

## **ON MARRIAGE**

**Khalil Gibran**

Then Almitra spoke again and said, And  
what of marriage, Master?

And he answered saying:

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 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 of you be alone,

Even as the strings of a lute are alone

Though they quiver with 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 a temple stand apart,

And the oak tree and the Cyprus grow

not in each other's shadow.