

Heather and Scotty - Ceremony – January 5, 2013

Good afternoon. My name is Melissa Taylor and I have the privilege of performing this ceremony today.

On behalf of Heather and Scotty welcome and thank you for being here. They are delighted that you are here today to share in their joy during this wonderful moment in their lives.

By your presence, you celebrate with them the love they have discovered in each other and you support their decision to commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives.

I encourage each of you to take many pictures throughout the ceremony in order to preserve your memories of this special afternoon.

Address to the Assembly

Today Scotty and Heather's relationship will change. All of us know it will grow and become stronger and better. This is a day of hope. It is a day in which they demonstrate their commitment, devotion, and mutual respect, as well as their faith and love in one another.

You who are gathered here as witnesses are called to continue your support and encouragement of the life that Heather and Scotty are creating together.

Apache Wedding Poem, read by Will (Scotty's brother)

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be a shelter to the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there is no loneliness for you, for each of you will be a companion to the other. Now you are two bodies, but there is only one life before you. May your days be good and long upon the earth!

The Affirmation of Family/Friends

In the spirit of joy and affirmation, I want to ask your family and friends a question: Do you, the families and friends of Heather and Scotty, give them your blessing and support, wishing them a wonderful life together? If so, please answer "we will."

Handfasting

Know now before you go further, that since your lives have crossed in this life you have formed ties between each other. As you seek to enter this state of matrimony you should strive to make real the ideals which give meaning to both this ceremony and the institution of marriage.

The promises made today and the ties that are bound here greatly strengthen your union; they will cross the years and lives of each soul's growth. Do you still seek to enter this ceremony?

Heather and Scotty: Yes, We Seek to Enter.

In times past it was believed that the human soul shared characteristics with all things divine. It is this belief which assigned virtues to the cardinal directions; East, South, West and North. It is in this tradition that a blessing is offered in support of this ceremony.

Blessed be this union with the gifts of the East. Communication of the heart, mind, and body. Fresh beginnings with the rising of each Sun. The knowledge of the growth found in the sharing of silences.

Blessed be this union with the gifts of the South. Warmth of hearth and home. The heat of the heart's passion The light created by both. To lighten the darkest of times

Blessed be this union with the gifts of the West. The deep commitments of the lake. The swift excitement of the river. The refreshing cleansing of the rain. The all-encompassing passion of the sea.

Blessed be this union with the gifts of the North. Firm foundation on which to build. Fertility of the fields to enrich your lives. A stable home to which you may always return.

Each of these blessings from the four cardinal directions emphasizes those things which will help you build a happy and successful union. Yet they are only tools. Tools which you must use together in order to create what you seek in this union.

I ask you to look into each other's eyes.

Scotty, Will you cause her pain?

Scotty: I May

Is that your intent?

Scotty: No

Heather, Will you cause him pain?

Heather: I may

Is that your intent?

Heather: No

Will you both share each other's pain and seek to ease it?

Heather and Scotty: Yes

And so the binding is made. Please join your hands *First cord is draped across the Heather and Scotty's hands*

Heather, Will you share his laughter?

Heather: Yes

Scotty, Will you share her laughter?

Scotty: Yes

Will you both look for the brightness in life and for the positive in each other?

Heather and Scotty: Yes

And so the binding is made. *Second chord is draped across the couple's hands*

Heather, Will you burden him?

Heather: I may

Is that your intent?

Heather: No

Scotty, Will you burden her?

Scotty: I may

Is that your intent?

Scotty: No

Will you share the burdens of each so that your spirits may grow in this union?

Heather and Scotty: Yes

And so the binding is made. *Drape third chord across the couple's hands*

Heather, will you share his dreams?

Heather: Yes

Scotty, will you share her dreams?

Scotty: Yes

Will you dream together to create new realities and hopes?

Heather and Scotty: Yes

And so the binding is made. *Drape fourth chord across the couple's hands*

Scotty, will you cause her anger?

Scotty: I may

Is that your intent?

Scotty: No

Heather, will you cause him anger?

Heather: I may

Is that your intent?

Heather: No

Will you take the heat of anger and use it to temper the strength of this union?

Heather and Scotty: We Will

And so the binding is made. *Drape fifth chord across the couple's hands*

Heather, Will you honor him?

Heather: I will

Scotty, Will you honor her?

Scotty: I will

Will you both seek to never give cause to break that honor?

Heather and Scotty: We shall never do so

And so the binding is made.*Drape sixth chord across the couple's hands* *Tie chords together while saying:*

The knots of this binding are not formed by these chords but instead by your vows. Either of you may drop the chords, for you hold in your own hands the making or breaking of this union.

Once chords are tied together they are removed and placed on altar

Ring Exchange

May we have the rings please?

(Heather and Scotty exchange rings).

May those who wear these rings live in love through all their days.

Declaration

Scotty and Heather, we have heard your promise to share your lives in marriage. We recognize and respect the covenant of marriage you have made here this day before each one of us as witnesses. Therefore, in the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here today, it is my honour and delight to declare you husband and wife.

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

Signing of the Register

Two witnesses of the age of majority will sign the legal paperwork and the boys will sign the Record of Marriage.

What is a Family Poem or a reading by Raiden

Introduction of the Couple

It is my privilege and joy to be the first one to introduce Scotty and Heather as husband and wife. Please greet them warmly.