WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

JOE KANJAMALA

Hello everyone and welcome to our wedding. Each and everyone one of you are here because you are special to both (**bride**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and me. We both want to acknowledge you for your love and support and as a gesture of the connection we have, I would like to break a little with tradition and invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to all of you **before** I speak … actually, there are a couple of reasons why this is necessary. First of all, both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want to make sure you know what you mean to us and secondly, I’m about to make this speech and for those of you that know me well, I can only guess that you would agree that I get **A LOT** funnier as you take sips of your cocktails or Champagne!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… so on **THAT** note, I invite all of you to raise a glass… and for all of you minors out there, you’re probably either not listening or rolling your eyeballs waiting for the “good stuff,” so no alcohol for you!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

Here’s to friends and family. Thank you all for being here and sharing our joy, and as our connections to each other grow deeper by the day, here’s to family becoming friends and our friends becoming our extended family. We love you!!

Today is one of the most joyous days of my life. I have married a woman who is kind and smart, loving, beautiful, and generous, and although some may ask, “What’s she doing with **HIM**?” don’t let her hear that!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, I don’t know exactly what she sees in me, but guess what? It’s too late!! We’re married!!! (**Turn to your wife and say**) … Take another sip honey… not only do I get funnier, I also get smarter and more handsome the more you indulge in your Champagne (**or mention whatever her favorite drink might be**)!! (**Wait for the laugh**). And by the way-no need to worry… since we became engaged I have been studying the meaning of life and how to find true happiness. I have searched for wisdom. As I think about (**bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I can’t help but recall the words of Rumi who said, “Why should I be unhappy? Every parcel of my being is in full bloom.” Yes, I feel alive in the best way possible when I am with you. I can think of the words of Sir Winston Churchill who taught us, “My most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me.” Let’s think about **THAT**… Benjamin Franklin was a genius, statesman, inventor, but we do have that **ONE** thing in common…and now **my** most brilliant achievement will be by my side for all of our lives. And of course, the most poignant bit of advice was something I heard on TV. From a Real Housewife of New Jersey…. plain and simple… “Happy wife, happy life.” And that has become my life’s mission!!!” As I had said, for those of us who are blessed to treasure the rich relationships we have, friends become family and know us so well that they know what is best for us before we do. On that note, I want to acknowledge and thank (**name the person that introduced you**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for knowing me better than I know myself. Thank you for finding the greatest gift I could have ever wished for… and oh… thanks for introducing me to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). You know I kid, but you also know I will be indebted to you forever for your thoughtfulness and your great connections!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

I also want to say that life throws us curve balls and not every day is as joy-filled and special as this one. Every struggle provides the opportunity to appreciate and treasure the sweetness of life even more. One thing I am so grateful for are my two wonderful children, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You are both the lights of my life and I am so thrilled and touched that we are all able to share this day, and when I say share, we really did. Thank you for all of the planning and research and advice you both contributed to make sure that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I would have the most beautiful and memorable wedding. To (**name your son**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thank you for standing up for me, standing with me, having my back and truly being my **BEST MAN**. To my beautiful daughter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you are a constant source of inspiration and joy and I know our family will continue to make wonderful memories together with you as an essential part of it. To (**name the maid of honor**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want to thank you for all you have done for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is a privilege to be a part of our newly blended family and I am touched to see how much you truly care for your sister.

Hopefully all of you have had enough sips of whatever you’ve been drinking to think my little speech was warm, loving, thoughtful and inspiring, and in the cold light of morning you will all remember this wonderful night, how much you mean to both of us, and how much we love and thank each one of you!! Let’s enjoy! We love you!!