

## Speech by HRH The Crown Prince

Your Majesties,  
Your Royal Highnesses,  
President of the Storting,  
Dear Mette-Marit,

Now we're here. Now we're together.

I would like to thank you, Father, Marit and the President of the Storting for your inspiring words.

Dear Marit, Sven, Espen, Per and Kristin. It has been a great pleasure getting to know you and your families. I felt welcome from the very start. And although it's not always easy to be related to the woman who is to marry the Crown Prince, you have never let this get in the way of our friendship. I always enjoy visiting you in Kristiansand, at the family parties at Høyvoll, or at Aunt Sidsel and Uncle Ivar's. I feel I've got to know you well in the relatively short time we've been together, and I'm happy that I can now call you my family.

Dear Mother and Father, dear Märtha, you have always been a fantastic support for me, and now also for Mette-Marit. We've spent many long evenings talking and discussing over the last year. This has taught me a lot and given me a good feeling. Although it has been tough at times, I feel that it has helped us grow. You are all strong, tolerant people with a great capacity for love. The way you have accepted Mette-Marit and Marius has been wonderful. Thank you for all your support and care.

I would also like to thank Lord Chamberlain Lars Petter Forberg, Private Secretary Berit Tversland, Head of Information Wenche Rasch, and the entire staff of the Palace. Thank you for your tireless efforts and dedication. You have all been of invaluable assistance to us.

My heartfelt thanks also go to all those throughout the country who have supported us in their thoughts and prayers, with handshakes, letters and good wishes. This has warmed and brightened our days.

Dear Mette-Marit,  
Your soul glows with light.

Living, that means loving  
The loftiest part of your soul;  
Living, that means striving  
To achieve the most worthy goal.

This is what is essential. Everything we do with love comes alive. If loving is combined with striving, each of us can achieve 'the most worthy goal'. Mette-Marit, you are sensitive, easy to please, detail-oriented, sometimes a bit apathetic, intensely committed, highly strung, courageous, inscrutable. You can be defensive - or resolute, you have a good sense of humour and a big and warm heart. In other words you are an absolutely fantastic, complex

person.

I don't think I've ever been so angry with anyone as with you. I don't think I've ever been so weak or so strong as when I've been together with you.

I don't think I've ever been so filled with love as when I am together with you.

You bring out everything that is in me. When we communicate I feel like a whole person.

Thank you for giving me this feeling.

Today you are no longer only my friend, my girlfriend and my fiancée. Today we have been married, and you have become Norway's Crown Princess. I am looking forward to taking up our tasks side by side with you, and together with Marius. I cannot promise that it will be easy or that there will be no problems, but it will be interesting and meaningful.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to live together with Marius. This is a gift in itself.

Thank you for your love and for everything you've done, Mette-Marit. I'm proud to call myself your husband.

For now we're here. Now we're together.

Mette-Marit, I love you.

And now I would like to propose a toast to the bride.