WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

KAVIN TRIVEDI

Hello everyone and thanks for being here to share this wonderful and happy occasion with us. Today we have the joy of witnessing the marriage of our daughter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I can’t imagine that there is a father more proud than I am today. (**bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you look beautiful and although it seems like only yesterday we watched a bright little girl, full of life and playing with her young friends, here you are, about to begin your journey into married life. Today we are all stunned by your beauty, poise and intelligence. May the bright colors, abundant feast, and joyous celebration typical in an Indian wedding symbolize the riches to be discovered throughout the lifelong celebration of your marriage to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And to (**groom**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , I would like to share a story I once heard. … A man placed an ad in the classifieds for a wife. Very simply it stated, “Wife wanted.” Almost immediately, he received hundreds and hundreds of responses, all saying the same simple sentence. “**You can have mine**!” (**Say this with a little enthusiasm and wait for the laugh**). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I know this will never be the case with you. (**bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a wonderful girl-intelligent, caring, personable, and the two of you make a handsome couple.

After these fantastic festivities, how are the two of you ever going to go back to wearing scrubs and eating the MGH cafeteria food? I bet that will be a tough transition!! But I am sure that returning to “normal” life after this lush celebration will lead to more happiness between the two of you, as you are both being so true to one of the Hindu mandates that teaches and encourages us to marry our best friend. We learn in our culture that “***bhaaryaa daivakrita sakha,”*** a man’s God-given friend is his wife. The two of you represent the best blending of our Indian and American cultures. You two make a wonderful team and the blending of your hearts, minds and spirits is truly a match made in Heaven. Of course, all will not be roses and lollipops, so for the times that there might be some conflict, (**bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want you to remember the words of Marlene Dietrich who said, “Once a woman has forgiven her man, she must not reheat his sins for breakfast.”

I also want to share with you some Sanskrit philosophy on wisdom. Here is a worthwhile thought for each of you …and all of us… to carry with us every day:

“Contentment is the highest gain,

Good Company the highest course,

Enquiry the highest wisdom,

and Peace the highest enjoyment.”

I would like to give you one last little story on love, marriage and tolerance before we continue with this great party. A long time ago I heard a story about my friend’s Aunt Sylvia. As soon as she got married, she placed a shoebox on a closet shelf and warned her husband that he must **never** open or touch it. Talk about trust and respect! For generations of wedded bliss, the box sat on the shelf and not one tiny fingerprint of Uncle Henry’s could be found anywhere near that box. As Aunt Sylvia got older and became frailer, it was time for Henry to prepare for the inevitable and he proceeded to get their affairs in order. As he was organizing, he found the old forbidden shoebox, only this time he opened it and inside he found two little doilies and $85,000 in cash. Curiosity got the better of him and even though Aunt Sylvia was barely coherent, he had to know what this was, so Aunt Sylvia explained that the box was given to her on their wedding day by her mother who suggested that every time she got angry with her new husband, she should make a doily to help ease her frustrations. Of course Uncle Henry was touched that there were only 2 doilies in the shoebox, and thought to himself, “**Good sign**!” Then he asked where the $85,000 came from, to which Aunt Sylvia, with her last ounce of breath replied, “oh that’s the money I made selling all of the other doilies!” (**Wait for the laugh**)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ may you have the richest of lives together. May you both never feel the need to make a doily, and may the both of you live a happy, healthy, peaceful, prosperous and love filled life together. We all love you very much! Thank you!