

Naming Ceremony – Child Child's Name Sunday- 26th September 2004

INTRODUCTION

Friends, we meet here to take part together in a simple ceremony. We do so for a number of reasons.

Firstly, Parent1 and Parent2 wish to express their joy to you on the birth of Child. They are pleased she has arrived safely in this world. They want to welcome her into their family unit, to the wider family of their relatives, and to the community of their friends and the world. They wish you all to share this joy.

It is certain that the more love this child receives the more she will benefit in her life and the more love in turn she will be able to give to others. The more people to whom this child relates the more balanced and rich her growth will be.

So your presence at this celebration today is appreciated, as will be your interest and involvement in the years ahead.

READING 1

The first quotation I would like to read involves us all. As a community of friends and family we all share a responsibility to provide the atmosphere in which young Child will develop as a person. It is called:

A CHILD LEARNS WHAT SHE LIVES

If a child lives with criticism
she learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility
she learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule
she learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame
she learns to feel guilt.

BUT,

If a child lives with tolerance
she learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement
she learns confidence.

If a child lives with fairness
she learns justice.

If a child lives with security
she learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval
she learns to like herself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
she learns to find love in the world.

READING 2 from THE PROPHET

This celebration also is an occasion when Parent1 and Parent2 want to make themselves aware of their proper role as parents. This, they feel, is expressed well in the words of the prophet, Kahlil Gibran.

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said, speak to us of Children.

And he said:

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters
of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you.
And though they are with you
yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love
but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts,
You may house their bodies
but not their souls
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit
not even in your dreams
You may strive to be like them,
but seek not to make them like you
For life goes not backward
nor tarries with yesterday
You are simply the bows from which your children
as living arrows
are sent forth.

READING FROM PARENTS

At this point Parent1 and Parent2 would like to convey a few thoughts of their hopes and dreams for their beautiful daughter:

Child, may life's richest joys and blessings be yours. May you grow in health of body and mind to full adulthood and may it be your good fortune to play some worthy part in making life more pleasant for those whose paths you cross.

GRANDPARENTS

It is not always possible for grandparents to involve themselves in the development of their grandchildren - but when they do it is a great bonus and blessing. The important role played by grandparents is the passing on of cultural values to children.

They assist children find their identity and their inner security - and to integrate themselves into society. The special relationship of trust and mutual enjoyment which develops between child and grandparent is something very special. Through this relationship children learn their lineage, their history - and many values and skills.

This cultural inheritance lays the foundation for the young person to construct their personality during childhood and adolescence and adds great meaning to their existence.

For this reason Parent2 and Parent1 wish to recognise and express their gratification for all that ***Grandparent1, Grandparent2 and Grandparent3 and Grandparent4*** offer Child.

CANDLE

At this time I would like to invite Grandparent1 and Grandparent2 and Grandparent3 to come forward and light a candle to signify their continuing, enduring, love and support for Child.

SUPPORTING ADULTS

The next special and unique step in this ceremony involves the supporting adults. In this age of the nuclear family when many of us live isolated from our family and friends supporting adults have perhaps a more important role today than they have had in the past. ***Parent1 and Parent2 recognise everyone here today as supporting adults who are important now, and who will continue to be so, in Child's life. When I ask you if you are willing to support Child, please respond "We are".***

You undertake a special and lifelong interest in the welfare of the child and to assume a more than ordinary responsibility in the event of the death or default of the parents.

Parent2 and Parent1 would like everyone present to assume the role of supporting adult to Child. So, I now ask you all, are you willing to accept the responsibility of being there for Child as she grows up and throughout her life in whatever way is needed?

Supporting adults: We are.

THE NAMING

I will now ask everyone to say together with me:-

We all agree to call you Child Child

We all agree to call you so and we therefore name you Child Child

We wish you long life and happiness

In a loving and peaceful world.

May you bring joy to your parents,

your grandparents

To each of us, your family and friends.

****PRESS PLAY TO START MUSIC***

FINAL DECLARATION

This ceremony will in no way inhibit Child from seeking the truth during her life and any future religious or non religious commitments of belief. In fact, it is our duty to present her in the coming years with a broad and balanced view of life, and encourage her in the virtues we all agree as good - integrity, honesty, concern, fairness and love toward her fellow human beings.

Child, echoing the words of your parents, may the world be a better place for having you in it.

Friends and family, I NOW PRESENT - CHILD CHILD!