

# From the Banqueting Table

*For Cheryl & Fred, Celebrating Thirty-Eight Years Together*

You've set your table  
with china from the day  
you became one—  
and how you've multiplied!  
Every guest who ate  
from your plates became  
part of your family,  
every conversation added  
a flower to your living  
centerpiece, every laugh  
caught in the candles  
and sent stories  
dancing with the flames.

You've shared  
a generation of meals  
around the table  
of your marriage—  
each one adding  
nutrients  
not just to bodies  
but to your union—  
union nutrients.

You are fork and knife,  
set together.  
You are napkin and ring,  
encircled together.  
You are clink of crystal  
toasting the hundreds  
of toasts before  
and the hundreds  
to come.

This poem is a glass  
lifting from your table,  
raised to you, each etched  
line celebrating  
a year and all  
the lives within it.  
Cheers!

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