

# BRIT AHAVAH

## *COVENANT OF LOVE*

*Non-Theistic Jewish Wedding Blessings*

*by Martin Hasan Di Maggio*





# BEDEKEN



## UN-VEILING

The couple are stood back to back with their eyes closed and a veil is held between them. They are invited to turn around and open their eyes as the veil is lifted in order to see and accept each other for who they really are.

**The couple bless each other thus:**

הָיִי אֲשֶׁר תִּהְיֶינָה וְהָיִי בְּרוּכָה בְּאֲשֶׁר תִּהְיֶינָה

Hayi asher tihyi v'ahayi berukhah ba'asher tihyi (f)

הָיִי אֲשֶׁר תִּהְיֶינָה וְהָיִי בְּרוּךְ בְּאֲשֶׁר תִּהְיֶינָה

Heyeyh asher tihyeh veheyeyh barukh ba'asher tihyeh (m)<sup>1</sup>

Be who you are, and may you be blessed in all that you are.

**The couple proceed to the huppah to begin the Kiddushin ceremony**

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From *The Book of Blessings* (Boston: Beacon Press), copyright 1996 by Marcia Lee Falk



## BETROTHAL CEREMONY

*We bless our tradition which enjoins us to not cause distress to others and distinguishes us with the ceremony of marriage which consecrates couples under the wedding canopy. We bless the light of humanity that sanctifies us in the brit ahavah - the covenant of love.*

### **Blessing over the wine:**

We bless the light in life, which creates the fruit of the vine.

We bless the light in humanity which renews us through our traditions as we cleave one to the other and become as one. We forbid to us others, and permit to us the one who we marry by means of *brit ahavah*. Blessed is the light of our traditions which sanctifies us to one another by means of *brit ahavah*.





## ESPOUSAL

### Ring exchange:

וארשתיך לי לעולם וארשתיך לי בצדק ובמשפט ובחסד וברחמים

And I will espouse you forever: I will espouse you with righteousness and justice, And with goodness and mercy - Ani ledodi, ve dodi li - I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.





## SEVEN BLESSINGS SAID OVER A CUP OF WINE

- 1 We bless the light in life, which creates fruit of the vine.
- 2 We bless the light in humanity, through which all things are glorious.
- 3 We bless the light in the world, which dwells within every human being.
- 4 We bless the light in the world through which we live, love and perpetuate life.
- 5 May all the people of the world rejoice as their children are renewed with joy. Blessed is the light in our lives as the people rejoice in their children.
- 6 We bless with perfect joy these loving companions. Blessed is the light of love which brings joy to loving companions.
- 7 We bless the light in humanity, through which we know joy and gladness, lover and friend, mirth, song, delight and rejoicing, love and harmony, peace and friendship. May there always be heard in our cities and in our streets voices of joy and gladness, voices of lover and friend, the jubilant voices of those joined in marriage under the canopy, the voices of people feasting and singing. Blessed is the light of love which sparks rejoicing within couples beneath their huppah.

THE COUPLE DRINK THE WINE