

You are about to enter into the state of marriage, in which each of you assumes new relations, both to each other and society, which are to endure during all your life, as long as the Lord of all spirits permits you to dwell on earth.

Before this, both of you were free to choose another mate from the rest of the world, but from now on you vow to be to each other, friends in joy and in sorrow. And to travel the round of earthly existence hand in hand, and heart linked to heart. The solemnity of this time, and the just impression it has on both of you is most assuredly the result of the most sacred step in life, which you have taken. It is a step which unites two bodies into one, with the same thoughts, aspirations, and hopes. It is a union which God brought together, and man cannot separate; a union which has been predestined by the most wise and omniscient Creator, and no human being has any right to interfere with.

Our sages said thus, "Forty days before the child is born a voice from Heaven proclaims the daughter of so and so, belongs to so and so." This predestined arrangement is not blind fate, but it is the wise management of the one who regulates all ends and destinations of the universe, in order that all that exists may harmoniously perform his will and laws. Upon arrangement and harmony our world is thus based; upon the fulfillment of God's everlasting laws, humanity's welfare is founded.

If you, my dear Bride and Bridegroom, will always try to live in harmony, in perfect agreement one with the other, you will thereby, demonstrate the wise laws of the Creator. If you will always try to labor for the same ends and purposes, you will confirm the Almighty's purpose in creation. Harmony in our lives brings happiness to ourselves and to our posterity. Perfect agreement between man and wife results in virtue, benevolence, and righteousness, which when put together, forms the crown of humankind.

Allow me to congratulate you upon the entrance of a virtuous life. May you always remember this day when true happiness opened its doors and bids you enter, in the name of God and our holy religion. We have every reason to believe that whatever is right will be practised by both of you to the satisfaction of men and God. All is well, all will be well, for God will dwell in your hearts, and peace will be your watchword.

May the Almighty God of Israel bless your happy union, which shall continue to be in harmony, peace, and sincere affection, until a very old age. Amen.