WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

LEVENT MEHMET

Hello everyone! It’s such a thrill to be here to celebrate the wedding of my good friend and colleague, Arun and his beautiful bride Veronica and to honor their love and commitment to one another. Coming together for Arun and Veronica’s wedding has been fascinating on so many levels and it’s been a real privilege to get to know so many of you over the past few days. For those of you whose acquaintance I may not yet have had the privilege to make, I am Lev. Although Arun and I met about two years ago through work, I am proud to call him a worthy, talented colleague and a respected confidante. When we first met it didn’t take long for me to realize that we possessed several very familiar traits: We’re driven to succeed, competitive, and, dare I say, devilishly charming (**Wait for the laugh**). We’re both able to speak with great authority on any number of topics about which we know **absolutely nothing**…. an innate talent for sales and the gift of gab brings with it a fluid discourse…. and here I am standing before you speaking with great authority!! The distinction in this instance is that I am now sharing my point of view about a topic I know well… my wonderful friend!

To know Arun is to love him, respect him, and get totally confused by him!! Although we all know he is kind, compassionate and caring, his true charm undeniably lies in his hopeless lack of organization!! You would think that as Captain of the American Dragon Boat Team, the rhythm of the process of racing might inspire some focus, but nnnaaaaahhhhhh….I’ve given up praying for respite. When I met Veronica I realized she is probably his last great hope to keep him on track. Veronica has her work cut out from here on!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I believe it was Helen Keller who said, “Life is either a **daring adventure or it is nothing**.” …. Ladies and gentlemen… Ms. Keller had never even met Arun!! (**Wait for the laugh**)… and just in case you think I might be exaggerating, I’ll give you an example. On the day Arun was preparing to leave for India for this wedding, we had a little celebratory lunch. Arun, being the thoughtful and considerate person that he is, spent most of the time offering to arrange adventures, excursions and side trips for my girlfriend and I on this amazing trip. Of course I wanted him to focus on all that he had to do in order to prepare for this wedding, and then I reminded him of some wise words a friend told me last year as I prepared for my first trip to India. Yes… it was Arun himself who said… “Don’t trust **ANYONE** in India that’s trying to make arrangements for you… **EVERYONE** is a middle man!!” (**Wait for the laugh**). … But that wasn’t even the best part of our afternoon outing… at around 3 pm we got up to leave. I started walking towards the office and Arun turned and began in the opposite direction… when I reminded him of his bearings he calmly informed me that he forgot his passport and had to go home to find it…can you imagine if he **didn’t** find it? I think his prediction would have been correct. Yes. His parents and Veronica would have **KILLED** him. The good news is he found the passport with almost an hour to spare… to probably lose something else…. To paraphrase A.A. Milne, “One of the great advantages of being disorganized is that one is constantly making new discoveries!” (**Wait for the laugh**).

And now Veronica has inherited her new mission in life… At this point I am sure she has relieved him of any important documents, and their life together begins. Veronica, I want to acknowledge you for your love and support of Arun, and for this beautiful event you have so carefully and lovingly **organized**… can you just imagine if Arun had planned this? I have a feeling we would all be standing and eating with our hands!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Arun, you know I joke. And you know how much I respect your talents and love working with you. When I see the future of business I see that it will thrive thanks to your determination and focus. Veronica, I would also like to congratulate you and your maids of honor for sharing your beauty and elegance and to (**Veronica’s parents**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to (**Arun’s parents**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I am sure I speak for everyone here when I thank you for your generosity and hospitality. Congratulations on your newly extended family!!!

Arun, you really hit the jackpot when you met Veronica, but then again, we know what a dazzling conversationalist you are!! And Veronica, I am sure you will agree that you could not have found a more loving, caring, devoted partner. Together you make a wonderful happy couple ready to face the future and all that it holds.

Many of us have traveled from far and wide to be here for this very special occasion (**Do you want to add … and apparently no one else misplaced their passports… and wait for the laugh**) and I am sure none of us would have missed this splendid celebration for anything. A lifetime of memories has been created for all of us and for that we are truly thankful.

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To the new Mr. and Mrs. Veluswamy, I wish you a future filled with the best of everything: good fortune and happiness, health and prosperity, humor and partnership. May you share a lifetime of warm days and peaceful happy nights!

I love you both!! Congratulations!