***INTRODUCTION SPEECH***

***FOR***

***POONAM GREWAL***

President Obama, Mrs. Obama, distinguished guests, friends and disciples, it is with pride, humility, and a deep sense of gratitude for all of the blessings to be found and shared, that I take this opportunity to introduce you to our spiritual leader Swami Nalinanand Giri Ji Maharaj, the founder and driving inspiration behind Satya Prem Charitable Trust ***(Please correct if this is not the actual name).***

Enlightenment is available for any and all that open themselves to accept the wisdom and essence of the pure and real, and there are those that walk among us who are blessed with the vision and awareness to accept that enlightenment and go steps further to share wisdom and goodness with all, no matter what.

Swami Ji ***(Or please use the shortened name that is traditionally used***) is one of those people to actually possess that rare gift and has devoted his life to imparting that humanity. At its purest level, enlightenment is the context within which we all exist... We just have to recognize it and be open to acceptance. It is through the selfless and perpetual search for higher wisdom and tireless devotion to his calling that Swami Ji brings to all his endeavors that inspires such admiration.

Swami Ji is truly a holy man for our times. He was born in 1979 to a privileged life and from an early age, he exhibited the characteristics that distinguished him and foretold his future. Although as a young student he was known as a "dashing young man with debonair looks," that superficiality did not betray his innate potential for humanity, selflessness, and complete devotion to his disciples; indeed we can possibly say that the very fact that he was familiar with what the unenlightened might perceive as "the real world" actually served to bring him closer to his people as he heeded his calling.

It has been said that only when we truly know ourselves can we serve others. Every human being, without exception, has the potential to find that holy center within, and like the protagonist in Somerset Maugham's classic, **The Razor's Edge**, it is when we are faced with the ultimate tests of survival that we find the strength to transcend and the truth and depth of humanity. ***(If you want to add a little humor you can say, "or as we call it in lay terms, "an AHA moment"***)

Swami Ji has demonstrated that even with his "swagger," he innately held the contexts of promise and selfless devotion to others as his calling in life. He exhibited his unswerving dedication to others and at a very early age kept the promises he made. Through his work with the trust, he brings his unconditional love and wisdom to the people as he encourages connection and inspiration to all regardless of their station in life. He is truly a phenomenal human being whose work has made immeasurable difference in the lives of those he inspires. As a "guru for the modern age," he believes in bringing well being and "aliveness" to all aspects of life as he encourages physical fitness as well as spiritual harmony..... And, in the TRUE SPIRIT of being at one in a modern world whose reliance on technology must be incorporated into any discipline, yes, Swami Ji's online presence is undeniable. And in case you were wondering, Yes.... There's an app for that!!! Really!! ( ***I think it's important to engage the President and Mrs. Obama with some humor- as long as it's respectful, I think it will be distinctive and memorable***).

We want to acknowledge you for your liberal thinking and for extending this opportunity to meet Swami Ji. We are inspired at your open mindedness and graciousness in expressing interest in our cause and to extend this platform to our organization is a rare and noble gift. By inviting us to meet you, you have made it possible for our guru to extend his reach, and, of course, in the words of Robert Browning, "A man's reach should exceed his grasp..." You have given Swami Ji the opportunity to continue to extend his reach and for that we are grateful. Thank you.