

THE WRITE OF A KING

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FOR RICHER, FOR POORER

"... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

It would be a good thing if a guarantee could be given at the start of a marriage that it will turn out well; but no such assurance can be given. None can ever be given because marriage carries a strong element of uncertainty with it. Whatever is being experienced today in a marriage can be negated by its opposite tomorrow. As the marriage vows indicate, better can be replaced by worse, health by sickness, happiness by sorrow, and riches by poverty. This is a natural risk that attends every marriage. Despite this, it is commonly believed that whatever blessing or bane that the marriage experiences, whatever fortune or misfortune it encounters, whatever the state of the night or day it traverses, the union should not splinter and fall apart, but that it should survive.

One of the myriads of things that influences a marriage is money. Money can make or break a marriage. It matters not if there is an abundance or scarcity of it. Poverty does not make bad marriages; neither does affluence make good ones. It is the spousal attitude to money that makes all the difference. Husbands and wives have drawn close together when their financial resources were low; others have pulled apart. Wealth has increased the happiness and quality of life for couples; it has also caused great sorrow and reduced the

quality of living. Money always takes on the character of its owner. A poor husband who is mean and churlish to his wife today will not be generous to her tomorrow if he should become a super millionaire. A rich wife who is kind and generous will not treat her husband in a niggardly fashion in the face of disappearing wealth. They will both understand that love has the ability to transcend anything that is appendaged to their marriage, and should permit it to.

For richer, for poorer, is a commitment to love unconditionally, responsibly, and permanently. Unconditional love is the wind in the sail of a marriage that has hit the doldrums. While financial security is an essential component of a good marriage, it is not the foundation for it; that foundation is love without strings attached. There are many rich marriages that are poor, and poor marriages that are rich. Where there is love, respect, support, validation, responsibility, civility, and freedom, there is abundance. Poverty dwells where these qualities are occasional visitors - even if the Central Bank is resident there. Remember this: a mutual commitment of a husband and wife to love each other, despite the circumstances, will contribute more to the longevity of a marriage, than does the ability of the couple to pay the bills.

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