WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

KAMALINS CHETTY

Hello everyone and welcome to this beautiful occasion. After all of the planning and plotting and arrangement-making, I cannot believe that this day has arrived, **(Name the bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are officially married, and I want to make sure that my very first, bona fide gesture as the ecstatic groom that you see before you is to make sure each person in attendance knows how important you are to both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and me. Today signifies the beginning of a whole new life on so many levels and I want to make sure to really **BE** here with all of you, take in the joy and love and celebration that fills this atmosphere, and find the way to bottle or can or contain even a little of it as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I set out for the journey of the rest of our lives.

(**I have included this because there are probably some guests who may not be familiar with a traditional Hindu wedding ceremony).** There are many symbols in a traditional Hindu wedding, and all pay tribute to heritage, family, love, respect, and the incredible bond we all share as human beings. From welcome gestures to tokens of devotion, respect and commitment, and symbols of our eternal bond, we’ve basically enacted the covenant of marriage in every aspect of our ceremonial vows. (**If you want to make a joke you can say**)….. In front of an intimate gathering of around two hundred! **(And wait for the laugh**).

I am here and thankfully healthy, happy and hopefully wise because of the love and devotion of my very special family. (**Name your parents**). To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for all that you’ve given to me to allow me to be who I am. Thank you for teaching me to honor and respect the important people in my life and everyone who crosses my path. The lessons that were handed down and taught to you and passed to me are cherished and will guide us as this new phase of life begins. (**Name your brothers and sisters and call out one or two that might be particularly “distinguished” or “sassy”).** To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, growing up with all of you as built in best friends has been wild (**or use whatever adjective you think best describes your relationship with your siblings**)… and that even goes for **YOU**, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Brothers and sisters may not always get along perfectly, but it’s those little hiccups that make life interesting, and I wouldn’t have swapped any of you for ANYTHING (**If you want to make a joke you can pick one** **out and say something like**), wellll, except for maybe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. When I was a little kid I would **MUCH** rather have been related to (**Name a** **famous sports star or entertainer**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!! Just kidding!! (**Wait for** **the laugh**). (**If you have any grandparents, aunts or uncles you want to name do so here).** Part of the joy of growing up in this wonderful and colorful culture is having so many close and caring relatives. I would like to acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Each one of you reinforces my faith in humanity and family, and knowing you were there to encourage me is one of life’s great blessings.

It is believed that Aristotle said, “My best friend is the man who in wishing me well wishes it for **my** sake.” This is another simple barometer that indicates just how blessed I am in this life. (**Name your friends and maybe say a little sentence indicating their strong points about each one**). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, there’s no one I can imagine who is better than you at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Your skills are mythic and will now be known far and wide. Of course wherever I go, so goes the legend of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.... whether anyone else likes it or not! (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, you are a master and I am grateful for all that you’ve taught me. And of course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, where would I be without your ability to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Thanks to your skills as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I now have the opportunity to teach others as you’ve taught me. I want to thank each one of you for having my back, standing up for me, and most of all for being truly great friends. We may be traveling halfway around the world to find our new home, but I know that a piece of home can be found in the memories we’ve made together.

To (**Name your bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Our traditions teach us that when we find **the ONE** we are to marry, it is really the **reunion** of two ancient souls. I want to tell you that even though I can barely speak as I admire how beautiful you look today, I know that I am really one of the most blessed people on earth. Your beauty, intelligence and compassion are an inspiration and I cannot wait to embark on the trip of our lifetime together. It’s been said that home is where the heart is, and I know I am home wherever I am with you. (**If you want to make a joke you can** **say**) Of course in this new age of technology, love, marriage, patience and commitment are being redefined every day. In fact, I read some rather pithy advice from a wise American. He said, “Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow Internet to see who they **really** are.” (**Wait for the laugh**). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ let us make another vow right now to find patience and gratitude even through tech issues!

(**Mention the bride’s family here**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for raising such a wonderful and loving daughter. She has inherited the best qualities of both of you and I am all the more blessed to be her partner through this life. (**Name sisters and brothers and any other** **close relatives**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I know I speak for all of the Chetty family when I say that we are thrilled to have a new, happy and even bigger family that includes all of you. Although \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I may be traveling to live in a new place, our hearts, spirit and love will always be right here, with al of you.

Today marks the beginning of new traditions, new families, and new adventures. There is a saying that goes, “I am part of all that I have met.” I am honored to have all of you with us in spirit and memory, and we look forward to the days when we will be together again in celebration, joy and love.

Thank you all!