Barmitvah

 **Skyler Damaghi**

 **June 15, 2019**

Good evening EVERYONE, we are so pleased to have you here this evening as out guests.

We are gathered here in this wonderful restaurant to celebrate my son’s Barmitvah, my son Skyler.

Before I say anything about Skyler, I want to acknowledge and thank Sanaz for arranging this beautiful event. She planned it with wonderful detail and attention. She offered me a deal. She would do all of this, if I did the speech. She is a great negotiator, but I think I got the better deal with that agreement. Thank you Sanaz, for all of your hard work.

Skyler, as I watch you over the years, and now, you have become an amazing young man. You are brilliant, very handsome, and especially thoughtful. You are intelligent, and my goodness, you are full of passion. And I might also add, very stylish. Your mom and I are very, very, proud of you.

You are a very persistent and a very determined young man. You have goals in mind, you have plans you want finished, and sometimes you go too fast, but you go.

Your yearning to learn, your hunger to excel in many different areas, and on many levels, is amazing.

Your family, all of us, marvel when you speak Mandarin. You do very well too in how much Farsi you already have learned. And you’re also teaching yourself Italian because you want to be able to speak and communicate with your cousins in Italy. Just imagine if we had cousins in China!

 2.

We love that your desire to learn goes through so many subjects, from technology, to the fine arts, and even the art and sport of fencing. My head spins and I get dizzy when you create those computer apps. Just to be around you, everyone learns. As a matter of fact, some of us have to do research on Google, Bing, and others, just to keep up with what you say and show us !

It has been a privilege for me as your father, and your mother too, to watch you grow and become a man. Your manners and courtesy continue to impress us every day. You are so polite even to those you have just met. At home at bedtime we stay awake knowing you’ll come and say goodnight, because if we don’t, then you will wake us,…then say goodnight!

Your brother Sabastian is also lucky to have you. You do so much for him as his hero, his mentor, and especially his role model. Sometimes as I watch you both I wish I could step into a time machine so I could be your younger brother. Sabastian always has your back on everything you do. Your mother and I know that as brothers there is no limit on what you two can accomplish together. And if you argued less, you would go even farther !!

Skyler, your family, your teachers, and others, want you to know that you are a unique and special human being. There is no doubt that in some way you’ll improve people’s lives as you move forward through education and life.

Son, never let go of your passion, your persistence, your perseverance. Allow no one to stop your desire to accomplish whatever you think and want, no one. Don’t take no for an answer, even from your mother and father,…well, maybe *no* from your mother, that would be a safe idea !!

 3.

You resemble my father, your Baba says. And when this is spoken to you, your face lights up with pride and happiness. I hope, and I am sure you’ll grow to be awesome like he is. My father is MY hero, and he is the best human being that I know.

In order to be great as a human being, as a man, as a father some day yourself, please remember that integrity is who you are, what you stand for. Integrity is every hour, even when no one is looking. And integrity requires honesty and humility too, which I know you already have.

Build a reputation of fairness, of treating all people kindly and equally. When you shake someone’s hand, always remember, that is your word, your commitment, it will be done. Build the reputation that if someone a thousand miles away refers to you, they will always say: *“OH!,..Skyler, you’re in good hands with him, he will do as promised.”*

And never forget, through all your life, through all of school, education, your profession, your business, the one thing that comes before anything else is family. Family is everything.

And speaking of family, we are lucky to have your grandparents here, and having them in our lives, every day. They are very proud of you too Skyler. I want to thank them for being here, and always looking out for us.

And to all of our loving family, our siblings, our cousins, aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers in-law, we are so fortunate and lucky to have you here.

4.

**SANAZ,**

For the past eighteen years you have not only been my wife, the mother of our children, but also my best friend. You are our booster, our everyday inspiration. You’re always our cheerleader and biggest fan, every day, through good as well as challenging times. And Especially Sanaz, you are **my** biggest fan. You’re an amazing daughter, always family first, we are so very lucky to have you. Thank you once again for your hard work in this celebration, this very special event. And most of all, thank you for putting up with me and our sons.

Skyler, if only you could see yourself through your mother’s and my eyes. If then, you would see how amazing you truly are today, as well as you will be in the future. You’re not only my son, but my best buddy too.

Mazal Tov to you.

Thank you all for being here with us, thank you for listening to me, thank you Sanaz, Sabastian, and to Skyler, thank you for being my son.

………………….and happy father’s day,…………..almost !

Enjoy everyone, enjoy………………