

## Marriage Quotes

**Rainer Maria Rilke:** “Self-transformation is precisely what life is, and human relationships, which are an extract of life, are the most changeable of all, rising and falling from minute to minute, and lovers are those in whose relationship and contact no one moment resembles another.”

“There is scarcely anything more difficult than to love one another . . . To love is good, too: love being difficult. For one human being to love another: that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation.”

“For this reason young people, who are beginners in everything, cannot yet know love; they have to learn it. With their whole being, with all their forces, gathered close about their lonely, timid, upward-beating heart, they must learn to love. But learning-time is always a long, secluded time, and so loving, for a long while ahead and far on into life, is—solitude, intensified and deepened loneliness for him who loves.”

“Marriage is difficult, and those who take it seriously are beginners who suffer and learn! . . . In a good marriage, the point is not to achieve a rapid union by tearing down and toppling all boundaries. **Rather, in a good marriage each person appoints the other to be the guardian of his solitude and thus shows him the greatest faith he can bestow . . .** *For this reason the following has to be the measure for one's rejection or choice: whether one wishes to stand guard at another person's solitude and whether one is inclined to position this same person at the gates of one's own depth of whose existence he learns only through what issue forth from this great darkness,* clad in festive garb.”

**Carl G. Jung:** “Seldom or never does a marriage develop into an individual relationship smoothly without crisis. There is no birth of consciousness without pain.”

### Marion Solomon

“Getting married requires the setting up of a system of mutually acceptable solutions to the problems of living together. Each partner comes from a different family regulated by a different storehouse of solutions to the stresses and common problems of living. These preexisting solutions inevitably enter into the building of the new system, conditioning it in various ways.”

“Marriage embraces two individual subsystems that combine to form a new family system. The task of the spouses is to devise, consciously and unconsciously, a mutual working system that allows them to function comfortably without completely sacrificing the values and ideals they brought into the marriage. A new

social order with its own structure and language develops through a process of trial and error.”

“. . . the struggle for personal affirmation and confirmation are so interwoven into the process of establishing an identity as a couple that they are only dimly visible. The fate of the relationship depends on what happens when *“the honeymoon is over”* and in particular how the partners deal with the realization that many of their *fantasy-based expectations are unlikely to come true*. Marriage can foster growth and the establishment of a new level of individual functioning, or it can become a repository for old conflicts and unmet needs.”

“In marriages that work, the partners have learned to understand and respond to each other’s underlying needs in a mutual exchange without either one’s feeling diminished. Each **uses** the other at times as an *“object”* for restoration, consolidation, transformation and organization of internal experiences in order to maintain or regain feelings of cohesiveness.”

“Partners who are free to accept and understand each other’s infantile needs are also free to support each other’s search for individual satisfaction. A mature desire for another to function as an extension of the self, if limited in duration and coupled with realistic expectations of reciprocity, is a normal aspect of a relationship in our culture. It is important to recognize that adults continue to have certain childlike needs. Indeed, some needs, such as the desire for empathy, affirmation and nurturance, are never fully outgrown.”