

Sample 1

With a Handfasting cord:

As this knot is tied, so are your lives now bound.

Woven into this cord, imbued into its very fibers, are all the hopes of your friends and family, and of yourselves, for your new life together. With the fashioning of this knot do I tie all the desires, dreams, love, and happiness wished here in this place to your lives for as long as love shall last.

In the joining of hands and the fashion of a knot, so are your lives now bound, one to another.

By this cord you are thus bound to your vow. May this knot remain tied for as long as love shall last.

May this cord draw your hands together in love, never to be used in anger. May the vows you have spoken never grow bitter in your mouths.

As any child discovers when they are learning to tie their own shoes, the first move is to cross the ends. The cross creates the Rune Gebo (X), which is the Rune of partnership and union. As your hands are bound by this cord, so is your partnership held by the symbol of this knot. May it be granted that what is done before the gods be not undone by man.

Two entwined in love, bound by commitment and fear, sadness and joy, by hardship and victory, anger and reconciliation, all of which brings strength to this union. Hold tight to one another through both good times and bad, and watch as your strength grows.

Sample two

"Is it also your wish today that your hands be fasted in the ways of old?"

(Name) and (Name) "It is."

"Remember then as your hands are fasted, these are not the ties that bind..."

Cords are held aloft

"The role already taken by the song your hearts share shall be now be strengthened by the vows you take. All things of the material world eventually return to the Earth unlike the bond and the connection your spirits share which is destined to ascend to the heavens.

"May you be forever as one in the passion and fire of you

Hands are bound

You are now as your hearts have always known you to be,

Husband and Wife. You may kiss.

.....
Sample three

(The couple join their hands on the center of the fabric strip.)

Above you are the stars, below you are the stones. As time passes, remember that, like a stone, your love should be firm. Like a star, your love should be constant.

Let the powers of the mind and of the intellect guide you in your Marriage, Let the strength of your wills bind you together. Let the power of love and desire make you happy, and the strength of your dedication make you inseparable. Be close, but not too close. Possess one another, yet be understanding. Have patience with one another, for storms will come, but they will pass quickly.

Officiant: *(to Groom), I have not the right to bind thee to (.....). Only you have that right. If that be your wish, say so at this time.*

GROOM: *That is my wish. I, (Groom's full name), in the name of the spirit of God that resides within us all, by the life that courses within my blood and the love that resides within my heart, take thee (Bride's full name) to my hand, my heart, and my spirit, to be my chosen one. To desire thee and be desired by thee, to possess thee, and to be possessed by thee, without sin or shame, for naught can exist in the purity of my love for thee. I promise to love thee wholly and completely without restraint, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in poverty, in life and beyond, where we shall meet, remember, and love again. I shall not seek to change thee in any way. I shall respect thee, thy beliefs, thy people, and thy ways as I respect myself.*

(The Officiant draws up one side of the cloth over their hands.)

Officiant: *(to Bride), I have not the right to bind thee to (.....). Only you have that right. If that be your wish, say so at this time.*

BRIDE: *That is my wish. I, (Bride's full name), in the name of the spirit of God that resides within us all, by the life that courses within my blood and the love that resides within my heart, take thee (Groom's full name) to my hand, my heart, and my spirit, to be my chosen one. To desire thee and be desired by thee, to possess thee, and to be possessed by thee, without sin or shame, for naught can exist in the purity of my love for thee. I promise to love thee wholly and completely without restraint, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in poverty, in life and beyond, where we shall meet, remember, and love*

again. I shall not seek to change thee in any way. I shall respect thee, thy beliefs, thy people, and thy ways as I respect myself.

.....

Sample 4

Now, please join hands so that they may be fasted in the ways of old. Your hands will form the eternity symbol, visually demonstrating that your love will always be present and will run between the two of you throughout the years.

Remember then as your hands are fasted, these are not the ties that bind, but are rather cords that signify the uniting of two lives into one.

Your marriage also signifies the joining of two families. I ask that Bride's sister name & Groom's brother name come to tie the fabric around Groom and Bride's joined hands.

[Cords are held aloft]

The love already shared by your hearts

Has been strengthened by the vows you have taken

You will be bound by your love as you are bound by your clasped hands from now until the end of your days

[As the following is recited, hands are wrapped]

These are the hands that will love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes: tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as you build your future together.

These are the hands that will hold you whenever illness, fear, or grief may find you.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times.

These are the hands that will give you support and encourage you to chase your dreams. Together, everything you wish for can be realized.

These are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours.

[Binding is finished and cords are knotted]

Bless these hands that you see before you this day.

May they always reach out with love, gentleness, and respect.

May they build a loving relationship that lasts a lifetime.

May they always be held by one another.

If you follow these words and heed this sacred binding,
your hands will heal, protect, shelter, and guide.

Now, you may remove the cords,

but remember the knot as a lasting symbol of your binding and commitment

[Cords are removed and stowed]

