



ELOPEMENT CEREMONY

Customized for

Mary Doe and John Smith



Minister: *John Smith and Mary Doe, you have not come here on this day to make a solemn promise or to exchange a sacred vow. You have already done that, long ago in your hearts. John and Mary, you have come here to make public your commitment; to give notice to your promise; so that it will become real and thus make it even more powerful.*



Blessing the Rings

Bride and Groom give the rings to the **Minister** who holds them in his hand as he says...

*These rings are a circle, the symbol of the sun and the earth and the universe. They are a symbol of holiness and of perfection and peace. They are also the symbol of the eternality of spiritual truth, love and life ... that which has no beginning and no end. And in this moment, **John and Mary** choose for them to be a symbol of unity, but not of possession; of joining, but not of restriction; of encirclement, but not of entrapment. For Love cannot be possessed, nor can it be restricted. And the soul can never be entrapped.*

*Now **John and Mary**, please take these rings you wish to give, one to the other. (**Bride** takes her ring – **Groom** takes his ring.)*

Exchange of Vows

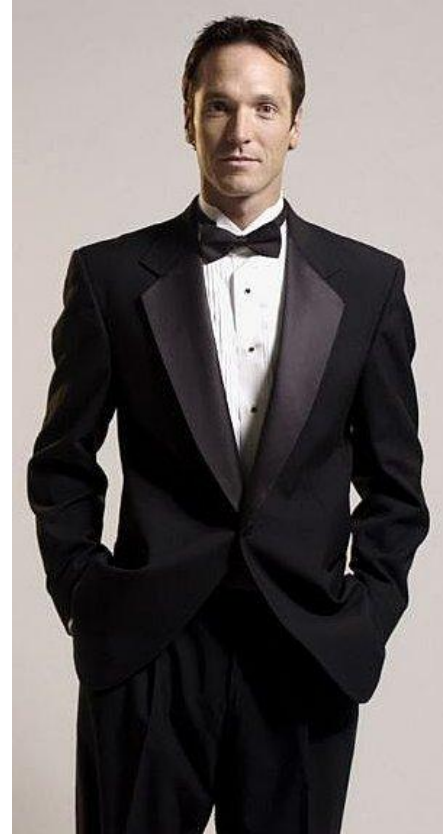
Minister: Now **John**, please repeat after me.

Groom: I, **John Smith** ... ask you, **Mary Doe** ... to be my partner, my lover ... my friend, and my wife ... I announce and declare ... my intention ... to give you ...my deepest friendship and love ... not only ... when your moments are high ... but when they are low ... not only ... when you remember clearly ... Who you are ... but when you forget ... not only ... when you are acting with love ... but when you are not ... I further announce ... before God and these here present ... that I will seek always ... to see the Light of Divinity ... within you ... and seek always ... to share the Light of Divinity... within me ... even, and especially ... in whatever moments of darkness may come.

It is my intention ... to be with you forever ... in a Holy Partnership of the soul ... that we may do God's work together ... sharing all that is good within us ... with all those ... whose lives we touch.

Minister to the Bride: **Mary**, do you choose to grant **John's** request that you be his wife?

Bride: I do.





Minister: Now **Mary**, please repeat after me.

Bride: *I, **Mary Doe** ... ask you, **John Smith** ... to be my partner, my lover ... my friend, and my husband ... I announce and declare ... my intention ... to give you ... my deepest friendship and love ... not only... when your moments are high ... but when they are low ... not only ... when you remember clearly ... Who you are ... but when you forget ... not only... when you are acting with love ... but when you are not ... I further announce ... before God and these here present ... that I will seek always ... to see the Light of Divinity ... within you ... and seek always ... to share the Light of Divinity... within me ... even, and especially ... in whatever moments of darkness may come.*

It is my intention ... to be with you forever ... in a Holy Partnership of the soul ... that we may do God's work together ... sharing all that is good within us ... with all those ... whose lives we touch.

Minister to the Groom: **John**, do you choose to grant **Mary's** request that you be her husband?

Groom: *I do.*



Exchange the Rings

Minister: Now **John and Mary**, please take these rings you wish to give, one to the other. (**Bride** takes his ring – **Groom** takes her ring.)

Minister: Now **John**, please repeat after me.

Groom: With this ring ... I thee wed ... I now take your ring ... and give it place upon your hand ... (**He places the ring on her hand.**) ... that all may see and know of my love for you.

Minister: Now **Mary**, please repeat after me.

Bride: With this ring ... I thee wed ... I now take your ring ... and give it place upon your hand ... (**She places the ring on his hand.**) ... that all may see and know of my love for you.



*And so now, inasmuch as you **John**, and you, **Mary**, have announced the truths that are already written in your hearts and have witnessed the same in the presence of these, your friends, and the One Living Spirit – we observe joyfully that you have declared yourself to be husband and wife.*

You may kiss each other.

Closing Prayer

Minister: *Spirit of Love and Life, out of this whole world, two souls have found each other. Their destinies shall now be woven into one design and their perils and their joys shall not be known apart.*



John and Mary, *may your home be a place of happiness for all who enter it; a place where the old and the young are renewed in each other's company; a place for growing and a place for sharing; a place for music and a place for laughter; a place for prayer and a place for love.*

May the beauty and the bounty of your love for one another constantly enrich those who are nearest to you; may your work be a joy of your life that serves the world, and may your days be good and long upon the earth. Amen