Thank you.

Hello everyone!

As I stand here, I remember the day when I first saw Atul.

Atul, I remember the time when mom first carried you into our house wrapped in a tiny blanket. At that moment, I was excited to have a little compadre who I could teach things to and who would follow my lead[pause –smile]. I soon found out that my little brother had his own ideas.

Over the years as we grew up, I found that you and I were different in a few ways.

For example, you managed to convince mom, when you were **17,** to let you buy a motorcycle. This is the same mom who wouldn’t let me watch a PG 13 movie after I turned 13. Not fair, mom!

I also always thought of myself as an introvert, whereas you were a little more of a partier. I remember when you lived in that big house in college with 11 of your crazy friends. I think some of those guys are even here today. Could you please some noise table number 13? [wait]

But more recently, I have found that you and I started to come closer on more things. You called me often even when we were 2000 miles away. You’ve always been there to talk to, and I’ve learned so much about myself through our conversations. Thank you for not only listening to me, but also understanding me. I see that you carry on the values that dad and mom taught us, while also shaping yourself through your life’s experiences. [pause]

But I don’t think we should give all the credit to you, Atul. Since Ridhima has come into your life, I can tell that she has brought you happiness, and I know she’s made you a better person. For example, she’s raised your fashion. [short pause] I don’t see those hoodies in your wardrobe anymore. [pause]

Ridhima [eye contact to Ridhima] – I’ve always thought of you like the little sister that I never had. You’ve given me advice, and we both agree that Atul isn’t always right. You show caring and love for Atul. You and your family have always made me feel so welcome, and for that I’m thankful. From what I’ve learned about you, I know you’ll be a positive influence on our family. [pause] In fact, I’m as excited to have you join our family today as I was the day that Atul joined us many years ago.

So on that note, I’d like you all to raise your glass [long pause] to Atul and Ridhima and to the love between them.

of course helped me keep my brother in check.