**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JOSEPH LUKENDA**

Hello everyone and thank you for being here to witness and celebrate this wonderful occasion with us. To those of you that have traveled from far and near to be with us, I know that the bride and groom are honored by your presence and your being here makes this moment so much more special. Our daughter Kristi has married Chetas and (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I could not be happier. This is the beginning of a new era in the Lukenda and (**is this Chetas’ correct last name?**) Trivedi families and as our children officially begin their life together I know that (**Please name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and (**Name Chetas’ parents**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all look forward to new traditions that will bring joy and “spice” to all of our lives. I would also like to extend very special greetings and congratulations to Chetas’ grandparents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is a privilege to know you and to share your history and learn your rituals as our families and cultures unite.

I have been researching to find out some characteristics of Indian (**Is Hindu preferable? If so use that)** weddings. I've read that it's the union of spirit and soul, and of the sharing of mutual love and trust, treating one another with nobility and respect, being there for each other in true partnership and companionship, sharing all of life's challenges and joys…and most importantly….in this case there is one other point…always include a good craft beer !! (**Wait for the laugh).** Knowing this couple as I do, that will be a priority! I understand that all together there are seven steps in a Hindu wedding ceremony... And although we haven't gone fully traditional, perhaps this couple might consider adding a new one .. How about an eighth step… To include worship in a sacred space… Like a micro brewery? (**Wait for the laugh**). Kristi, Chetas, you know I kid, but I have to admit that your love of unique things… Like each other… and IPA, And artisanal choices distinguish you from the crowd. It shows that you know that the beauty of life is found in the smaller details and treasures that lie hidden off the beaten path. May your life together be a never ending discovery of those things, and people, and situations that truly make your hearts sing and support your mutual and shared love of life.

Kristi, I can honestly say that ever since you were a baby, your mother and I have loved you more than we can say and we’ve always been so proud of you. (**Name an incident from Kristi’s childhood that shows how special she was as a child and then one from when she was older**). There is an expression that I will paraphrase that goes, “Show me the child when she is seven years old and I will show you the person.” I will never forget when you were just \_\_\_\_\_ years old and you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We saw your character emerge back then and as you got older and blossomed, you continued to make us so proud of the young woman emerging… Remember when you were \_\_\_\_\_\_ years old and you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? And now here you are… Standing before us as the stunning bride and woman and wife… you were destined to become.

You’ve done beautifully in your professional life garnering respect and accolades, (**if you want you can add**). … and yes, even finding this wonderful young man as your husband!!! It's fantastic to see two people so interested and interesting and so enthralled with one another!!

Kristi and Chetas, through the two of you our collective futures will evolve. You and Chetas come from different backgrounds but your marriage makes one thing very clear and that is that humanity… No matter where someone is raised, is united in love and respect. It's been said that in the Hindu culture marriage is a union of families, and we are honored to welcome Chetas’ family to ours. We look forward to a colorful, enriching, and loving life for the two of you and for all of us as well.

(**If you want to make a toast perhaps you can arrange to have the couple’s favorite micro brew or IPA instead of Champagne**)

I would like to invite everyone to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Kristi and Chetas, our new son, may this glass of IPA symbolize your marriage… May your life together be golden with clarity and good taste, may your thirst always be quenched and may the two of you never lack for the ingredients to constantly brew exciting adventure! We look forward to celebrating the both of you for many, MANY years…Congratulations!! We love you!!