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Άνοιξε πόρτα τσ' εκκλησιάς, πόρτα του παραδείσου, να κατεβούνε οι άγγελοι το γάμο να ευλογήσουν.

Υπάρχουν στη ζωή των ανθρώπων ορισμένοι σταθμοί που σημαδεύουν την πορεία τους σ' αυτή τη γη. Ένας απ' αυτούς είναι ο γάμος, η μέρα εκείνη, που δύο νέοι άνθρωποι ενώνουν τις τύχες τους κι αποφασίζουν να ζήσουν μαζί, ν' αγωνιστούν και να δημιουργήσουν. Την μέρα αυτή γιορτάζουν τα νιάτα, γιορτάζει η αγάπη, γιορτάζει η ζωή. Είναι μία μέρα σπουδαία. Γι' αυτό και η λαϊκή ψυχή δεν την αφήνει να περάσει απαρατήρητη. Την έχει συνδέσει με πολλές εκδηλώσεις και συνήθειες, με χαρές και πανηγύρια που την κάνουν χαρούμενη και περίλαμπρη.

Όπου κι αν τελούμε τον γάμο σήμερα, πρέπει να εξακολουθούμε να τηρούμε τα ήθη και τα έθιμα, που μας έρχονται από το μακρινό παρελθόν και μας συνδέουν άμεσα με την πολιτιστική μας κληρονομιά, γιατί επιβεβαιώνουν την εθνική μας ταυτότητα και προστατεύουν το μεγαλείο της Ελληνικής μας ψυχής.



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Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες μπορείτε να επικοινωνήσετε με τον Μιχάλη Πλατύρραχο στα τηλέφωνα: 0410 517 973, 97073408

Νύφη μου το βασιλικό που φέραν στην αυλή σου, να το ποτίζεις ζάχαρη σε όλη τη ζωή σου.

## Award puts smile on horse dentist

The Welsh equine dentist Andre Majerski, 61 - who has been helping with animal welfare on Zakinthos, Kefalonia and Corfu for seven consecutive summer holidays - was honoured by the International Fund for Animal Welfare on October 21st.



Andre Majerski said he takes his time to ensure the animal remains relaxed

A horse dentist whose love of animals extends to treating donkeys when on holiday in Greece is being given an international award for his work.

quine dentist Andre Majerski, 61, from Harlech, Gwynedd, has helped with animal welfare on Zakinthos, Kefalonia and Corfu for seven summer holidays.

Mr Majerski, who works in north Wales, was honoured by the International Fund for Animal Welfare on 21 October.

He said: "I'm incredibly flattered. I don't feel that I deserve it."

Mr Majerski said his love of animals came from learning to ride ponies bareback as a child in his native Blaenau Ffestiniog where he helped local farmers round up their sheep.

For many years he was a farmer at Llandysul in west Wales but sold up in 1979 and moved back north to work in a factory.

He was made redundant in 2003 and decided he wanted to go back to working with animals.

By then his stepdaughter was working in Greece as a travel rep where she met the British man who was to become her husband.

Her father-in-law became chairman of the Greek animal welfare fund and steered Mr Majerski towards an equine dentistry course in Cambridge.

Since then Mr Majerski has run his own business as an equine dentist, building up a steady round of customers at farms, shows and stables.

He also does voluntary equine dental work for the R-SPCA and is a regular volunteer at Freshfields Animal Rescue at Nasareth, near Caernarfon, where he also treats the occasional llama.

'Discomfort'

But each year he has returned to Greece to help with welfare of donkeys on the islands. He said he treats around 15 animals each fortnight.

He said: "I wanted to go back and work with animals, particularly horses. I just thoroughly enjoy working with animals.

"The satisfaction I get is from knowing that when I first see a horse or donkey they have problems and are in discomfort - when I leave them them they are better than when I found them. That really is the big buzz."

He said he has two types of customers - those with two legs who pay the bill and those with four legs, some of whom recognise him when he arrives to give them a check-up.

## Bitten'

"There are some horses, especially on large yards, who have it done so routinely they open their mouth ready for you," he said.

"They are quite relaxed about you."

Mr Majerski admits to having been bitten by the occasional patient, but said it was "nothing serious".

He said: "I've always found that the best way to approach a horse is quietly and calmly and try to put the horse at its ease.

"The horse is a "flight" animal - anything that is going to alarm him is totally a nono.

"So you take as long as it takes for the horse to remain calm throughout the process. And end on a good note you need to visit that horse again! They forgive but they don't forget."

## 'Slowly starving'

Mr Majerski is to receive his award at the House of Lords.

A spokesman for the International Fund for Animal Welfare said: "Many of the horses and donkeys he treats are working animals or are kept for tourist photo opportunities but most receive minimal care.

"Some of their teeth are in such a bad state that, unable to eat, they are slowly starving."