

Ceremony Extra's

Broom Jumping

A fully decorated broom can be purchased at ethnic stores, or a regular household broom will suffice. Broom sizes will vary, but it doesn't matter which you choose.

If you decide to use your own broom and decorate it yourself, be sure it coordinates with your wedding colors.

Using your own broom can also be a great bonding activity for the bridesmaids, perhaps the night, or week before the wedding.

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Feel free to use bows, flowers (artificial or real), or other trinkets to make it unique. But don't overdo it. You'll probably want this for a keepsake in your home. Another idea is to have a basket full of ribbon pieces at the wedding or reception and allow guests to tie ribbons around the broom before you begin the ceremony. This allows the audience to participate, which is in keeping with the African tradition of community involvement.

CEREMONY

Have your host ask family members or friends to form a circle around the couple as they stand in front of the broom on the floor.

"Let us give our support to this new family who are formed by the joining and the combining of two families, and we ask there community to support the couple."

"As Mr. & Mrs _____ jump this broom, let them look forward to a new life and home together as husband and wife."

"The jumping of the broom is a symbol of sweeping away of the old and welcoming the new, or a symbol of a new beginning."

"Would everyone count 1, 2, 3... Jump!"

Hand Ceremony:

"Bride and Groom, and hold hands, palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you."

"These are the hands that will work along side yours, as together you build your future, as together you laugh and cry, and together you share you innermost secrets and dreams."

"These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness, that are holding yours on your wedding day."

"These are the hands that will tenderly lift your chin and brush your cheek as they raise your face to look into your eyes."

"These are the hands of your best friend, that are holding yours as they pledge their love and commitment to you all the days of your life."

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

"These are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick, or console you when you are grieving."

"These are the hands that will give you support as they encourage you to chase down your dreams."

"These are the hands of your soul mate, and friend."

Rose Ceremony

This is a day steeped in tradition, a time when we are surrounded by symbols: something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue."

"Today, Bride and Groom begin a new tradition, a custom which now becomes uniquely their own."

" Groom and Bride , I would ask that where ever you make your home in the future - whether it be a large and elegant home - or a small and graceful one - that you both pick one very special location for roses."

Groom: "Bride I give you this rose. Because it grew from a tiny seed, becoming stronger and larger until it burst into flower, it symbolizes the way my love for you has grown."

The readings below are done by the Bride and Groom.

(Groom gives Bride the rose.)

Groom: " Bride Each year on our wedding anniversary, I will give you another rose. In so doing, I'll remember this day and renew the vows we've made."

Bride : "Groom, I give to you this vase of water.

(Groom takes and holds it.)

Bride : "Because water is the one element without which we would perish, it symbolizes the importance of your love in my life. Each year on our anniversary, I will refill this vase, offering it to you as a symbol of my ever renewing love."

(Bride puts the rose in the vase and they hold the vase together.)

Groom: "Without water, the rose would die."

Bride : "Without the rose, the vase of water would not be beautiful."

Groom: "My gift is enhanced by yours, just as my life is enhanced by yours."

Bride : "My gift is lovely because of yours, just as my life is better because of you."

"On each anniversary, as you give and receive the rose and the water, remember with joy this day when you pledged your love and your lives to each other. May this be only the first of many cherished traditions in a home filled with happiness."

Unity Sand:

"This sand represents the days of your life before today. As they are joined together so shall the days of your life be joined together."

Start of ceremony Officiant / Best Man places the Sand and Unity Bottles on the table near the officiant representing the Bride and Groom.

CEREMONY goes here and includes. *You may use the Traditional Ceremony or Write your own personal Ceremony.

"Bride and Groom, as a symbol of the union of your separate selves, would you now pour the Unity Sand"

The Bride and Groom take each take a small bottle and fill it with sand from the beach and bring it back to the table. As the Bride and Groom Pour the sand into the center bottle the Officiant reads.

"This sand represents the days of your life before today. As they are joined together so shall the days of your life be joined together."