

Bringing Together

Blessing is drawn from devoted love,
from hearts entire and without reserve
and grace in this new illumination.

Between loved and beloved let only this rule
to bring and keep them well together,
for blessing is drawn from devoted love.

Marriage is serious but need not be grim.
Let problems give way before laughter and thought
from hearts entire and without reserve.

Here the field is large and full of variety,
here joy and sorrow mingle together
with grace in this new illumination.

For true love stands in the face of dull duty
and remains unmoved by worldly concerns.
There is nothing more enduring, sincere,
more contented, constant, and full of felicity –

Than blessings drawn from devoted love
from hearts entire and without reserve.
Find grace in this new illumination.

– © Susan McMaster, Ottawa, Canada, 9 July 1983/rev. 3 February 2021. For the marriage in the manner of Friends of Gordon McClure and Anne Mitchell; set to music by Andrew McClure. A variant of a villanelle, from lines by William Penn (1693), section 497, *Christian Faith and Practice in the Experience of the Society of Friends* (London Yearly Meeting, Great Britain 1972).