WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

DILNESSA ASRES

Hello everyone!! I want to thank all of you for being here and sharing the happiest day of my life with me. As I look around the room, I am overwhelmed with a sense of love, joy and gratitude and I know none of this would have been possible without the love and support of my wonderful parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, my brother Michael and sister Lidia, my friends, family, and most of all, God. I know that we usually hear about young women dreaming of and planning their weddings when they are younger, but to me, because I love my parents so much, and because they showed the three of us what true love and family loyalty really means, I dreamed of the day that I would meet that woman who would be by my side through my life’s journey. Because of my faith in God, I truly believe he heard my prayers…. (**If you want to make a little humorous comment, you can say**) and I must have done a really good job of telling him just how special I wanted my partner to be, because he brought me the sweetest, smartest, most compassionate and beautiful woman I could ever have prayed for!! (**Wait for the laugh**). It is a testimony to my parents and to my faith that Alpha came into my life and I was blessed to receive such a gift.

The gospel singer Mahalia Jackson once said, “If you believe in God, he will open the windows of heaven and pour blessings upon you.” I really believe that is what I am experiencing today and my elation cannot be contained. For as long as I can remember, my parents’ depth of love for us inspired and informed my life, and although they struggled and sacrificed for the benefit of their children, their faith in us and in God showed us the way. Leaving Ethiopia and settling in Canada could have broken others, but our family stayed strong and our faith grew even more. Seeing my parents feel and share our joy humbles me. I can’t imagine that I am actually receiving such precious blessings.

Ethiopians are proud and our heritage runs deep, and Alpha is the epitome of all I love and hold dear about our culture. Although she was born in Canada, she has the heart and soul of our people. She understands what we are made of, and she shares her gifts and talents so selflessly and willingly in order to make sure that others have a chance in life. Her university career at Oxford is beyond impressive and her work has garnered much esteem. Her involvement in founding the organization Young Diplomats is beyond inspirational, but what is even more astounding is how she always has time for others. She has dedicated her life to the betterment of our community. No matter where her helping hand is needed, she is **there**. She is hands-on whether it involves her studies, providing for beneficiaries from Young Diplomats, some of who are here today (**tonight?),** or planning the last detail of her wedding from thousands of miles away. I am so proud to be able to finally call Alpha my **WIFE**. Her poise and beauty overwhelm me. Her compassion and patience inspire me. Her intelligence and energy exhaust me!! (**Wait for the laugh**) and I wake up every single day thanking God for his goodness. We can attribute Alpha’s best qualities to her wonderful mother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, …. at least that’s what her father \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has confided in me, but I believe that although they did a great job raising her, each in their own unique way, and instilling her with the best qualities imaginable, they had a little help. Almighty God was watching over and guiding them to create and form this extraordinary creature.

As Alpha and I begin our life together, I am consumed with joy at the possibilities that shine before us and guide us on our way in life. Every day I wake up ad thank God for his goodness and I am happy and eager to share what God has planned for us. (**Turn to Alpha and say**) Alpha, you are truly a rare and beautiful diamond. Every facet of your personality is dazzling and your brilliance lights up my life. I love you! Thank you for being my wife. Thank you all and most of all, Thank God!