**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ARVIND MEHTA**

Hello everyone!! It is with great joy and lots of love that I stand here, in front of all of you, as the proud father of the groom, Raj. On behalf of my wife, Jayshri and our family, I want to thank all of you for sharing this very special moment with us. (**Acknowledge Reema’s parents and congratulate them**). Jayshri and I would like to acknowledge Reema’s parents, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Are they hosting the wedding? If so, you can say**). Thank you for co-hosting this beautiful celebration of love, family, marriage, and hope for the future. We look forward to sharing many more happy family occasions... if Raj lets us!!! ... More later.... (**Wait for the laugh).**

Anyone that is familiar with our culture and tradition knows that family means everything to us.... well... wait a minute... we like Bollywood movies **A LOT** too... so when it comes to having the blessing of attending a wedding... especially that of your child.... it forms a perfect storm of excitement, anticipation, and emotion. As I look at this crowd, I can’t help but think it must have been someone very observant.... after having attended a lush, lavish **TREMENDOUS** Hindu wedding, intoxicated by the heady atmosphere, delicious food, and riotously colorful clothing, that coined the phrase... “Go **BIG** or go home... (**Wait for the laugh**). Just look around... **FOUR HUNDRED** of our nearest and dearest.... and our **soon** to be **NEWEST** nearest and dearest... here... celebrating with us... it’s very heart warming and gratifying... after all, there are **NO** outsiders in the Indian family, so thank you for reflecting our blessings....

Since family is everything, our children mean the world to us. We were blessed with three of them. Raj has two sisters, Marta and Minaj, so we have triple the joy. As Jayshri and I raised our children, we plotted and planned and wished for them to have and appreciate more success in life than they might ever expect. When Raj was born, we saw the potential almost immediately.... he developed a fascination with life and a determination that is rare in young men his age (**If this doesn’t sound like him, name 2 or 3 other qualities**). As he grew up and began to really demonstrate those exceptional qualities one seeks in a person, I couldn’t help but notice that yes.... He **REALLY DOES** take after me!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)....I am proud to call Raj my son. I am honored to call him my best friend .... and I’ve been more than a little frustrated to have to refer to him as that “**arrogant techno geek**...” (**Wait for the laugh**). Yes... with all that love and encouragement that I have selflessly and unconditionally shared, one might **THINK** he’d help his best friend... his father... his **NUMBER ONE** cheerleader, when computer problems arise, but **NOOOOOOO**... not one little finger would be lifted for the cause..... **BUT**.... since we know there **ARE NO** accidents on life, it just so happens that Reema, my newest and **most favorite** daughter-in-law, has agreed to coach me on the rudiments... Computer Science 101... Here I come!!!

Raj, there are other qualities you possess in abundance besides your intelligence, determination, natural drive for success and accomplishment. I also can’t help but think of all of those wonderful trips we took together ... traveling... discovering... making memories individually and as a family... Ladies and gentlemen... that was **THEN**... of course he taunts us that we are now “**too old**” to vacation with him. I also know that we will miss having him around the house, but thank goodness he and Reema will be living nearby... Hope we’re not **TOO OLD** to visit!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Well, Raj and Reema, it has been my pleasure to say a few words to you, our newlyweds, and although I tend to tease, I want you both to know that you mean the world to both your mother and me. Reema, we are happy to welcome you to our family, and we look forward to sharing many more colorful and happy occasions with both of you.

As I started to mention earlier, weddings like this one remind me of a fabulous, extravagant, Bollywood spectacle... colors as vivid as the love shared between the bride and groom... vibrant music... compelling stories... and of course a happy, optimistic ending...Reema and Raj, tonight you two are the stars of this production and it is our collective joy and pleasure to celebrate your union.

As the Bollywood lyric goes:

Just like the need to breathe

Just like the need to breathe

For your life all you need

Is a darling to love!

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast to the bride and groom:

To Reema and Raj, here’s to the two of you beginning the greatest journey of a lifetime. May you find health and happiness, an abundance of friends, family, success and good fortune, and may you always remember as you look at one another...that home is in each other’s eyes and heart... Congratulations! We love you!