**Jean Adrien**

 **Wedding Speech for**

 **Daughter GERLY**

**Jean, this will be a happy and joyous occasion. People will be talking and laughing. Before you begin, wait for the audience to settle down and become quiet. Make sure that most of them see that you’re ready, and then begin,..slowly.**

Welcome everyone to this wonderful occasion. I am Jean Adrien, and I am the very, very, proud father of the Bride, my daughter Gerly Adrien. This is an event I will cherish always, the marriage of David and Gerly. I thank you all for coming to this very nice hotel to share this event with us. I want to say to Gerly’s mother, Magalie, we can be proud of our daughter. And a very special welcome to David’s parents for raising such a fine man.

Fathers for as long as time can remember, have stood in places just like this, talking and reflecting about their daughters. Fathers display their deep feelings for their daughters, through love and guidance. What makes today unique, is that today this is my daughter Gerly. I not only look upon this young woman as my child, but I look at her and see an amazing person, human being, humanitarian, and someone who makes a difference in our world, our state, and our community. And those attributes have been evident in one form or another since you were a young Gerly, and I am so proud. Your focus, your drive, your willingness to learn. Gerly you were a wonderful child, and you are a wonderful adult.

My daughter doesn’t put herself first, she puts people and fairness in front of everything else. He genuine compassion for those in need of assistance, guidance, and protection, is part of who she is. Her willingness to enter politics shows she believes changes are needed. Changes that benefit people and communities, with new, realistic ideas that benefit the quality of life. That kind of sincerity for other humans, is not only rare today, but very much needed. She understands that change comes about through careful and solid steps. Gerly understands that people’s needs can be accomplished

 2.

by using the institutions we already have, as well as creating new ideals that help and benefit people, humans, families, and the community.

And I expect her to apply those same decent qualities to her marriage with David. You notice I said *‘expect’*, because I can no longer just *‘tell her to do* *it’*, because she is her own person now. That makes me proud and brings a tear to my eye. Let me say too, how pleased I am to know David. He is an accomplished young man, he is a good man. I am sure his family is proud of him, and I am proud to now call him my son-in law.

What is marriage today? The joining of two people in holly-matrimony is a deep commitment of two human beings to be partners for eternity. To love, honor, protect, and support. I am confident that David and Gerly understand the requirements of what they committed to here today.

While love is so important, so is friendship. Marriage is not a competition, not a game of who does better, or who wins an argument. It is a deep partnership, a union of two people into one family, one team, one strong bond. David and Gerly must always put each other first. Before business, before friends, before any activities, before their own wants, they should put the other person first, always. They must feel that they trust their partner with their life, because they do. There should never be secretes. They always need to confide in each other first, before anyone else. They need to set aside time to talk to each other. No matter how busy they are with the ice cream store, or other careers, they must make the time to sit and talk. To take walks and to share thoughts, ideas, concerns, and plans for their future. Put down the phone, step away from the computer, turn off the television, then concentrate on each other. Listen to what your partner is says, truly **listen**. Let them talk, because your turn will come. Don’t be distracted, don’t allow yourself to be called away. No one is more important than you are to each other. This builds a solid and loving, trusting, marriage. It allows both of you to be secure that your husband/wife has your back, has

 3.

you as a priority. This time you share, this quiet time, is what well make your marriage strong, and allow it to last for a lifetime.

While life requires a plan ‘B’ in almost everything people do, there should never be a plan ‘B’ for marriage. Marriage is for life, marriage is for eternity. There should never be plans for after marriage, because marriage should continue to the end of time. This is not a business, this is not joining a sports team, this is a commitment to become permanently part of the other person, for life. It requires concentration, dedication, and to truly love the other person. This is forever.

My daughter knows how to succeed, how to accomplish goals, how to complete what she sets out to do. In high school she was a basketball star. She was a play maker, and she could move up and down the court playing both offence and defense. She was also a ‘team-player’, by setting up shots for her teammates, so the whole team could be winners. And that is a how you both should be in your marriage. Make the plays you can, but always remember you have a team mate, one team mate, your husband David, or David, your wife Gerly. You both work and go forward together, as husband and wife. You face challenges, and overcome those challenges together, not alone. So, practice, run, strategizes, plan, and prepare, as a team, as a couple, as partners in life. No matter if it is the Ice Cream Store, or a project for our town of Everett, or a campaign for State Representative, approach it together, as a unified couple who goes after goals, and succeeds together.

I look out here today at my beautiful daughter, my little girl who has become a grown woman. It makes my heart feel so good, so proud. And I feel the same towards David, a great guy, and I know a man who will be a good husband, and a good partner to his wife, Gerly. I want you both to know, that if you ever need anything, ever need to talk, to look for answers, I will always be here for you both. I know you will grow to be wise and smart

 4.

as the years go on. I know that someday you may be right here, like me, talking about your son, or your daughter. But until then, please know that your family, and especially your father, loves and cherishes you very, very, mush. I love you Gerly.

**OK**,…………………..now everyone, let’s have **some fun**,…………………and **be** **carefu**l on your way home later.

**Thank you** for being part of this wonderful occasion this evening.

 **Good-Night**.