

For the Marriage of
Peter Boone and Elizabeth (Libby) Thayer
Yonkers, June 22, 1963

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Peter and Elizabeth,

You have asked me to invoke God over you, in this hour; in the name of all the friends assembled, I shall speak.

But what can I add to the solemnity of your own declarations and to our minister's consecration? When we ask this question the majesty of our trinitarian faith may unfold before us, of our faith in the Father through the Son in the Holy Ghost. For, the Father and the Son already have been invoked before the ears and hearts of us, the bystanders'.

The two of you becoming husband and wife do this as the creatures of the Father. Male and Female has he created man. When the wise men of old were asked by the children: But what does the Father in Heaven do since he created heaven and earth, the answer was: He is founding marriages. And indeed, what are states, republics, corporations, universities compared to one single marriage, lived as God's creation by two people in One Spirit. This majesty of the creator ye have invoked.

Also with the Second Person of the Godhead ye dwell. For the ministry of the Church of Christ has placed you: Here and now you are called the image of the relation between Christ and his Church. Saint Paul compares the relationship between

Christ and the Church to that of Bridegroom and Bride. And the presence of the Son and his Bride, in every consecrated home, makes each marriage sovereign. You now are the law and the prophets, you are the king and the queen and the people.

We, your friends, do we invoke God's majesty as of the Father, or God's sovereignty as of the Son? Let us try a third path. We are your friends of old. Twenty years I know you, Elizabeth. Interwoven has been our neighborly life in various ways. Now, you are cut off, we are cut off from your life in far distant places. But are we not present? Are not our spirits joyfully participating? Is this not a holiday of the Holy Spirit who unites those who visibly are divided? The spirit of affection, of joy, perhaps is not yet itself the divine Spirit of wisdom, of understanding, of the fear of the Lord. But we are on the way towards Him whom we now invoke because he has been granted us so that every loss also may be our gain, all separations might also make restitutions. We, by our send off, become dependant on your fulfillment lest we only loose, and not also gain. We invoke the Spirit who never waxes old, never recognises any mere yesterday. When God sealed into two people all the secrets of all human history he made you priests of the old and of the new Covenant, of law and of Grace. May the Spirit guide you that every day, it may be newly discovered in your house who on this day shall repre-

sent the law and who shall embody grace. Never believe that this is foreordained: Every day these offices are to be re-discovered.

Divine Spirit who keepest all creation gloriously new as on the day in Eden when Adam and Eve were made to preside over the whole earth, Breath of the Living God who says: not what has been but what shall be, Spirit who includeth all bodies and everybody, comfort us, the old, the established fellowship that we may be strengthened by the ways and the united life of this new couple. Exalt our joy, our sympathy, our affection so that the waves of Thee vivify and inspire our feelings and make our loss their gain and let the rejuvenation of this festive day illuminate their and our hearts in Thy fellowship. So that there go on Thy life on this earth with its many homes in hearts aware of their heavenly home.

Thou, oh Spirit, teachest us that what these two friends do, matters terribly in all other men's lives and as our great teacher, we invoke Thy light, Thy fire, Thy miraculous power of eternally new beginning.

There will be clarity, there will be weakness, there will be loneliness, and the help of good fellowship may be scarce in this turmoil of life's traffic over superhighways. In such moments break inwith subsidiary presence and speak; a

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as the Bride speaks and the Creator has spoken, Thou mayest then speak: you are inside of me, the omnicorporeal Spirit; do not be afraid; do not fall upon your own little minds; remember the ocean of affection inside which God has begotten ye; inside of me, you be directed in ways unknown to the dispirited, on the wings of the dove.

AMEN.