Rio Weber

Wedding Toast

Hello everyone! For anyone who does not know, I am Rio Weber, sister of the groom and I am so excited that my little brother is getting married. I thought we would never make it. As I have two entire years of wisdom over you, Daniel, I would like to share a few things that I’ve learned about marriage and relationships.

Love is an ancient God; it holds men and women back from doing shameful things. Love is ancient and honored; it has been worshiped and valued by men and gods for thousands of years. Love is a powerful force in helping men gain and habituate good virtues. But love itself is not honorable, you must work at it constantly and how you use it makes it an honorable thing[[1]](#footnote-1). The only way to ensure that it is bringing value to your life, and helping you on the way to a good human life, is to respect and cherish it. Love is the thing that will carry you from ignorance to wisdom. Love is what guides you, and teaches you on the journey up Diotima’s ladder.[[2]](#footnote-2) I think that you have found this kind of love, the kind of love that makes you work to be a better person, to achieve and live a good human life. Love is essential to achieve a life well lived, a life of human flourishing, a life full of worthwhile activates done well[[3]](#footnote-3). This kind of love is grounded in the effort to be the best person that you can be while actively working on your weaknesses. I truly believe that I have witnessed you go begin this journey in your relationship, but that doesn’t mean you can stop here. The rest of your life will be full of hardships and challenges to overcome; however, this will be the most valuable journey, with love at the core.

When you asked me to give this speech today, I was honored, and of course I wanted to bless you with more amazing advice (as I always give the best advice). For many people, marriage seems daunting, scary even. You might find yourself wondering how to keep your relationship as new and exciting as the first time you laid eyes on each other. It has been said that boredom is the root of all evil, and this can be applied to relationships as well as life. As a married couple it is important to change what you do a how you do it every once in a while[[4]](#footnote-4). Shake things up, and work to keep your relationship fresh, new, and exciting. Your relationship will change, and the love you have for one another will evolve. Focus on having fun together, be open to new experiences, and constantly show her that you love her[[5]](#footnote-5). Remember why you married who you married, remember what makes her so special that you chose her out of everyone you possibly could have[[6]](#footnote-6). Constantly remind each other what makes them special and be grateful for what you have in each other. Work on communicating with each other, research shows that happy and healthy couples demonstrate positive behaviors in a ratio of 5 positive to 1 negative[[7]](#footnote-7). Listen to each other, be intentional about spending time together, be open about how you feel and why you feel that way about something the other may have done[[8]](#footnote-8). With communication comes honesty. You must be honest with each other. People are not meant to discover the truth on their own, they must discover truth by relating to one another. The best way for honesty to prevail is to be in love, because “when the heart is filled with love, then the eye is never deceived”[[9]](#footnote-9). Finally, let us toast to the happy couple, may you have a long and happy marriage in pursuit of a good human life. May your lives be enriched by the teachings of these philosophers that sat around and thought about life and love for us all to enjoy.

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2. Diotima*, Symposium*. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Aristotle, *The Human Good.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
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9. Vazquez, Laurie, “5 Philosophers Who’s Advice Could Make or Break you Relationship”, *Bigthink.com*, <https://bigthink.com/laurie-vazquez/relationship-advice-from-5-philosophers-who-to-trust-and-who-to-ignore> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)