

POSSIBLE READINGS:

1 A Reading from First Corinthians, the Thirteenth Chapter (I Corinthians.13.1-7, 13)

"I MAY SPEAK IN THE TONGUES OF MEN OR OF ANGELS. BUT IF I AM WITHOUT LOVE, I AM A SOUNDING GONG OR A CLANGING SYMBOL. I MAY HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, AND KNOW EVERY HIDDEN TRUTH; I MAY HAVE FAITH STRONG ENOUGH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS; BUT IF I HAVE NO LOVE, I AM NONE THE BETTER. I MAY DOLE OUT ALL THAT I POSSESS, OR EVEN GIVE MY BODY TO BE BURNT, BUT IF I HAVE NO LOVE, I AM NONE THE BETTER.

FOR YOU SEE, LOVE IS PATIENT; AND LOVE IS KIND AND IT ENVIES NO ONE. LOVE IS NEVER BOASTFUL, NOR CONCEITED, NOR RUDE, NEVER SELFISH, NOT QUICK TO TAKE OFFENCE. LOVE KEEPS NO SCORE OF WRONGS, AND IT NEVER DELIGHTS OVER ANOTHER PERSON'S SINS, BUT RATHER, IT DELIGHTS IN THE TRUTH. THERE IS NOTHING THAT LOVE CANNOT FACE; THERE IS NO LIMIT TO ITS FAITH, ITS HOPE, OR ITS ENDURANCE. LOVE WILL NEVER COME TO AN END.

IN A WORD, THERE ARE THREE THINGS THAT WILL LAST FOREVER: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE; BUT THE GREATEST OF THEM IS LOVE.

HERE ENDS THE READING.

#2 The Prophet, "On Friendship" By: Kahlil Gibran

YOUR FRIEND IS YOUR NEEDS ANSWERED.

HE IS YOUR FIELD WHICH YOU SOW WITH LOVE AND REAP WITH THANKSGIVING.

AND HE IS YOUR BOARD AND YOUR FIRESIDE.

FOR YOU COME TO HIM WITH YOUR HUNGER, AND YOU SEEK HIM FOR PEACE.

WHEN YOUR FRIEND SPEAKS HIS MIND, YOU FEAR NOT THE "NAY" IN YOUR OWN MIND, NOR DO YOU WITHHOLD THE "AYE".

AND WHEN HE IS SILENT YOUR HEART CEASES NOT TO LISTEN TO HIS HEART;

FOR WITHOUT WORDS, IN FRIENDSHIP, ALL THOUGHTS, ALL DESIRES, ALL EXPECTATIONS ARE BORN AND SHARED, WITH A HOY THAT IS UNACCLAIMED.

WHEN YOU PART FROM YOUR FRIEND, YOU GRIEVE NOT;

FOR THAT WHICH YOU LOVE MOST IN HIM MAY BE CLEARER IN HIS ABSENCE, AS THE MOUNTAIN TO THE CLIMBER IS CLEARER FROM THE PLAIN.

AND LET THERE BE NO PURPOSE IN FRIENDSHIP SAVE THE DEEPENING OF THE SPIRIT.

FOR LOVE THAT SEEKS AUGHT BUT THE DISCLOSURE OF ITS OWN MYSTERY IS NOT LOVE BUT A NET CAST FORTH; AND ONLY THE UNPROFITABLE IS CAUGHT.

AND LET YOUR BEST BE FOR YOUR FRIEND.

IF HE MUST KNOW THE EBB OF YOUR TIDE, LET HIM KNOW ITS FLOOD ALSO.

FOR WHAT IS YOUR FRIEND THAT YOU SHOULD SEEK HIM WITH HOURS TO KILL?

SEEK HIM ALWAYS WITH HOURS TO LIVE.

FOR IT IS HIS TO FILL YOUR NEED, BUT NOT YOUR EMPTINESS.

AND IN THE SWEETNESS OF FRIENDSHIP LET THERE BE LAUGHTER, AND THE SHARING OF PLEASURES.

FOR IN THE DEW OF LITTLE THINGS, THE HEART FINDS ITS MORNING, AND IS REFRESHED.

#3 The Prophet "On Love" By Kahlil Gibran

WHEN LOVE BECKONS TO YOU, FOLLOW HIM, THOUGH HIS WAYS ARE HARD AND STEEP. AND WHEN HIS WINGS ENFOLD YOU, YIELD TO HIM, THOUGH THE SWORD HIDDEN AMONG HIS PINIONS MAY WOUND YOU. AND, WHEN HE SPEAKS TO YOU, BELIEVE IN HIM, THOUGH HIS VOICE MAY SHATTER YOUR DREAMS AS THE NORTH WIND LAYS WASTE TO THE GARDEN.

