WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

SADIQ RASOOL

Hello everyone. Weddings are a great time for celebration, good wishes, and acknowledgements. I am sure that there are several people that want to stand up and say a few words of congratulations, but first I want to say that I am honored to speak here today and I want to extend my very best wishes to my Aunt, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Uncle, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to my cousin Shiraan and his beautiful bride, Therese. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate Shiraan’s older brother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Shiraan, it is wonderful to see how close you and your brother are. I once heard the saying, “Because I have a brother I will always have a best friend.” Although that is not always the case, the friendship that you two have is inspiring. It has also been said and explained that while **siblings** may share the same mother and father, it is **true and genuine brothers** that love, respect and appreciate one another. As the poet Maya Angelou said, “ I don’t believe an accident of birth makes people sisters or brothers. It makes them siblings, gives them mutual parentage. Sisterhood and brotherhood are conditions that people have to work at.” Shiraan and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , you two clearly love and respect each other and that sets a great example for our family.

I have also heard that no matter how old someone might be, there are two lasting gifts a parent gives to a child. One is roots and Shiraan, you can see by all the smiling faces around you that you have a loving family and deep **roots**, and the other is **wings**. Now that you and Therese are married, it is time to use those wings to build your nest and prepare for the next chapters in your life together.

Therese, we want to warmly welcome you to the family and we want to let you know that we are so happy that you and Shiraan have found each other. Shiraan has always been a hard working and dedicated man, and to take this major step with you is a real gift to our family. To see the passion and admiration that the two of you share reinforces how special you both are. You’re a beautiful couple and clearly are meant to be together.

My Aunt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Uncle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are already so proud of their son and this is another step that makes them even more proud and hopeful for the future. Being able to see that Shiraan has grown to be honorable and hard working is a blessing for any parent and as you, Shiraan mark this major milestone in your life, they are even more happy for you!!

To Therese’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Name any brothers and sister of Therese if any**) and to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, welcome to our newly extended family. Thank you for raising such a beautiful daughter and may they know love, health, and happiness.

Every culture has its own way of blessing the union of a man and his bride, but they basically bear the same wishes. With that, I would like to share my own blessing for Therese and Shiraan:

May you be each other’s shelter in the storm;

Each other’s echo in laughter,

Each other’s warmth in the cold.

May you have a wonderful life together, one that is nourishing and kind,

Respectful and fruitful, with health, happiness and prosperity.

Congratulations!

(**If you want to invite others to get up and speak, you can do that here and ask to stand up one at a time to say a few words**)

I would now like to invite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to say a few words of congratulations to our bride and groom. Thank you all!