

Traditional Marriage

By Matt Williams

A young couple, DAVID and REBECCA, sit in front of a PRIEST.

PRIEST

David. Rebecca. Congratulations on your pending nuptials.

REBECCA

Thank you sir. We just want a good old fashioned traditional wedding. That's why we came to you. I'm so happy to be getting married in the church I grew up in!

DAVID

I know I've never been to this church sir, but I'd do anything to make her day as special as it can be.

PRIEST

Fantastic. Unfortunately I don't find many couples these days who want a truly traditional wedding.

REBECCA

Oh but we do, we're very traditional.

DAVID

I even asked her father for permission...
(jokingly)
He said yes.

PRIEST

And you're both virgins?

DAVID

Yes sir.

REBECCA

Yes.

PRIEST

Then let's proceed with the planning of this joyous occasion.

CUT TO

Bridesmaids walk down the aisle. They all look exactly alike. They wear white wedding dresses. Veils cover their faces.

ANGLE ON David standing at the alter. Dumbfounded, he turns to the Priest.

DAVID

Sir, um... why do all the girls look the same?

PRIEST

Why to confuse any vengeful spirit presence who might try to harm your bride, of course.

David looks even more confused.

CUT TO

LATER - The ceremony is taking place.

PRIEST

And now a reading of Ephesians.
(reading)

"Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything."

David looks uncomfortable. Some people in attendance do too.

PRIEST

David, please remove your shoe.

DAVID

I'm sorry, what?

Rebecca gives him a "just-do-what-he-says" look. Reluctantly, David bends down and removes one of his shoes.

PRIEST

Now as is tradition, please strike your bride with your shoe in order to establish authority.

DAVID

WHAT?!

Some whispers from the crowd.

REBECCA
It's symbolic David, just do it
please. It's ok.

DAVID
Sir, I don't have... or *want* any
authority over her--

PRIEST
Strike her with your shoe as per
traditions set forth by this church...
(whispering)
...or cease to be married here today.

David looks out at all the confused onlookers. He can't in
good faith stop the ceremony in it's tracks, so...

He SMACKS her across the face with his shoe.

David's half of the congregation freaks out. Rebecca's half
erupts in applause.

DAVID
I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

PRIEST
I now pronounce you husband and wife!

Music sounds and wedding bells ring.

DAVID
Wait, what about the-- WHAT?!

Before he can do anything, Rebecca kisses him aggressively.
She's as happy as can be.

CUT TO

3 INT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

3

Rebecca stands before a group of women as if she's going to
throw the bouquet. David kisses her on the cheek, ready to
give her space, when she bends over and takes off her shoe.

REBECCA
See, it's just tradition. Now it's my
turn!

David doesn't like it, but gives in.

DAVID

Well fair is fair I suppose.

He closes his eyes and waits to get hit with the shoe. Rebecca isn't looking at him. Instead... She HURLS the shoe like a baseball pitcher at the group of women, hitting a BRIDESMAID in the head and knocking her over.

Again, half of the people there gasp. Then silence.

Suddenly, the Bridesmaid leaps up joyous as can be, face completely bloody, with the shoe in her hand.

BRIDESMAID

Yaaaay! I'm next to be married!

Half the people cheer. Seeing that the girl is happy about whatever just happened, the naysayers leave her be.

ANGLE ON David. He's standing dumbfounded.

REBECCA

Aren't traditional ceremonies so much better?

CUT TO

4 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

4

David and Rebecca have just finished having sex.

REBECCA

Wow. That was incredible!

DAVID

That felt so good!

They both roll to their backs, breathing heavily.

PRIEST (O.S.)

Congratulations you two.

The Priest emerges from a dark corner, having been there the whole time. David practically leaps out of his skin.

DAVID

AHH!! What the *hell*?!

David begins to move towards the Priest but remembers he's naked. He quickly keeps himself covered.

REBECCA

David relax, he's just here to make sure our marriage was consummated.

DAVID

WHY?!

PRIEST

Now now, all is well. I confirm you consummated your marriage in the eyes of God. May you have a long and fruitful union.

He exits. David is left, confounded.

REBECCA

I tell you one thing, I'm glad I don't have to sleep with him again. Last night before our wedding was pretty awkward.

FADE TO BLACK

SUPER: "These traditions all actually existed."

"And that "wives submit to your husbands" bit from Ephesians... Some Christian ceremonies still read that shit."

FADE OUT