**15015, Rashmi DayaShankar**

Good Evening Everyone,

Tonight I want to celebrate my dear friend Nandini’s 40th birthday. I know some people like to do this with black decorations as if a person was now “old”. Well, I don’t ascribe to such notions. My dear friend, I am here to tell you that turning 40 is not the beginning of the end nor is it a sad day. I can say that because I am 43 years old. I have already passed this birthday and I can only say that things get better with time and experience. You know you can trust what I say because we have known each other for 20 years. Have I ever steered you wrong? Never. So, trust me, things only get better from here.

To everyone here, let me tell you a little about my good friend. She is one of the most caring and loving people I have ever known. She is someone who I can trust. I can tell her everything I feel any time. She is a great listener. Despite her youthfulness, sometimes I feel like she is my older sister simply because of the immense love and care she showers upon me. But, we do share many things in common. We are both married and we both have kids – she has two and I have one 17 year old and our families get along very well. We are such good friends that we have taken family vacations together and family dinners. So, I am the perfect one to tell her what to expect from this point forward.

My friend, you are very beautiful and still look like you are in your twenties. How many times have we to have a drink and to a casino? Whose ID did they check, mine? NO. But yours they checked. There is nothing better for woman than to know that she will always look so young and beautiful. Very few of us can make that claim, but you my friend will always age beautifully. I have to admit to some jealousy on my part for that. There is no middle age spread on you. You are as beautiful as you were when you were in your twenties. And, because you have such a love for living you always know how to enjoy a party. Whether it’s just us adults or whether it’s a party with your children and their friends, you know how to make sure everyone has a great time.

I’ve always heard that wine only gets better with age. Well, you my friend set the standard for that. You have a youthful attitude and a heart full of joy that radiates out from you. With a personality like that you will never grow old.

So, what does the future look like now that you’ve hit the big 40? Well, it means that you get to enjoy the finer things in life and take your time doing it. You don’t need to rush around at someone else’s speed to try to get it done by a certain. You can set you own clock and calendar. It means you can go out with the love of your life and not worry about age preventing you from having fun. Because now you are old enough to do the things you enjoy and the wisdom to do those things well.

Happy Birthday Dear Friend, now we are both over 40 and can laugh at passing of time.