FATHER OF THE BRIDE SPEECH

FOR

NALONNIL JOSE

Hello everyone and welcome to this happy occasion. Whether you are family, friend, or distinguished guest … actually you’re **all** distinguished guests!!... It is a pleasure and a privilege to have you here to share our joy. The wedding of Christina and Naveen means so much to us. It’s an important part in the circle of life to witness our daughter seal the bonds with her new husband as they begin a new life together. The Jose family has grown today and that is a great blessing for both of our families. As Christina’s father I want you to know that we have waited for this day for a long time … with mixed emotions, after all Christina is our baby and no matter how old or prominent or responsible or independent she tries to become…. we will be there… checking… **watching**… loving… **wondering**…(**If you want to make a joke you can say**) … and speaking of watching…I bet the main reason why Christina didn’t attempt to elope with Naveen was to avoid all of her mother’s phone calls…. checking on her if she tried to escape to some Elvis Chapel in Las Vegas!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Yes, I must admit, Christina’s mother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are loving and attentive…. I would **NOT** say overprotective (**you can give a little wink or a glance over at Christina when you say this**) … “**helicopter**” parents…I wouldn’t say we **hover**…. Christina might say we do but instead I’d say we… **CARE. A LOT**.

I once heard someone observed the effect daughters have on fathers. It’s been said that “A father might turn a stony face to his sons but as soon as a daughter gently utters the words, ‘Daddy can I ask you something?’ he becomes a pat of butter melting in a hot frying pan.”…. What you are witnessing right now is **this** pat of butter melting for my little girl. To have the privilege of being Christina’s father… witnessing her entry into this world, marveling at her growth and development, enchanted with her evolution as a sensitive, religious, dependable and devoted citizen of the world has been a blessing and an adventure. She’s an intelligent, hard working, humble, faithful angel… especially in her spectacular wedding attire. Christina has always been ready and willing to help us in any way possible and we know that just as we are there unconditionally for her… and now Naveen, she has been and is always there for us. She’s now an adult and a married woman but she will always be our little girl…. possibly to a fault. As I said earlier, Christina and Naveen probably chose to get married here at Crest Hollow Country Club just to avoid her mother checking in by phone every ten minutes. (**If you want to make a joke you can turn to your wife and say**) … It’s okay honey… put down the phone and stop texting Christina…. She’s right here at this table!! (**And wait for the laugh**). Yes, I’m pretty certain mobile phones have been perfected over the past several years just to make sure Christina’s mother knew where she was… at all times. Iphone may have that “find my iphone” app, but on my wife’s mobile it says “find Christina!!” … Don’t worry Naveen… we haven’t gone as far as micro-chipping her!! (**Wait for the laugh**). But there is a history… as a young girl and teen-ager growing up; Christina knew she had a curfew. If she wasn’t home at a particular time or if she stayed out past her curfew, we would call her cell phone… especially my wife… until we got a hold of her. I think it must have been rather annoying but we’re learning. Now we cut down the frequency and call time and try to wait at least ten minutes past her cut off time before we repeat dial!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Christina, now that you’re married, your mother and I will have to Google “appropriate waiting time to robo-dial a married woman by phone to check on her if it’s your daughter” and see if we can improve on those ten minute intervals!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… what are parents supposed to do? Like I said, Christina will always be our child and we will always do what we can to watch over her.

Ahhh…Christina, what an amazing angelic creature she is… as long as she gets her way… It’s always been hard for me to say “No” to Christina. Yes I’m a softy, but she can also be um…. uh… **assertive** as well. As a young girl, if she didn’t get her way, **CRUST**INA would emerge… she would scream and make sure we were profoundly aware of her quick temper…. but I have to say, since she has been with Naveen, she has calmed down considerably… maybe it’s love… or maybe she’s just screaming at Naveen instead? (**Wait for the laugh**). Naveen, if it’s any consolation, you can always come to us for protection!!

I am sure all of you know by now how much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I love our daughter. She is the light of our lives and even with the fiery parts; she is a wonderful and sweet person. We are so proud of her and so happy she and Naveen have found each other. God has brought these two special people together and we welcome Naveen and his family to our family. Christina, your big heart and passion for life and purpose make you a strong and vital person. Use those qualities to continually strengthen your love and bond with Naveen.

You both have brought great joy and hope to this family and we wish you all the best as husband and wife. We love you! Thank you all!