**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SURAJ KRISHNAIAH**

Hello everyone... for those of you that may not know, I am Suraj and I am the very happy and proud Best Man. It’s great to be here, celebrating the marriage of Karthik and Amanda, and I know one thing for sure.... there’s nothing like a **BIG WEDDING** to demonstrate and tell the story of just how **small** the world can be... especially when two people from opposite sides of that world meet, having existed just blocks apart... and find a love of global proportions...

But first... **HOW DID I GET HERE???** Believe me... i ask myself that just about every day... (**Wait for the laugh**)... the simplest explanation would be... “**Uber**.” (**Wait for the laugh**) ... but in the bigger picture, Karthik and I have been friends for several years... we met at graduate school at USC.... and while we both worked at studying and cementing the foundations for our professional futures, we also became fast, close friends, “wingmen,” and students of life... and love.... that is... I became a keen observer of Karthik’s “game.” My friend is the kind of person who is open to experience. He wears his heart on his sleeve. He’s an enthusiastic participant in life and believes in investing in this great “human experiment” we call relationship. It has been interesting, I’ll say that much... kind of like observing the mating rituals of an exotic bird... of course Karthik’s legs are not quite as thin as a flamingo’s... and come to think of it, flamingos are monogamous .... for **a season at least**... (**Wait for the laugh**)... but I digress... Karthik was someone who, like an exotic bird, used to get attached to “potential” partners very easily and was very emotional... and I think it’s safe to say that when a particular “season” was over, Karthik managed to stay “**hydrated**...” sort of... **oh heck**... he used to **epically** drown his sorrows to get over “**those**” relationships.

More than the scenery changed when Karthik moved to New York... possibly one of the most potentially anonymous cities in the world. It’s crowded, it’s intense, and it’s notoriously challenging for those that might be seeking love... or at the very least... maybe **coffee**... and a **bagel**. As times have changed, methods of meeting people have evolved as well. One thing that has **NOT** changed is that, though life has proven to be complicated and for a very large part, random, **true love** keeps its wits about itself and prevails. To paraphrase that line from the classic movie, Casablanca, “Of all the dating apps of all the towns in all the world, **SHE** walks into mine...”. And the rest is history.

He worked at the United Nations. **SHE** lived just one block away. How many times must their paths have crossed... anonymously... unaware... weaving different paths, until two fateful swipes right sealed their futures? We **KNOW** they attended some of the same shows and venues at the same time before they met... did they frequent the same pizza place? Was their coffee dispensed from the same Dunkin Donuts??? Does it matter now that their fates are sealed as one? Yes. It does. It shows us we never know what possibility might be around the next corner.... destiny prevails. I will say though, that it was clear that Karthik had met someone special... someone whose bright blue eyes lit up a conversation and highlighted those boyish dimples on Karthik’s.... cherubic... face... they discovered a lot about each other on their first date, somewhat symbolically conducted at the Campbell Apartment... a special, cozy hideaway in the middle of the **EPIC** Grand Central Station... the center of the center of the “Crossroads of the World.”

While one could have probably taken a train from Amanda’s hometown in Ohio to Grand Central, Karthik’s commute from his childhood home, Visakhapatnam, India, would have been a little more “involved.” They started their lives, literally a world apart, but remember... destiny... and love prevail, and here we are.

It’s been said, “Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is threads, hundreds of tiny threads, which sew people together through the years.” Since their meeting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years ago, Karthik and Amanda have been sewing their connection, strengthening their bond, and building a life filled with connections, joy, and a global appreciation for all that they are blessed to share. ...they’ve traveled the world... they’ve shared experience.... and they’ve committed to sharing increasingly diverse and fascinating points of view, and through it all, we are lucky enough to observe and participate in their enthusiasm and experience.

(**If you want to propose a toast, you can say**)

Ladies and gentlemen, I’d like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Amanda and Karthik.... here’s to a life filled with lots of love, health and happiness, connection and adventure, and more joy than you might ever wish for.” Congratulations!! We love you!!