WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

KHOOSBU PATEL

Hello everyone!!! Today (**tonight?**) is such a special occasion for the Patel family. We are here to witness the wedding of my older brother Varun as he marries this beautiful, smart, compassionate woman, Priti. Weddings mean so much in every culture and to us, it brings joy and celebration and a tremendous affirmation of just how important family, friends, and honoring traditions are to each one of us. As I look at my brother tonight, he is a groom. He has become a husband, he has grown into a respected man and doctor, and now, with Priti, he is poised to create and nurture his newly formed family and the next generation of Patels. (**If you want to make a little joke you can say**)… Of course given the popularity of our last name, Varun is not alone in this tradition and he has lots of examples to follow… as far as I am concerned, the more the merrier and Varun and Priti… no pressure but I would **LOVE** to be an Auntie!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Yes, before us we see a man… a groom… a new husband… but I’m sure you must have realized by now, as his younger sister II have a “unique perspective.” I watched Varun grow up and find his way in this world and yes…. there were several times I was there to watch the plans go off course, so if I may, let me share some memories of what it was like to grow up with this wonderful man as my big brother….

So many things have been said about brothers and sisters… “Because I have a brother I will always have a close friend,”…”Brothers and sisters are as close as hands and feet…” (**If you want to make a joke you can say… “Yes… I mean on the same person… “ …And wait for the laugh**), “The greatest gift our parents gave us is each other…” and of course, “My brother has the **best sister**,” We also cannot overlook the really unforgettable, “I smile because you’re my brother. I laugh because there is nothing you can do about it!!” (**Wait for the laugh**). Yes, Varun and I really had our adventures and episodes as we were growing up. I would like to think that our friendship … and fights…. helped to prepare him for adulthood, and between the two of us, there are legends that can be told…. I will never forget the time when we were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Name your ages**) and (**Tell a funny story about Varun**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . There are so many stories…. let’s see oh… Yes!!! When we were a bit older, there was the time that Varun \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Tell another funny story and wait for the laugh**). Priti, as each new day goes by and as you and Varun continue to build your lives together, I am sure the future will hold many new opportunities to experience and share many new, funny, exciting memories.

Priti and Varun, a whole new life of marriage and family lies ahead for the both of you. Since you are both in the medical field, I want to express my thoughts in terms you can relate to. We have heard that “Laughter is the best medicine,” and that “Love is the drug,” but I once heard a little story that really sums up the value of life and marriage. It goes like this… “There was an old, compassionate doctor who, when asked, explained the secret of a happy and successful marriage. He said, “I have been practicing medicine for many years and through those years I have seen sickness and healing. Yes I have seen many conditions and I have prescribed all different sorts of medicines for all sorts of ailments, but what I have learned is that the greatest medicine for all creatures is **love**.” The person talking to the doctor looked at him and said, “What if that doesn’t work?” He didn’t even have to have a second thought as he replied, “**Double the dose**.” I truly believe this is great advice for all of us and most of all, for the two of you. This world clearly needs more connection, compassion, and love, and it begins with us. Priti, I want to welcome you to our family and I look forward to having you as my new sister to make and share new memories, and to learn and watch our family grow. I want to congratulate your parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to my wonderful parents, on behalf of Varun and (**name any other siblings**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for your love and guidance, your care and compassion, and most of all your patience. Weddings are a time of reflection and thought and setting goals, and I know all of us are eager to walk into the future as a newly extended family. Congratulations! Thank you all!