

BLESSING FOR A MARRIAGE

by James Billet Freeman

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements
a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also
patience, tolerance, and understanding.

May you always need one another – not so much to fill
your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness.

A mountain needs a valley to be complete;
the valley does not make the mountain less, but more;
and the valley is more a valley because it has a
mountain towering over it.

So let it be with you and you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness.

May you want one another, but not out of lack.

May you entice one another, but not compel one another.

May you embrace one another, but not out
encircle one another.

May you succeed in all important ways with one another,
and not fail in the little graces.

May you look for things to praise, often say, "I love you!"
and take no notice of small faults.

If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you
hope to have good sense enough to take
the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery, which is the awareness of
one another's presence — no more
physical than spiritual,
warm and near when you are side by side,
and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or
even distant cities.

May you have happiness, and may you find it
making one another happy.

May you have love, and may you find it
loving one another.