WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

MORGAN BASANTA

Hello everyone! What a thrill it is to be here today to share this fabulous and joyous occasion! I want to wish all the best to our bride and groom, Shavanie and Craig. I would also like to express my congratulations to (**Shavanie’s parents**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and of course Craig’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My good wishes and congratulations are meant for **everyone** here. To all of the siblings, extended family and friends of the bride and groom, congratulations to all of you too!! This wedding has been a tremendous celebration and affirmation of love and family and faith, and we are all blessed to be together to share in this great occasion. I also want to say that it is an honor to have the opportunity to share a few words today and for that, I thank you. Today is a special day for me too. Not only have we all had the privilege to share these beautiful Hindu wedding traditions, I also have the distinction of knowing our handsome groom since he was a boy. My son \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Craig grew up together and I was a first hand witness to all of their antics and good times as they grew up, and in a lot of ways, Craig is like a son to me. I used to love to see the joy just bursting from their faces. It didn’t matter if they were hanging out at the pool, riding their dirt bikes, or indulging in any kind of sport, they always seemed to have the best time together, especially when a beach was involved. Yes, “**Life’s a Beach**” and weren’t those two lucky to have such fantastic times together! Their love of surfing was obvious and I’m sure that sport has inspired many metaphors for life itself. Craig, now that you and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are a little older, I’m sure you’ll agree that what you learned as a surfer can guide you through life. For instance, think of the opportunities and challenges you face in life as an oncoming wave. Some of those waves, like marriage, are worth the risk, and as long as you are present, respectful, conscious of your balance and aware of your surroundings, you have the potential to experience thrills of a lifetime. Here are some other tips I found. Think of these as a surfer’s point of view on marriage:

* Learn to read the rhythm of the wave-in other words, pay attention, and Craig, really listen to what Shavanie has to say.
* Life is about taking chances and learning from them
* Give into the wave, or your marriage, enough to be an integral part of it, but always remember to maintain your distinctive role in the dance-and your responsibilities in your partnership.

To Shavanie, although we only met a short while ago, it is a pleasure to know you and I have a few words of wisdom for you. Someone once said, “He is your friend, your partner, your defender. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion.” Shavanie, I know you are worthy of that devotion-of course, I’m referring to your adorable dog, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but Craig, you know what? It’s clear that Shavanie has a tremendous, devoted heart by the way she adores that puppy, and that makes you a very lucky young man!

I would like to offer a prayer of thanks for all of the abundance and love we have all witnessed.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love, so brilliantly reflected in Shanvanie and Craig’s hearts and eyes. We have all come from so many places, backgrounds and beliefs, and our bride and groom have brought us together in love, respect and faith. We are all grateful to share this wonderful meal in honor of such a beautiful young couple. We pray for your blessing upon those who prepared it and we thank those who serve us. May you bless Shavanie and Craig and grant them a long and healthy lifetime filled with love, respect, family and friends. We pray and give thanks in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thank you all and Congratulations to our bride and groom!