WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

SOONDRAM MOODLEY

Hello everyone!! It is such a pleasure to be here to witness the wedding of my nephew Meeshan to his beautiful bride Shannon. It’s an even **GREATER** privilege to have the opportunity to say a few words and propose a toast to the happy couple. This is quite a festive occasion and it is always so heartwarming to witness the affirmation of a couple’s love and commitment to each other. As I look around the room I see so many happy, smiling faces and each one of those smiles reflects the joy our bride and groom are feeling tonight. Today is truly a landmark day in our family.

When people think of the relationship between uncles and their nephews, there are some points to consider…. an uncle is usually an older authority figure and while probably not as strict or judgmental as a parent might be, he can share valuable adult perspective…an uncle isn’t a brother but can be trusted with keeping a confidence… an uncle is a close member of the family; someone who shares the DNA and has the capacity to understand the inner workings of his family’s unique dynamic… and most importantly an uncle is a friend, mentor, guide and sounding board… who can be there for his nephew in any situation…. and let me just tell all of you…Meeshan gave all of us **PLENTY** of situations when he was growing up!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). It’s also been said that an uncle is the person that says yes when the parents say no…. all I can say is… **DON’T BLAME ME!!** (**Wait for** **the laugh**). It’s hard to imagine as I look over at our groom… my handsome, distinguished, **MATURE** nephew, that this adult, **MARRIED** man lived his early years as quite a **naughty boy**… Can you imagine that our groom was rather “notorious” as a child? (**Name 2 or 3 characteristics or incidents where the groom demonstrated he was naughty**). I am sure there are some “Legends of Meeshan” in the family archives…. who will ever forget the time he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Or how about how he used to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?? Shannon, I won’t go into too many details now, but after the wedding, when things settle down a bit… maybe we should talk (**Say that with a little “wink”**). Oh and remember… he’s all yours now!! (**Wait for the laugh**). What’s even funnier is that there is an expression said to originate in ancient Roman times that was used often in the middle of the last century. Basically in a wrestling match or other challenge, when someone is ready to give up they cry, “**Uncle!!”** I don’t know that I ever really saw you give up when you were that naughty child, Meeshan, but I hope you know that if and when you ever cry **“UNCLE!!”** I will be there!! But you don’t have to be naughty to get my attention! (**Wait for the laugh**).

I would like to take a moment to congratulate Shannon’s family (**Name her parents and any siblings**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and of course to my (**name Meeshan’s parents**) brother (**sister?**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to (**name any of Meeshan’s siblings**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I wish all of you happiness, joy and many years of togetherness and closeness for our family in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, family and distinguished guests, I would like to invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Shannon and Meeshan- May you find health and happiness, love and respect, joy, humor and partnership throughout your lives together. May this be the beginning of the next chapter of our family’s history and may you both someday have the blessing of making me a **GREAT** uncle several times over!! I’m ready… just say when!! After all, I was trained by the best! (**Wait for the laugh**). Congratulations! We love you!