



Congratulations!



Hello Everyone and Good Evening!

Most of you probably know me but for those who might not, I am Aaron's brother, John Mark.

Some of you probably know that I'm not very comfortable with public speaking and I probably should have had a bottle or two of something before I got up here, so please bear with me if I stumble a bit.

Please fill your glasses to the top, as I have a bunch of toast to make!

I had prepared a quick speech for tonight, full of fun stories and embarrassing moments about the two of them, but I just couldn't memorize all 37 pages, so I'll try to keep it short and get right to the point.

Destination weddings are tough. We can all only imagine the planning and efforts that go into making this all happen. Unfortunately, sadly and inevitably there are always some folks left behind that just can't be here. So, I'd like to make my first toast to our other brother Dave, our sister Marlaina, our other sister Kristina and her family, and to Danyelle, and to all the other friends and family who just could not be here tonight for one reason or another. We know they are here in spirit!

Next, I'd like to toast to Yazi and Aaron, for working tirelessly for over a year to make this event perfect! Their attention to the details and accommodations to everyone's needs is unmatched. It's been a long, stressful road, but tonight it all pays off.

Next I'd like to recognize two people who were instrumental in creating the GLUE that started this whole relationship. One evening, Yazi was on her way to meet some friends for the night, but the party ended quite early and Yazi was not feeling quite done yet. She called her two brothers Joey and David and asked each of them who she could call to continue the fun for that night, and they both independently said "Aaron Ratkovich". And the rest is history! So, here is to Joey and David Shedbalkar, for their help with the glue!

And last, but not least, I'd like to also offer a toast to me. And all of the rest of us, for travelling from places like Thailand, Indonesia and Hawaii, and all over the world to be here tonight to help celebrate this very special occasion. It is certainly an honor for me to be called the "Best Man", but really, ... ALL of us are Aaron and Yazi's best "People".

I did manage to write a very short poem that I'd like to share with you all. It's kind of Limerick style and for those of you who know me well, I assure you it has nothing to do with the man from Nantucket!



Congratulations!



There once was a couple in love,
Who placed each other's happiness above.
They were so compatible,
So multi-lateral,
Just like a hand in a glove.

As young ice skaters they were first introduced,
And many years later, seduced.
Family is everything,
with or without marrying,
so from friends, these lovers produced.

Their First Love was expressed
to Neil Diamond at Summer Fest,
And every day after,
Full of smiles and laughter,
Now with Bon Fires and Chicken Coops, they're blessed,

They lived together unwed,
Just enjoying each other instead,
Until they had extra dough,
And decided on Mexico,
And then off to be wed, they fled.

So I will be the first to admit,
That what we have here is a fit,
A match made in Heaven,
It's perfect, I reckon,
Except for one little bit...

The question of claims still remains,
When it comes right down to their names,
The choices for last names they are,
Ratkovich or Shedbalkar,
So who gets their Last Name, to retain!

Aaron and I are about as close as brothers can be and we have shared more than our share of wild and crazy adventures, exotic trips and awesome experiences over the past 40 PLUS years. Brother, its been a truly awesome ride!

And Yazi, you are a Wonderful and Welcome addition to the Ratkovich Family and we all love you as our own!

So everyone, please raise your glasses with me for a final toast, to our beautiful bride Yazi and her new husband, Aaron, my brother and my lifelong very best friend, and help me wish them a most wonderful, Happy and Healthy marriage together as one.

Thank You!