LOVE GIVES NAUGHT BUT ITSELF AND TAKES NAUGHT BUT FROM ITSELF. LOVE POSSESSES NOT, NOR WOULD IT BE POSSESSED, FOR LOVE IS SUFFICIENT UNTO LOVE. AND THINK NOT THAT YOU CAN DIRECT THE COURSE OF LOVE, FOR LOVE, IF IT FINDS YOU WORTHY -- DIRECTS YOUR COURSE.

LOVE HAS NO OTHER DESIRE BUT TO FULFILL ITSELF. BUT IF YOU LOVE, AND MUST, NEEDS HAVE DESIRES... LET THESE BE YOUR DESIRES: TO MELT AND BE LIKE A RUNNING BROOK THAT SINGS ITS MELODY TO THE NIGHT. TO KNOW THE PAIN OF TOO MUCH TENDERNESS. TO BE WOUNDED BY YOUR OWN UNDER-STANDING OF LOVE; AND, TO BLEED WILLINGLY AND JOYFULLY, AND TO WAKE AT DAWN WITH A WINGED HEART AND TO GIVE THANKS FOR ANOTHER DAY OF LOVING.

*(#3 AND #4 READINGS MAY BE JOINED TOGETHER
WITH THE WORD - "FOR")*

#4 The Prophet "On Marriage" By: Kahlil Gibran

YOU WERE BORN TOGETHER, AND TOGETHER YOU SHALL BE FOREVERMORE. YOU SHALL BE TOGETHER WHEN THE WHITE WINGS OF DEATH SCATTER YOUR DAYS. AY, YOU SHALL BE TOGETHER, EVEN IN THE SILENT MEMORY OF GOD. BUT LET THERE BE SPACES IN YOUR TOGETHERNESS, AND LET THE WINDS OF THE HEAVENS DANCE BETWEEN YOU. LOVE ONE ANOTHER, BUT MAKE NOT A BOND OF THAT LOVE: LET IT RATHER BE, A MOVING SEA BETWEEN THE SHORES OF YOUR SOULS. FILL EACH OTHER'S CUP, BUT DRINK NOT FROM ONE CUP. GIVE ONE ANOTHER OF YOUR BREAD, BUT EAT NOT FROM THE SAME LOAF. SING AND DANCE TOGETHER AND BE JOYOUS, BUT LET EACH ONE OF YOU BE ALONE, EVEN AS THE STRINGS OF THE LUTE ARE ALONE, THOUGH THEY QUIVER WITH THE SAME MUSIC. GIVE YOUR HEARTS, BUT NOT INTO EACH OTHER'S KEEPING, FOR ONLY THE HAND OF LIFE CAN CONTAIN YOUR HEARTS. AND, STAND TOGETHER, YET NOT TOO NEAR TOGETHER: FOR THE PILLARS OF THE TEMPLE STAND APART, AND THE OAK TREE AND THE CYPRESS, GROW NOT INTO EACH OTHER'S SHADOW.

#5 The Key to Love

THE KEY TO LOVE IS UNDERSTANDING...
THE ABILITY TO COMPREHEND NOT ONLY THE SPOKEN WORD,
BUT THOSE UNSPOKEN GESTURES,
THE LITTLE THINGS THAT SAY SO MUCH BY THEMSELVES.//

THE KEY TO LOVE IS FORGIVENESS...
TO ACCEPT EACH OTHERS FAULTS AND PARDON MISTAKES,
WITHOUT FORGETTING, BUT WITH REMEMBERING
WHAT YOU LEARN FROM THEM.

THE KEY TO LOVE IS SHARING...
FACING YOUR GOOD FORTUNES AS WELL AS THE BAD, TOGETHER;
BOTH CONQUERING PROBLEMS, FOREVER SEARCHING FOR WAYS
TO INTENSIFY YOUR HAPPINESS.

THE KEY TO LOVE IS GIVING...
WITHOUT THOUGHT OF RETURN,
BUT WITH THE HOPE OF JUST A SIMPLE SMILE,
AND BY GIVING IN BUT NEVER GIVING UP.

THE KEY TO LOVE IS RESPECT...
REALIZING THAT YOU ARE TWO SEPARATE PEOPLE, WITH DIFFERENT IDEAS;
THAT YOU DON'T BELONG TO EACH OTHER,
THAT YOU BELONG WITH EACH OTHER, AND SHARE A MUTUAL BOND.

THE KEY TO LOVE IS INSIDE US ALL...
IT TAKES TIME AND PATIENCE TO UNLOCK ALL THE INGREDIENTS
THAT WILL TAKE YOU TO ITS THRESHOLD;
IT IS THE CONTINUAL LEARNING PROCESS THAT DEMANDS A LOT OF WORK...
BUT THE REWARDS ARE MORE THAN WORTH THE EFFORT...
AND THAT IS THE KEY TO LOVE.

AMEN.

