**FATHER OF THE GROOM SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ASH DES**

Hello everyone! On behalf of my wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and all of our family, I want to thank all of you for being here and sharing our joy as we witness and celebrate the marriage of our son, Aaditya, to Jacqueline. Today... this ceremony, marks the joining of two families and we are proud to welcome Jacqueline to our Desai family. We’ve all anticipated this moment for a long time and it’s finally here!!! The months of preparation have been intense.... schedules cleared.... top level events and extravaganzas have been planned and carried out... steel trap coordination of the highest level has been seamlessly implemented, and, of course, most importantly, the Giants are on hiatus.... (**Wait for the laugh**).

This wedding represents so much to us as a family and to Aaditya and Jacqueline as individuals and as a **new** family. We have witnessed the the union of two people, two cultures, and as two spirits combine, we are happy and gratified to see our heritage and legacy continue and become more enriched as these two learn more and more about one another and share their knowledge and compassion with the world.

The author, Mark Twain, once said, “Love seems the swiftest, but is the slowest of all growths. No man or woman really knows what perfect love is until they have been married a quarter of a century.” Well, to that I say... “...Good thing you got this started!!!” (**Wait for the laugh**). Aaditya, I want you to know that I say that as a very proud father of a very exceptional son. I, along with your mother and sister, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have been there for you and with you as we watched your development from a baby to a little boy to a youth and to the man you have become. We’ve witnessed as you’ve learned your lessons and found your interests. We’ve observed and encouraged, and cheered you on through your studies, your activities, and your accomplishments.... scholastically... socially.... culturally... and in every area of your life. We’ve rooted for you at your baseball and soccer games. We were completely engaged and supportive as you honed your skills and points of view on the debate team. We were particularly proud as you aced your studies in medical school, and we were happy to share you with all of the dear, sweet people that befriended you as you attended the (**Name the medical school your son attended**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Chicago..... people like (**Name a few of the people from Chicago**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who are here tonight and have watched over you and cared for you as if you were their own son..... and fortunately for us, you’ve always been an ideal and generous son.... one whose personality, manners and consideration made your mother and I proud to “share” you.

We are happy that you’ve met Jacqueline at a time in your life that demonstrates you’ve developed and grown as a person and as a doctor. You’ve devoted yourself and focused on your career and your patients... and by the way.... we hear that you have a wonderful bedside manner... your mother and I are not at all surprised!! (**Wait for the laugh**). You’ve traveled the world.... you’ve experienced a lot... you’ve shared yourself with those that have really needed your compassion and expertise.... no... I am **NOT** talking about your passion for the Giants although there’s **THAT**.... (**Wait for the laugh**). Of course I’m referring to your medical charity work.... and even with your schedule as an ER Doctor, you’ve managed to explore the world, refine your tastes, and be true to what you find most important in life...your family, your career, your friends, your **Giants**, and now most importantly, Jacqueline. Of all your accomplishments to date, we are most gratified that you have found **THE ONE** for you!!! You waited... you wandered, you **WONDERED**, and here we are... Jacqueline, we would like to officially welcome you to our family and Aaditya, I don’t have to tell you that your bride is a **GEM**. I would like to remind you... or advise you, of the words of Oscar Wilde, who said, “How can a woman expect to be happy with a man who insists on treating her as if she were a perfectly normal human being??” Jacqueline.... Aaditya... you **BOTH** know that each of you has found and married a wonderful, caring, intelligent, and **UNIQUE** partner... and as the saying goes, “A happy marriage is a long conversation that always seems too short.” We are all VERY confident that this “conversation” will endure for a long, LONG time.

In preparing for this joyous moment, I did a little research.... and **A LOT**... hopefully **ENOUGH** ... practice... I read an expression in Spanish that goes, “Te quiero no solo por como eres, sino por como soy yo cuando estoy contigo.” I’m told it means, “I love you not only for the way you are, but because of the way I am when I am with you.” Jacqueline, Aaditya, you two are the newest, official “Dynamic Duo.” Separately you’re both wonderful people. Together, we all know that you can conquer the world... and in your own unique ways, you already have. You both make a tremendous difference in the lives of people that you touch, both personally and professionally, and I know I speak for everyone here when I say that we all eagerly cheer you on as you grow together and enter the next phases of your life and marriage. You two really do have your “stuff” together.... but it is still my duty to share some fatherly advice...

Aaditya, there’s an old proverb that teaches us that “A man without a wife is like a vase without flowers.” You two are now together for life. Tend to each other so that each of you serve and love... hold and enhance.

 Jacqueline... I know you already know this, but,... here I go again... “El amor entra por la cocina,” which, as we know, if my pronunciation didn’t completely get in the way, means.... literally... that “Love enters through the kitchen...”. You’ve married a foodie... as I am sure you know... keep things “tasty”...

And for both of you, never forget the wisdom of a man named Tom Mullen, who said, “Happy marriages begin when we marry the ones we love and they blossom when we love the ones we marry.” True, deep lasting love takes time, tolerance, patience, and partnership, and as Mark Twain said, that would be at least a quarter of a century. That’s **A LOT** of Giants games!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

To Jacqueline and Aaditya, here’s to a life filled with a fascinating, supportive, never ending conversation. May you two live in happiness, health, partnership and harmony. Congratulations!! We love you!! Thank you all.