On Our Anniversary

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ON OUR ANNIVERSARY

Our marriage is a garden that requires tender care. If we are to be fruitful and flourish, We must be rooted deeply in the rich, fertile earth of love, Close enough to pollinate, but not to strangle.

We must defend it against the weeds of jealousy and deceit, And from the choking vines of overdependence; Lest they deprive us of the nourishment of respect and confidence, And force us to grow pale and sickly.

We must be ever fearful of overshadowing one another, But strive to grow apace That one of us will never deprive the other Of the warming sun of recognition.

We must water with the salving virtues Of thoughtfulness and selflessness, Lest we suffer the drought of indifference.

If, by chance, we notice that it is becoming neglected, We must nurture it ever more carefully. If, as in winter, it appears that our garden is dead, We must remember that underneath cold, uncaring cruelty Lie our seeds, only dormant. With patience and forgiveness, spring, and new growth will come again.