**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**PRATIMA AGARWAL**

Hello everyone!! For those of you that may not know, I am Pratima and I am the proud mother of our beautiful bride, Payal. Being here, in this wonderful, colorful place really is like a dream and it’s fitting that we are here, **together**, witnessing and sharing such a joyous occasion in these exquisite surroundings. This... all of it... from the proposal to the planning to seeing all of you here, in Mexico, means so much to Payal and Vince and I know that we are making memories that will last a lifetime. San Miguel de Allende will now, to me, be the place in which our daughter married the love of her life, surrounded by her nearest and dearest who have traveled from far and wide to be here this weekend... and though we are not technically in the United States, and though you’ve all traveled from far off places.... India, Australia, Canada, and even New Jersey and California, it is very clear, in looking out and seeing **so many** of you, that we have much for which to be thankful. My husband, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are thankful that we are here, with all of you. We’re thankful that our daughter Payal has found such happiness. We want to express our thanks and shared congratulations to Vince’s parents, Renu and Mukand, and of course, we want to officially welcome Vince to our family as our son.

I would also like to acknowledge those who have shared their time, talents, and vision so that this experience would be even more special than any of us might have imagined. Thank you, Xanath.... for your eye for detail and the care and attention you paid in planning and bringing this weekend to life. To Father\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for leading such a thoughtful and inspiring service.... to (**Name the DJ and MC**).... thank you for “getting the party started” and for keeping it moving!!!

Standing before you is a very proud, loving mother.... we have two children, (**Name your son**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Payal. From the time she was an infant, Payal kept us on our **toes**, as she wanted to stand on her own... while now we know and love the young woman as someone who is creative, organized, smart, sensitive, demanding and maybe a **bit** controlling... in a good way ... my husband says she gets that from **ME**, so... it **HAS** to be good... **RIGHT**??? ... (**Wait for the laugh**), she demonstrated a rare eagerness, even as a child.... she **LOVED** ballet when she was little and she **COULD NOT WAIT** to go to school... she started pre-school at **less than** three years old, proudly following in her older brother’s footsteps, and she hasn’t slowed down since. From varsity tennis in high school to reporting for the school newspaper, she has led the way and shared her energy and curiosity. Payal was a prolific writer and from kindergarten to grade school, her pen... or pencil... or crayon... rarely left the page. I am the proud owner of “The Collected Works of Payal Agarwal... the Early Years,” and those treasures definitely provide clues to the accomplished young woman we know and love today.

As she’s grown and gotten older, and as she met and fell in love with Vince, our relationship has evolved... although no less precious than it was when she was a child, I now admire characteristics of the woman she has become. The mother/daughter connection is like nothing else in this world, and Payal will always be **my little girl** (**Do you want to say, “baby” instead?**), we will always share an unbreakable bond... it may have been tested, as is the case with mothers and daughters, but I have to say, Payal, you’ve been an amazing daughter.... and **yes**... **even through** your **TEENAGE** years... (**Wait for the laugh**). One of your greatest gifts is that you **CARE**... you care about your friends and family... and you always make time for them... us... and especially your grandparents... you share advice with your cousins, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who always look up to you, and even though I miss our gym sessions and shopping trips, I’m thankful for the time we get to spend together. A few weeks ago, Payal spent the weekend with us and I noticed she was anxious to get back to Vince, claiming that without her, he would be “eating expired cereal” and needed to get home to prepare a beautiful, healthy, colorful meal... worthy of an artful photo... I mean Vince... (**Wait for the laugh**). People... I have to be brutally honest about that.... you see... I helped Payal and Vince to move into their new home just prior to that weekend, and I **PROMISE** you, I know **FOR SURE**.... there was **NO** cereal in that house... not a **CRUMB**... let alone **EXPIRED** cereal.... (**Wait for the laugh**). That moment taught me something much more than the thought that I should probably work with my daughter on how to curate a food shopping list because I already **KNEW** of her love of cooking... it showed me just how much Payal really loves and cares for Vince.... and I also know that she has developed a passion for preparing fresh, healthy, home cooked meals...I wonder where she got **THAT** from??? By the way, she knows that I am happy to share my recipes!!

And now, Payal and Vince, the two of you are married. Our family has grown and we are all poised for new beginnings, new experiences, and new adventures...and this has been the perfect, colorful start. Life is not always going to be this warm and sunny and filled with celebration.... on the **OUTSIDE**... but **INSIDE**, you two must always remember who you are and why and how much you love and care for the other. Every day you will learn something new... about each other and about life, and it is up to you to remain independent as individuals while committed to the unit that has been joined together today. Give each other space, humor, support, and respect, and remember to nurture each other... and **NOT** with expired cereal!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

I know I speak for everyone here when I say we wish you the best of everything... love, health, happiness, prosperity, partnership, and a long, beautiful, colorful life together. Congratulations!! We love you!!