**FATHER OF THE BRIDE SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SADIQ RASOOL**

Hello everyone.... it is with great love and pride that I stand here tonight. Out of deep affection for my oldest daughter Aneesa, we honor our bride and groom. We are here today before Allah to witness their Nikka and to celebrate this deep act (**expression**?) of love. The occasion of a wedding is so important on many levels... most of which lead to the reaffirmation of love and the strength of family, commitment, and legacy. Weddings unite more than the bride and groom... they serve a purpose in literally bringing us all together to celebrate happiness and hope, and to remember and honor those who will always be a part of us.

So many of you have traveled long distances to share this moment and I want you to know that your presence means so much to us. Whether you got here from one of the five boroughs or braved "trains, planes, and automobiles" to get here from places like London, Guyana, California.... we are thrilled to see all of you..... today this is our "home," and having you here makes it even more so. I would like to acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**add those you want to mention who have traveled to be at the wedding**).

As we witness the marriage rites of our bride and groom, we acknowledge and affirm our deep commitment to our faith, our history, and our tradition. With that in mind, there is someone whose spirit fills this event and although we will never forget, on occasions such as this one, we remember even more deeply, we acknowledge even more lovingly. Aneesa's mother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, was a wonderful woman who loved her family and adored her children. Her priceless legacy lives on in our four children, Aneesa, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Although all were too young to really remember her passing, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lives on in the light and the goodness of her children. I would like to offer a moment of silence in love, respect, and remembrance.

I would also like to share a special tribute of love, admiration, affection and respect to a few people who have never hesitated one moment when it came to caring... **REALLY** caring for my family when we needed it most. My mother and father, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have been extraordinary to all of my children and to me. My mother stepped in and gave every ounce of her wisdom, heart, and skills to see to it that my children had the proper upbringing in life, and my father was, as always, right by her side....(**if you think it's appropriate and you want to make a little joke you can say**).... prodding... questioning... anxiously awaiting dinner (**or whatever inside joke the two might have and wait for the laugh**). To my sister-in-law, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your love and support have also seen us through very dark times and I am grateful that you are in our family.

The moment a child comes into the world, a million thoughts, dreams, and fears come to mind... is she healthy? Will she be happy? Smart? Compassionate? Aneesa is our (**my?.... use whichever you feel is best**) first born.... by the time the fourth one greeted us, we had those worries down to shorthand... (**Wait for the laugh**). What a blessing to have the privilege of being the father to this wonderful young woman. I couldn't have asked for a more beautiful, loving, caring, smart, sensitive daughter. Aneesa is hardworking and dedicated to her family, her faith, and the traditions that accompany both. I will never forget the moment when, just before Aneesa completed St John's University, she came to me and we had "the talk." I knew that whoever might be suitable as a husband for Aneesa would have to be very special. It was a tall order and although, as I said earlier, this was one of the thoughts that went through my mind back when my child was so young....as others have given unconditional love and support to me, I would do the same for my daughter....

Saddiq...the first thing I want you to know is that I admire your truly special....... **name** (**Wait for the laugh**)... but most importantly, I want you to know that **I know** you're a good, kindhearted person of faith who is worthy of the most precious gift I can imagine... Aneesa. I admire your good qualities and your ease and compatibility with Aneesa and just as family is the strongest connection I know, I welcome you to ours. Our bond is set.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my wife, Touria, for all of her love and support. Thank you for making this day possible. Your loving, caring, way has been wonderful and I am so happy that you and I, and all of us, have this special moment to share and celebrate. Once again, to my parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You are my rocks, my life, and the reason we are still here. I am so thankful that your love, devotion, generosity, .... and, oh yes.... your senses of humor.... are abundant. You have **taught us our values** and **shown us how to laugh**.... **(If you want to make a joke you can say...** ) now if we would only remember to **NOT** switch them (**and wait for the laugh**).

Thank you all and congratulations to Aneesa and Saddiq!

(**I know you want to add in some parts**)