**FATHER OF THE BRIDE SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SADIQ RASOOL**

**REVISED**

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 expression of love. The occasion of a wedding is so important on many levels... the union of two people acts to reaffirm love and the strength of family, commitment, and legacy. Weddings unite more than the bride and groom... they serve to bring us all together to celebrate happiness and hope, and to remember and honor those who will always be a part of us.

On behalf of my wife, Touria, and my family, we want to welcome all of you. Many of you have traveled long distances to share our joy and I want you to know that your presence means so much to us. Whether you came from one of the five boroughs or braved the elements to get here from places like London, Guyana, Florida, Minnesota, Arizona, California.... we are honored and thrilled to see all of you..... today this is our "home," and having you with us gives us a true sense of the power of family. I would like to acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**add those you want to mention who have traveled to be at the wedding**).

As we witness this marriage, we 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, we remember even more deeply, we acknowledge even more lovingly. I would like to ask you all to join me in standing for a special tribute to Aneesa's mother, Amenia. She was a wonderful woman who loved her family and adored her children. Her priceless legacy lives on in Aneesa, Aseefa, Saeed, and Farhaad. Although all were too young to really remember her passing, Amenia 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. Let us dedicate this wedding of Aneesa and Siddiqi to her blessed memory.

I cannot let this moment pass without mentioning others who would have loved to have been a part of this celebration. Let us remember and honor my loving sister-in-law, Zaalika Rasool, my brother-in-law Zameer Ishak, my cousin Buddy and good friend, Br Sharrif. Although we miss them terribly, I know they are all here in spirit. May Allah grant them all his mercy.

 I would also like to give special thanks 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**). These two amazing people taught us how to laugh, love, and appreciate all that life has to offer. Their generosity is endless and we are all so thankful. 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.

It seems like only one minute ago my late wife, Amenia and I were celebrating our first daughter's birth, and now here I am, standing as the father of the bride. Where did the time go? 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? Like any first time parents, we were excited but not sure of what to expect but in so many ways, Aneesa was almost like a model child...she was quiet and reserved and from the very beginning she was "Daddy's little girl" and she knew it. She could have taken advantage of my my "soft spot" for her... as could all of my children, but I have been so blessed to have such wonderful and caring sons and daughters. What a gift it has been 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. Even as a young girl, when her mother passed, Aneesa's sense of responsibility and duty went beyond her years. She wanted to step into her mother's shoes and care for her younger brothers and sisters. I could not have been more proud of my daughter at that time. As Aneesa grew up, we would cycle together to the mall for lunch and I always enjoyed her company. I also remember that I never had to remind her to do her homework because she was always studious and truly interested in the schoolwork. When Grandma and Grandpa came to live with us, in many ways they took over the role of Aneesa's mom,

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.... I started to look seriously for someone that I knew in my heart would be a good fit for this wonderful young woman. It just so happened that the young man who possessed many of the wonderful qualities I knew were important to Aneesa also possessed something even more special.... the same name as MINE!! Whether it was a sign from above or the confirmation that my search had ended, we are now here, and that is a very good thing! Sadiq has so many admirable qualities... he's kind and courteous, has a good sense of humor; he's family oriented, and follows his faith. Sadiq, I welcome you, my new son-in-law, to our family. I also want you to know that all of the women in Aneesa's life, including past and present moms and Grandmas, would and DO approve of you. If Aneesa is happy, then I am happy.

Saddiq... it is never easy to hand over the safe keeping and welfare of one's daughter to another man, but knowing how the two of you care for each other makes it easier to accept this transition. And knowing that you are a couple who really care for each other...who have a developing friendship and trust and love that will surely grow deeper with time shows me that there is a great future for the two of you. I hope that the coming months and years bring you ever stronger bonds through life's ups and downs.... just remember to be true to each other, speak well of each other, and always show kindness and compassion.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my wife, Touria, for all of her 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 occasion to 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.

I would like to propose a toast to Aneesa and Sadiq:

I wish the two of you much happiness and success... good health and great fortune in your married life. May you share a solid bond with a firm foundation that continues to strengthen each day and may your lives be filled with joy. May you always be each other's best friend and I end with this prayer....

Thank you all and congratulations to Aneesa and Saddiq!