



INVENTORY ON RITUAL PROFILE FOR WEDDINGS

How well do you know your partner and the kind of wedding would s/he want? What is your ritual profile? The best strategy for ritualizing your union is *influenced* by your separate ritual profiles but firmly *grounded* on the values you share.

Part I Circle the statements that best describe **your partner** and bar those that do not apply.

- ★ S/he is an active member of a religious institution.
- S/he is an inactive member of a religious institution.
- S/he is a member of an organization with humanist or philosophical views.
- ◆ S/he is attracted to groups which value holistic or esoteric practices.
- S/he attends religious worship services at least once a month.
- S/he lives by her/his own ethical code which is based on reason and humanistic values.
- ★ S/he attends religious worship services about once or twice a year.
- ◆ S/he wants our wedding ceremony to be romantic, magic, mysterious and aesthetic.
- S/he would agree that our wedding could take place almost anywhere, except in a religious setting.
- ◆ S/he celebrates nature, is sensitive to the colours of the seasons and marvels at the cosmos.
- ★ S/he would want our wedding ceremony held in a religious setting with a religious leader.
- S/he would want our wedding ceremony in a religious setting but, if possible, without a priest / pastor / rabbi / imam or other religious leader.
- In her/his view, there is absolutely no need for religious approval of our union.
- ◆ S/he wants a simple wedding reception in a natural setting, far from artificial structures.
- ★ It is fundamental for my partner that our union be blessed by a priest / pastor / rabbi / imam or other religious leader.
- S/he is not religious but would not object to having our wedding ceremony in a religious setting because she knows it would please me.
- ◆ A wedding ceremony presided by a shaman would suit her/him quite well.
- Her/his family and friends would object if we did not organize a religious ceremony for our wedding.
- In her/his view, no god or any supernatural beings are necessary for living and dying well.
- ★ S/he would want sacred texts read and religious rites performed at our wedding ceremony.
- S/he would want our wedding ceremony to be presided by a humanist celebrant or at least someone who shares her/his humanist values.

Part II Circle the icons next to the statements that best describe **your partner** and bar those that do not apply.

- Religious holidays are important to her/him because they preserve cultural and social traditions.
- S/he advocates progressive values and ideals regarding gender and social roles.
- Official recognition (social, civic or religious) of our union is important to her/him.
- S/he would say that our wedding ceremony must reflect the values we share.
- S/he belongs to one or several groups which are composed of people who come together around projects, leisure activities or ideals.
- S/he is most comfortable with time-tested values, roles and rituals.
- S/he likes the idea of having a close friend or non-official person preside over our wedding.
- In her/his view, *it would not feel like a real wedding* without a religious leader.
- S/he would love to have our wedding ceremony in a unique setting such as a museum, garden, restaurant, library or on a farm.

Part III Please note below the number of times you have ticked each of these six symbols and, if you wish, your observations.

Observations:

- ★ _____
- _____
- _____
- ◆ _____
- △ _____
- _____



KEY TO THE INVENTORY ON RITUAL PROFILE FOR WEDDINGS

These symbols are indicators of *how you perceive* your partner's ritual profile:

- ★ (5)* *Institutional*. A majority of this symbol ★ means you see your partner's religious practice as regular and satisfying to her/him. A religious wedding ceremony may be important to her/him and coherent with her/his values and view of life. You probably also ticked this symbol □ a few times.
- (5) *Distanced*. A majority of this symbol ● indicates that you see your partner's religious practice as occasional. Her/his ties with a religious institution may be stretched. S/he may or may not feel the need to have the wedding ceremony in a religious setting. If you also ticked the symbol ★, pay close attention to how s/he reacts to the statements with these symbols Δ □.
- (6) *Secular or Humanist*. A majority of this symbol ■ indicates that you identify your partner as a 'none' (e.g. atheist, agnostic). S/he may be indifferent or even against religion. S/he may be a member of a humanist or secular group. A tailor-made or humanist wedding ceremony may be a good choice for marking your union. You may have ticked a majority of either of these symbols Δ □.
- ◆ (5) *Alternative*. If this symbol ◆ was ticked at least three times it means you see your partner as being most comfortable with a holistic approach to life. S/he may be a member of an esoteric group. A bespoke wedding ceremony would suit her/him. If you ticked a majority of this symbol Δ consider an alternative to a wedding presided by a traditional authority figure.

These two symbols Δ □ can help you fine-tune how you see your partner's ritual practice:

- (4) *Traditional*. You see cultural and social activities linked to one or more traditions as being important to her/his ritual practice. Yet, feeling strong ties with a tradition does not exclude a desire for custom ritual or ceremony. Ask her/him if s/he wants to hear some traditional phrases or perform certain traditional gestures. It is likely that you ticked a number of these symbols ★ ● ■; a majority of this symbol ◆ is improbable.
- Δ (5) *Modern*. You perceive your partner as prioritizing her/his personal journey and values. S/he may belong to groups with little official status and avoid institutional settings. It would probably be most meaningful for her/him to craft personalized wedding rituals. While you may have ticked a number of these symbols ● ■ ◆, it is unlikely to have a majority of this symbol ★.

* Indicates the maximum number of times this symbol appears in the inventory.