

Hollow Bones Zen
Wedding Ceremony 2

Celebrant – Formal Entrance (densho)

- Light incense
- Four bows (big bell for each bow)

Wedding party enters

- Couple lights incense

Celebrant:

We have come together for the marriage ***** and *****. May they continue to deepen their life and love for one another.

Marriage begins with the giving of words. These must not be given as rote response but as a felt and passionate experience. Only then do our words have meaning and weight.

This day is made possible not only because of your love for each other, but through the grace of your parents, grandparents and generations of ancestors. We honor them for their gifts.

This choice of marriage is a commitment of love. Love is but one manifestation of true compassion. Marriage calls for us to hold compassion in sadness, fear, and anger. Remember that beneath these so-called negative emotions, there is care. Bring this with you as this journey unfolds.

Celebrant:

Within the teachings of Zen, we do not hold to rules. Rather we aim our behavior towards ideals known as precepts. Vows that once taken can never be broken. But they are not rocks from which to crash against when we fall asleep. They are instead mirrors to see ourselves and know where we must work. I will state the precept, please respond with “I will” after each.

1. To affirm life by treating all beings with respect and compassion. To not take my own life for granted.
2. To act with generosity and openhandedness, remembering that clinging and attachment are the root of suffering.
3. To be conscious and loving in all of my relationships.
4. To honor honesty and truth and speak with integrity from the depth of my heart.

5. To act at all times with mindfulness and clarity and to not purposely abuse my body or cloud my mind.
6. To remember the preciousness of silence and remain thoughtful and mindful of the effects of my speech.
7. To rejoice in the good fortune of others and not separate myself through envy or jealousy.

Once the precepts are taken and we commit ourselves to them.

In every way we can, we allow our deepest Self to appear. To do this we must take refuge three treasures. The purity of this mind, the sanctity of all the teachings we hold dear, and the community that supports us in our growth.

Do you take refuge in these treasures?

Couple: I choose to take refuge in these treasures..

Celebrant:

And so we are committed to embracing all parts of ourselves, including our deepest fears and shadows, so they can be transformed into light. We affirm our willingness to keep our hearts open, even in the midst of great pain. Thus the circle is complete.

May I have the rings please?

Celebrant:

May these rings always connect you but never bind you to one another and keep the love between the two of you for the rest of your days.

As a support and preparation for your wedding vows, and for a life of kindness, peace, and happiness with one another, I offer you the following words of harmony. As I speak, please bring these words into your heart.

I vow to love you, to cherish you, and to support your happiness.

I vow to keep my mind and heart clear and loving toward you.

I vow to honor your true nature, my own true nature, and the true nature of all beings.

I shall stay faithful to you, and trust your faithfulness.

I shall see you as my teacher and friend.

May we speak the truth to one another.

May we not hold on to anger or hurt toward one another.

Let us speak of each other with kindness.

Let us appreciate the gift of our lives together.

Let us willingly share one another with the world.

Now *** and *** will exchange their wedding vows. Please repeat after me.

#1

I promise to love you with an open heart,

to encourage the best in you always,

and, for you, to be the most that I can be.

I promise to laugh with you in good times, to stand alongside you in bad;

to console you when you are downhearted;

to be joy to your heart, food for your soul, and wine to your spirit;

to be your loving companion beyond the walls of life and beyond the bounds of time.

Celebrant:

Please place the ring on *****'s finger.

#2

I promise to love you with an open heart,

to encourage the best in you always,

and, for you, to be the most that I can be.

I promise to laugh with you in good times, to stand alongside you in bad;

to console you when you are downhearted;

to be joy to your heart, food for your soul, and wine to your spirit;

to be your loving companion beyond the walls of life and beyond the bounds of time.

Celebrant:

Please place the ring on *****'s finger.

Celebrant:

Do those in the audience vow to support and care to union so that it may grow?

(Wait for audience to answer)

Impermanence is the truth of all things. In choosing to connect our lives to another, we choose to use these ever fleeting moments in service to our beloved. *** and **** celebrate their love and proclaim their union. May they cultivate a long life together while honoring and resting in ever moment to come.

In a blessing of good health and joy.

You may kiss each other.

Celebrant:

Please welcome for the first time into our community, ***and ****

Three bells.