**Sentissi Speech [EZ Speech No. 16486]**

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Remarks by Mr. Abdellah Sentissi on the occasion of the marriage of his daughter, Kinza.

as i look out over this WONDERFUL gathering of friends and family, my heart is overflowing with thankfullness AND JOY. i’m so very, very grateful to all of you for joining us here [today/this evening/ tonight] on this wonderful and blessed occasion; and i’d like to give a special shout out of thanks and appreciation to all those folks who had to travel some little bit to get here. WE ARE SO TRULY GRATEFUL YOU MADE THE EFFORT.

now, any of you fathers out there who’ve walked a daughter down the aisle at her wedding knows the SWIRLING tornado of emotions every father feels at thIS moment. on the one hand, you MUST face the stark reality that you’re finally and irrevocably losing your little girl — and there’s a certain kind of sadness to this that only a father can know. of course, she’ll never stop being, at least in your mind, “daddy’s little girl.” but now she’s “all growed up,” as they say, a woman in her own right — a beautiful blushing bride with a whole new life ahead of her.

on the other hand, i couldn’t possibly be *happier* than i am on this day, BECAUSE i realize that my little kinza — or “kinzerella,” as she once insisted we call her, because she so loved the disney story — my little treasure, is marrying the man of her dreams, a man I’ve come to know and love and appreciate as a man of substance AND DEPTH, A MAN who loves MY daughter deeply, just as I’d hoped and PRAYED he would. and gaining such a wonderful, KIND, AND ACCOMPLISHED son-in-law as andrew berical makes me happier than i can possibly express.

[turning to the bericals] YOU’VE RAISED A TERRIFIC SON, josephine and mike, AND BOTH joanne AND I ARE JUST *THRILLED* THAT THIS WONDERFUL YOUNG MAN OF YOURS IS NOW A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, TOO.

[to the bride and groom] one day, andrew AND kinza, you shall become parents. and your children — may allah grant them health — will grow up all too quickly. and Before you know it, you’ll be standing at a table on a DAY like this one, toasting your son or daughter’s NUPTIALS. then and ***only*** then will you be able TO truly APPRECIATE the joy, the gratitude, and the love that’s coursing through your parents’ veins right now.

but first things first. tonight we celebrate the marriage of two kindred SPIRITS . . . two souls who share a passion for healing . . . two caring and kind and considerate SOULS who’ve dedicated their lives to helping others. could there possibly be a happier match, OR a more fitting one? AND COULD THERE BE ANY PARENTS ANY PROUDER OF THEIR CHILDREN THAN THE BERICALS, JOANNE, AND I ARE RIGHT NOW? I DO NO THINK SO.

[FACETIOUSLY] NOW, AS EVERYBODY KNOWS, I *NEVER* GIVE ADVICE THAT ISN’T ASKED FOR. BUT IN THIS CASE, I shall VEER FROM THIS POLICY ONLY TO TELL YOU, andrew AND kinza, THAT THERE ARE TWO SIMPLE KEYS TO A HAPPY AND LONG-LASTING MARRIAGE. AND THEY ARE, NUMBER ONE, COMMITMENT; AND, NUMBER TWO, HONESTY IN COMMUNICATIONS.

IF YOU REALLY MEANT THAT “TILL DEATH DO US PART” vow [OR ITS MUSLIM EQUIVALENT?], THEN YOU KNOW THAT NO AMOUNT OF DAY TO DAY TRAVAIL, OR EVEN THE OCCASIONAL CRISES OF LIFE, CAN TEAR TWO PEOPLE APART who ARE truly in love with each OTHER and deeply COMMITTED TO each OTHER’s happiness. AND I’M SURE I DON’T HAVE TO TELL either of you HOW TERRIBLY IMPORTANT *HONESTY* is IN YOUR COMMUNICA-TION WITH EACH OTHER. AND I’LL ONLY REMIND YOU, andrew, THAT WOMEN *honestly* BELIEVE THAT THE LAST WORD IS THEIR absolute BIRTHRIGHT. DON’T MESS WITH THAT, SON, for YOU’LL DO SO ONLY AT YOUR PERIL.

AND FINALLY, I’D LIKE TO OFFER THIS FATHER’S BLESSING TO THE NEWLYWEDS: [RAISING A GLASS TOWARD THE BRIDE AND GROOM . . .]

**ALTERNATE BLESSING NO. 1:** [FIRST IN ARABIC, THEN:]

“Baarak-Allahu laka wa baaraka alaikuma wa jama’a bainakuma fee khairin.”

“*MAY ALLAH KEEP YOU IN PROSPERITY AND CONFER HIS BLESSINGS UPON BOTH OF YOU, AND MAY HE GRANT YOU THE FAVOR OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PERFECT HARMONY; AMIN.*”

**ALTERNATE BLESSING NO. 2:** MAY YOUR LOVE BE ADDED, AND MAY IT NEVER BE SUBTRACTED. MAY YOUR HOUSEHOLD MULTIPLY, AND MAY YOUR HEARTS NEVER BE DIVIDED. MAY YOU LOOK BACK ON THIS DAY ALWAYS, AND REMEMBER HOW MUCH YOU LOVED EACH OTHER RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT. AND FINALLY, MAY YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU WANT AND NEVER WANT FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE. MAY ALLAH BLESS THE TWO OF YOU!

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