6 Corinthians 13.4-8, The Bible

LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND; LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS OR BOASTFUL; IT IS NOT ARROGANT OR RUDE. LOVE DOES NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY; IT IS NOT IRRITABLE OR RESENTFUL; IT DOES NOT REJOICE AT WRONG, BUT REJOICES IN THE RIGHT. LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS, ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER ENDS.

#7 Why Marriage?

By Mari Nichols

BECAUSE TO THE DEPTHS OF ME, I LONG TO LOVE ONE PERSON,
WITH ALL MY HEART, MY SOUL, MY MIND, MY BODY...
BECAUSE I NEED A FOREVER FRIEND TO TRUST WITH THE INTIMACIES OF ME,
WHO WON'T HOLD THEM AGAINST ME,
WHO LOVES ME WHEN I'M UNLIKABLE,
WHO SEES THE SMALL CHILD IN ME, AND
WHO LOOKS FOR THE DIVINE POTENTIAL OF ME...
BECAUSE I NEED TO CUDDLE IN THE WARMTH OF THE NIGHT
WITH SOMEONE WHO THANKS GOD FOR ME,
WITH SOMEONE I FEEL BLESSED TO HOLD...
BECAUSE MARRIAGE MEANS OPPORTUNITY
TO GROW IN LOVE IN FRIENDSHIP...
BECAUSE MARRIAGE IS A DISCIPLINE
TO BE ADDED TO A LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS...
BECAUSE MARRIAGES DO NOT FAIL, PEOPLE FAIL
WHEN THEY ENTER INTO MARRIAGE
EXPECTING ANOTHER TO MAKE THEM WHOLE...
BECAUSE, KNOWING THIS,
I PROMISE MYSELF TO TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR MY SPIRITUAL, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WHOLENESS
I CREATE ME,
I TAKE HALF OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY MARRIAGE
TOGETHER WE CREATE OUR MARRIAGE...
BECAUSE WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING
THE POSSIBILITIES ARE LIMITLESS

#8 I Promise

HERE WE STAND
YOU AND I,
MAKING COMMITMENTS
FOR OUR LIFE.

BUT THERE IS MORE
I WANT TO SAY,
ABOUT THE LIFE
WE'LL LIVE EACH DAY.

I PROMISE MY LOVE,
TO GIVE MY EARS,
FOR ALL YOU SAY,
I WANT TO HEAR.

I PROMISE MY LOVE,
TO YOU MY EYES,
TO WATCH AND LEARN,
TO MAKE ME WISE.

I PROMISE, MY LOVE,
TO YOU MY MOUTH,
TO BE FAIR WHEN SPEAKING,
AND SLOW TO SHOUT.

I PROMISE MY LOVE,
TO YOU MY ARMS,
BELONG TO YOU,
AND ALL YOUR CHARMS.

I PROMISE, MY LOVE,
TO YOU MY FEET,
WILL WALK WITH YOU
THROUGH CHANGING BEAT.

HONOR ME,
I SHALL YOU,
MY HEAR IS YOURS
AND SO, I DO.

#9 Apache Wedding Blessing

NOW YOU WILL FEEL NO RAIN,
FOR EACH OF YOU WILL BE 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,
NOW THERE IS NO MORE LONELINESS.
NOW YOU ARE TWO PERSONS BUT THERE IS ONE LIFE BEFORE YOU

#10 Cherokee Union Prayer

GOD IN HEAVEN ABOVE
PLEASE PROTECT THE ONES WE LOVE
WE HONOR ALL YOU CREATED AS WE PLEDGE
OUR HEARTS AND LIVES TOGETHER

WE HONOR MOTHER EARTH
AND ASK FOR OUR UNION TO BE ABUNDANT
AND GROW STRONGER THROUGH THE SEASONS;

WE HONOR FIRE
AND ASK THAT OUR UNION BE WARM
AND GLOWING WITH LOVE IN OUR HEARTS;

WE HONOR WIND AND ASK WE SAIL THROUGH LIFE
SAFE AND CALM AS IN OUR FATHER'S ARMS;

WE HONOR WATER TO CLEAN AND SOOTHE OUR RELATIONSHIP
THAT IT MAY NEVER THIRST FOR LOVE;

WITH ALL THE FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE YOU CREATED,
WE PRAY FOR HARMONY AND TRUE HAPPINESS AS WE FOREVER
GROW YOUNG TOGETHER.

PRAYER WHICH CAN BE USED AT DINNER:

O LORD OUR GOD, WE WOULD GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE, AS WE COME BEFORE YOU
AGAIN THIS DAY, AS OUR CELEBRATION CONTINUES... AS YOU HAVE BLESSED

_____ & _____,
WE ASK THAT THEIR JOY MIGHT BE SHARED AND THAT THIS FOOD MIGHT BE BLESSED. MAY
WE ALL BE STRENGTHENED IN BODY AND IN SPIRIT. AND KNOW THE JOY OF YOUR
PRESENCE. IN JESUS' NAME, I (WE) PRAY. AMEN.