**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**GIRISH PATEL**

JAI SHRI KRISHNA ,JAI JAINENDRA

Hello everyone and welcome!!! For those of you that may not know me, I am Shivali’s very proud father, Girish. Next to me is my beautiful wife, Sharmistha (**Do you want to make a little joke and say**) ... Now you know from where Shivaji gets her gorgeous looks!!! (**And wait for the laugh**). In my daughter’s mind, I was going to get up here, say, “Congratulations!!” ... invite you to raise a glass...say “Thank you,” surrender this microphone, and **BOOM!!! Done**!!! (**or, if you don’t have a microphone, you can say, “and sit down” instead**) ... but, **WHOA**!!! Not so fast!!! I’ve waited for literally a lifetime for this moment, and I’m going to **use it**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... Shivali, someday, you’ll thank me for what I’m about to do... **hopefully**...

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone for being here and sharing our joy at Shivali and Nimish’s wedding reception. Thank you for spending time with us, and thank you for taking the time and making the effort to attend this wonderful celebration. We know that some of you have come from great distances, and that is so special to us. I know that I also speak for my wife... and Shivali and Nimish, when I say that we are blown away to see so many of you here, with spirit, enthusiasm, and love, so generously sharing your time and your good wishes.

Sharmistha and I want to extend our most sincere thanks to everyone that has helped us to organize and set up everything for this beautiful reception. To Smitaben and Mayurbhai, we wish you tremendous and sincere congratulations and we want to acknowledge you both for raising such a good, smart, kind son as Nimish. We are all thankful that Shivali has found her “home” with such a fine young man, and we welcome all of you to our newly extended family...

As I look at this beautiful young woman in this stunning dress, I cannot help but see an entire lifetime of pictures and memories running through my head... and my heart. As I reflect on the day she was born to the little girl she was, to the lovely young woman she has become, I am humbled. From the moment of Shivali’s birth, she instantly became, “Daddy’s girl,” and that hasn’t changed one bit in all these years. She has always been my princess, and all through her life she has brought nothing but joy, love, light, and pride to me and her mother. I think it’s obvious, but I still must say that I am the proudest dad in the world right now. I am also sure you all agree that Shivali has **never** looked more beautiful... and **THAT’s** a **REAL** achievement!! Today, as she joins hands with Nimish, the sparkle in her eyes that is usually present, is more radiant than anything I have ever seen! The love and joy is palpable... and I have seen **A LOT** of that, especially over the last couple of years!! Shivali and Nimish, it is wonderful to see how the two of you really complete each other as you become your own, new, family unit.

Yes, it’s true... I have been waiting for this moment for over **TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.**.. not that I have looked forward to it for most of that time, but in the back of my mind, I knew we would get here... and I knew **HE** would get here, and I worked hard to protect my daughter and teach her the wisdom of resisting making this decision too early in life. Now that day is here and it’s time for me to give counsel and good wishes to Shivali and Nimish. This is what I have been thinking of all these years.

Shivali has always been compassionate towards the causes in which she believes and the people she holds dear, and while so many around her love her, she, in turn, has always been concerned for the well being of others, especially those less fortunate. I remember when she started working at her first job and I asked her what she planned to do with her first paycheck. I expected to hear a typical, somewhat frivolous answer... you know... to purchase something expensive and fancy. Instead she told me she wanted to give to the less fortunate, so when we had the opportunity to go to India, she chose to feed the deaf and blind. She went and did that on her own. She also donated to the local orphanage. She has been consistent in her mission to support people in feeling valued. That sense of purpose and compassion reaches its apex thus far in her life as she pledges to focus her love and loyalty to Nimish, the young man she has chosen as her life mate. I know that the dedication and love that Shivali has brought to all that she has done to the point was a dress rehearsal for this, the greatest relationship of her life and I am confident that with that kind of mutual respect and compassion, these two will share a remarkable and fulfilled life.

Marriages, like births, are life events that mark new beginnings. As you, Shivali and Nimish start your new family, please listen to what I have to say... Be true to each other... share your joys and your challenges... love much and laugh much more...maintain your uniqueness but remember to be each other’s best friend. Remember that even though you are individuals, your covenant today makes you stronger together.

With your friends and family embracing you as you begin this new life together, remember your vows to each other and keep them with all of your heart and you will have a sense of joy and wonder that exceeds anything you had known to this point.

Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast: to Shivali and Nimish, with all of our heart, we offer our congratulations warmest wishes for a happy, fulfilling marriage. Here’s to you both as you begin this greatest adventure life has to offer

Once again, thank you everyone from the bottom of our hearts and enjoy the rest of the evening!