BIRTHDAY SPEECH FOR GRANDSON

FOR

MUHAMMAD YOUSAF

Hello everyone!!! It’s wonderful to see all of you gathered here today, celebrating another joyous occasion with us. Last year we all got together to celebrate Zoe’s first birthday, and here we are together again, in 2014. Zoe is twice as old as she was last year (**Turn to Zoe** **and say**)… Zoe, you may not understand this yet, but I bet even though you are just a little over two years old, you’re **ALSO** amazed at how time flies!!! Well, if that does not fascinate you now… wait until you get to be my age!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Last year at Zoe’s birthday party, we all eagerly anticipated the coming birth of our beautiful baby boy, Zaiden-or Zaido to many of you, and we could not be happier to have two such beautiful grandchildren… to add to our joy and make our family even more complete!! For those of you that took special time to travel to be with us, we want to thank you. For those of you that are new friends and family, we want to welcome you. The Yousaf’s believe there is strength in numbers…. especially Aunt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who, with her experience working at Revenue in Canada, would really agree with that!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

A famous English writer, George Eliot said, “What greater thing is there for human souls than to feel that they are joined for life to be with each other in silent unspeakable memories.” This party may be loud and boisterous today, but we are making memories that we’ll share and will stay within each one of us, for our lifetimes. It’s times like this, when I have an overwhelming feeling that I am so blessed to be able to look around this room, see this wonderful gathering, and realize that I am a lucky, lucky man. Our family is growing, our babies are happy, and as our friends like you share these moments, our bond with you gets stronger and stronger. Years from now, when Zaido gets ready to go off to college, or begin his first job, or make his first moves and decisions as an adult, we will be able to show him the pictures and albums… or should I say, the YouTube videos and Instagram pages, or whatever the newest technology will offer us then, of events like this one, and he will really see the love in this room right now. He will know without a doubt that he has a strong, close, and supportive network of friends and family all over the world.

There’s an old proverb that goes, “Perfect love does not always come along until grandchildren are born.” (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are so blessed to have the opportunity to do our own research on the subject, and so far, so good!! We agree!! (**Wait for the laugh**). We have great children, Nadeem, Naveed and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and although we may be in different areas around the country and globe, our belief in the unbreakable bonds of family keeps us together. (**If Zoe and Zaiden’s other four cousins are also your grandchildren, you can say**) Our children were wonderful as kids and now we have Zoe and Zaiden to add to our brood. Aydin, Muhammad, Sara Iman, and Summer, you too, are all angels and we’re so proud to be your grandparents!

Zaiden, you have a big, loving, special family and we’re all thrilled to celebrate your first anniversary here with us. It’s the beginning of great things for you. With two such caring parents like your daddy Nadeem and mommy Naina and a group of adoring “fans” like this crowd to encourage your achievements and milestones in life, I am very sure that the Yousaf strength and honor will live on for a long, long time. We may have come from halfway around the world and we may have had our challenges settling in to life here, but I think we can all agree that our dedication to making our dream of a better life for our family has come true. It shines through in the accomplishments and lives of your daddy and his brother and sister, and now the next generation is here to take the dream even further.

Someone once observed that “**DIAPER**” spelled backwards is “**REPAID**.” It’s true!! (**Wait for the laugh**). For all of the hard work we invested in raising our children, now we get to experience the even greater joy of being grandparents and having a baby around us again…. only we get to give him back when the diaper needs changing!! (**Wait for the laugh)** To Nadeem andNaina, thank you so much for bringing such happiness to our lives and to Zaido, Happy Birthday and many, many more! We love you!