

Wedding Reflection on Love and Commitment

This reflection was originally written for two young women looking forward to a long married life together.

Ah, the mystery of LOVE.

Dostoevsky writes: "Love in practice is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to the love of dreams," and the love of romance novels, we might add.

Love: harsh and dreadful... who would want it? Can real love, love in practice, costly love, be desirable? Well, obviously it is, otherwise you would not be standing here, the way so many of us have stood before you.

_____ & _____, you follow where others have led, parents, siblings and friends. LOVE has brought you here. Yet, the mystery of LOVE, REAL LOVE in practice is a harsh and terrible thing. For REAL LOVE in practice explodes the assumptions we have about what "our ideal" -- child, parent, lover will be like. Love in practice invites us to "cross-over," and stand in the shoes of the one we love, especially when they step out of our dreams, our romance novel, our fairy tale for them, and enter into the reality of the world around them, our real world.

The mystery of LOVE, "When someone loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, not just to toy with, not just for fun, or for their own self-satisfaction, but really loves you, then YOU become real.

_____ & _____, you enter into this relationship with the promise to love each other for a long, L-O--N--G time because in that love you have for one another YOU become realised as a person. You become the person that LOVE meant you to be.

Does it hurt? Does becoming realised as a person, does becoming your real self hurt? Does loving for a long, LONG time hurt? Asks the Rabbit.

Sometimes. Some of the times... but you work through those hard times, through, around, over, those hard times of hurt because love is the greatest of all things.

Ah, the mystery of LOVE, sweet LOVE.

Emily Dickinson brings a thought to LOVE's mystery. She writes, "That LOVE is all there is, is all we know of LOVE."

LOVE is all there is.

What love joins together may no one separate.

