WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

SIVA SIVAKUMARAN

Hello everyone and thank you for being here tonight to share our happiness. I am Siva and I am Yaso’s father. Before I go any further I want all of you to understand that although I **LOVE** to get up in front of crowds and speak on any number of subjects, I am under **strict** doctor’s orders not to talk for too long (**If you want to add a little humor you can pretend to cough a little**). By the way, he also said it would be very therapeutic if the crowd laughed…. at the **appropriate** moments… as I spoke… (**You can pretend to cough again and wait for the laugh**). I can assure you my doctor also advised that laughter is the **best medicine**… so of course it figures that he would find a way to charge for it… (**Wait for the laugh**).

This wedding is truly an international … and inter**STATE** celebration. To all of you that have journeyed from distant lands and faraway places to be here, we are so happy that you have done so… as is JetBlue… Metro North… Greyhound…and all of the concessioners at Grand Central Station. (**You can add**) Two words. Junior’s Cheesecake. Yes… this is a fairly small wedding but I think it’s safe to say a healthy portion of the northeast corridor shares our joy. (**Wait for the laugh**).

This is such a joyful occasion for all of us, not only for Yaso and Keith but also for my wife Shirley, our other daughter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Keith’s parents, (**Is this Kevin and MJ? If not please change**) Kevin and MJ, and all of you. Yaso has found the love of her life and as of today they are officially joined in matrimony. It’s so gratifying that this is now a done deal because I have been told that my fatherly duties do not end until… I make a valiant effort… to embarrass my daughter during this toast… (**Turn to Yaso, raise your glass and say**) How am I doing? (**And wait for the laugh**). I must add that to know Yaso is to love her so my mission was not easy. And let me also make a slight confession. It has **ALWAYS** been the case that our daughters are **far more** adept at embarrassing **US** rather thanvice versa… and remember doctor’s orders, (**Cough again**) but I shall uphold the mandate. As a family we have always been, uh, shall we say close and for some of us maybe a bit **TOO** close. Yaso and her sister are only two years apart and have very different personalities. Shirley and I saw they were growing up **FAST**… and **FURIOUS**… just about Jason Statham - Vin Diesel fast and furious… thankfully with fewer submachine guns. So you have the picture… sugar and spice… and **heavy artillery** (**Wait for the laugh**). Yaso learned to advocate for herself and survived with her essence in tact. She fought her battles well and remained true to her ideals developing into the organized, persevering, and caring person we know and love today. She has brought so much happiness into our lives and through the trials and tribulations, jubilations and anxiety, it may not have always been smooth sailing but we prevailed practically unscathed!!! That is an accomplishment worthy of applause!! (**Wait for the applause**).

As Yaso grew up into the beautiful and accomplished young woman we know and love today, she became more and more aware of herself and began to show the world that she knew and identified exactly what she wanted from life. No parent likes to come to the realization that they must relinquish control of their children, nor do we like when those children know more than we do, but actually we experienced a feeling of liberation… with some mixed blessings. We were happy with our daughter’s growth but the “new normal” course of the family was not yet charted. However, as we have learned in most stories with happy endings, along came our, I mean **MY** hero, Keith Murray, to bail me out. Keith. My angel investor. My knight in shining armor…. who almost **DID** have to arrive on a horse because at that time his hand made Beamer wouldn’t budge. We all liked Keith so much when we first met him, but of course life needs spice and as we left the first meeting my wife Shirley turned to me and glared, “He seems like quite a nice chap. What’s **YOUR** problem???” Frankly I liked him from the moment I met him. Actually, I think anyone would like Keith… Especially in **THIS** crowd… am I right?? We are so happy to welcome him to our family…unless the Best Man has any secrets to reveal….

Before everyone gets to hear my doctor’s pre-programmed alert in this microphone, I will wrap this up. There’s no need to issue any parting wisdom because no one is parting… and wisdom comes with experience. Yaso and Keith are beginning their new family but they are not leaving ours. We are just a phone call away as are Kevin and MJ and I am sure thanks to all of the other worried parents all around the world, even **THAT** is free now. Just remember that we are always here for you … and also remember to name your first born “Whatsapp,” WeChat,” or “Skype” as an acknowledgement (**Wait for the laugh**).

Without further ado I would like to invite you to rise and join me as I propose a toast to this wonderful couple.

Let us raise a glass and toast Yaso and Keith: May you have a happy, healthy, long and fruitful life together! We love you! Congratulations!