other, and may the cup of all your lives be full. *[Davidt sips 3 times, and hands gourd to Seungah, who sips 3 times. Mary takes gourd]*

ACT OF UNITY

Mary: (to guests)

There is a popular beverage in Hong Kong called ***Yuen-yang***, made of a mixture of coffee and Hong Kong-style milk tea.

The name ***Yuen-yang***, also refers to **mandarin ducks**, a symbol of conjugal love in Chinese culture, as the birds usually appear in pairs and the male and female look very different. This same connotation of "pair" of two unlike items is used to name this drink.

_____ and _____ are fond of this drink and what the name means, as it was in enjoying this drink which was one of the earliest memories they had together as a couple.

_____ and _____ would like to express the union of their two distinct lives by creating and sharing a ***Yuen-yang***, where each portion of tea and coffee represents a complete whole, but combined, brings forth a rich and inseparable new creation.

(couple sit at table, pour tea/coffee from silver pots, and share the drink).

FINAL BLESSING

MARY:

We now offer our good wishes to this new couple, on behalf of those present here today:

May your love grow stronger and deeper with each passing year.

May joy and delight fill your home

May daily problems not vex you unduly

Nor the desire for earthly possessions dominate you

May you have true friends to stay by you in joy and sorrow

And if children bless you, may they return your love

Many times over.

With wise and generous hearts

May you help all to come to you in need of comfort

And may you reach a ripe age together

Content for having lived a life of goodness and worth.

May all that is noble, lovely, and true abide with you forever.

Go now in peace and may peace and love attend you all your days.

DECLARATION

MARY:

Forasmuch as Seungah and David have grown in knowledge and love of one another and because they have agreed in their desire to go forward in live together, by the authority vested in me and in accordance with the Marriage Act of Ontario, we now rejoice to recognize them as wife and husband. Congratulations to you both!

KISS and GLASS SMASHING

(MARY picks up wine glass)

As the couple exchanges their first kiss as a married couple, as is traditional in a Jewish ceremony, David will break a glass, changing its form forever, just as the form of their life is forever changed. With this glass, they remember their commitment to Tikkun, to healing, to returning the broken shards of this world to order and to oneness. With this glass they step forward together as partners, to providing a healthy and loving home for their family, and to offering what love and hope they may to all the world.

KISS! SMASH! Mazel Tov! Congratulations!

MARY: I now present to you Seungah Jeong and David Taub, wife and husband.

GENERAL MERRIMENT

SIGN MARRIAGE LICENSE