



SHAMBHALA WEDDING CEREMONY

by

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1. Begin with the smoke (lhasang) offering:

**In order to purify the ground of this marriage,
I offer white billowing incense,
Representing the basic goodness of all beings.**

2. Now make the offerings to the Four Dignities:

**In order for us to travel on the path of Shambhala friendship and awakening,
We offer these images of the four dignities.**

**First, I offer this fruit, representing Meek.
So that I may overcome selfishness,
Respecting the needs of others,
I will always conduct my marriage in friendship.**

**With meekness and discipline,
Perpetually aware of my actions,
Like a tiger
I will live my life with care and courage.**

[Offer fruit to shrine]

**Next, I offer this mirror, which represents Perky.
I will always see life as an illusion,
Never becoming attached
To my experience of the phenomenal world.**

**With perkiness,
Looking at the world through inquisitive eyes
Like a snow lion,
I will keep joy in our friendship.**

[Offer mirror to shrine]

**Now I offer this conch, representing Outrageousness.
Since our friendship is genuine and good,
Continually soaring beyond concept,
I will never be bound to petty mind.**

**With outrageousness,
Like a garuda
I will carry the song of our union
Into the three worlds.**

[Offer conch to shrine]

**Now I offer this victory banner, representing Inscrutability.
Since our mind and heart are complete perfection,
Perpetually expanding to others,
I will always allow space.**

**With inscrutability,
Like a turquoise dragon
I will hold the jewel of our union,
Proclaiming it as sublime friendship.**

[Offer gyaltzen to shrine]

3. Next is the offering of light:

**I offer this light, representing Great Eastern Sun,
The wisdom of all Shambhala.
May it shine in the ten directions
To bring joy and liberation to all beings.**

4. Now take the vow:

Preceptor:

**Do you, *So-and-So*, wholeheartedly take *So-and-So*
To be your companion, friend, and wife
On this journey of life?**

Groom:

I do.

Preceptor:

**Do you, *So-and-So*, wholeheartedly take *So-and-So*
To be your companion, friend, and husband
On this journey of life?**

Bride:

I do.

5. Next exchange rings:

**May these rings, representing prajna and upaya,
Bring to our union
Wisdom and skillful means.**

Bride and groom together:

**Now I drink this amrita,
The elixir of life.
May it intoxicate my goodness,
Thus opening my heart to *Name of Beloved*,
So we may live life together
For the benefit of all beings.**

6. Bride and groom drink sake.

7. Now the bride and groom can offer the khata to the preceptor, who places the khata around their necks before they kiss.

MATERIALS:

Offerings on the shrine:

Sake

Rings

To Be Offered to the Shrine:

Small white smoke offering (*representing basic goodness*) (*Japanese sprinkle-on incense is suggested*)

Fruit (*representing Tiger, meek*)

Mirror (*representing Lion, perky*)

Conch (*representing Garuda, outrageous*)

Gyaltsen (*representing Dragon, inscrutable. This is a victory banner made of cloth in the colors of the four dignities Ribbons in these colours may be used as well.*)

Large candle (*representing Great Eastern Sun*)

To Be Offered by the Couple to the Preceptor:

Khata