

## THE MAGIC MARRIAGE RING

I wear a treasured ring upon the finger of my life,  
A pledge of my fidelity in marriage to my wife,  
A wedding band that binds me in a guarded, sweet embrace,  
Reflecting in its gleaming luster my beloved's face,  
Reminding how her love surrounds me, when we are apart,  
By holding, as a sacred seal, her hug around my heart.  
Within this golden circle of protective mystery,  
I find a social shelter where I'm safe, and yet set free  
To cherish all the other women dwelling on the earth  
With pure and unfeigned care, and to esteem their holy worth.  
Adultery is driven off—both lust and passion banned—  
Before the magic meaning of the signet on my hand.

But deeper magic echoed when we tied the nuptial cord:  
Our joining as a couple matched the Church with Christ the Lord.  
The clasping of our hands in matrimony formed a ring  
As token of the oneness Jesus came to earth to bring.  
So, marriage is the wedding emblem God displays with pride,  
To show the world that His believers are His precious Bride.  
And when we don the ornament of godly married love,  
We symbolize devotion to our Husband King above.  
The world with its distractions, its desires, and its dust  
Cannot destroy the union imaged by our wedded trust.  
We safely walk through life, with faith and freedom understood. . .  
In unity with Christ, we love all things the way we should.

— *David L. Hatton, 7/18/1993*