

Speech by HM The King

Your Majesties
Your Royal Highnesses
Your Excellencies
President of the Storting
Ladies and gentlemen
Dear Bride and Groom

First of all The Queen and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our foreign guests welcome. Many of you have travelled a long way to be here today and we appreciate that you wanted to share this special day with us.

Since this is a special Norwegian occasion, I hope you will accept my apologies for giving this speech in Norwegian.

Dear Bride and Groom,
Dear family, official representatives from Norway and friends.

The Queen and I would like to welcome you all to this wedding today. We are very glad that you are able to celebrate this great day together with us. The marriage of one's only son is a great event, and so is gaining a new member of the family. Because we are such a small Royal Family, we are very close to each other. We are linked not only by family ties, but also by the common tasks we have been called on to undertake.

Dear Mette-Marit,
First I would like to welcome you with all my heart into the family, and to the tasks that you will now be part of. This evening you are sitting here as a newly married couple. This is in many ways the culmination of a process that has been going on for almost two years. For The Queen and me, this has been a challenging and valuable process, but above all it has been a good one.

On several occasions I have read that you are an ordinary young woman who has become Norway's Crown Princess today. This does not fit with my own impression. You are not an ordinary young woman. You are an extraordinary young woman.

You are extraordinarily open and honest.
You are extraordinarily committed.
You have an extraordinary determination.
You have extraordinary courage.
Today you have made an extraordinary choice.
You are in love with Haakon to an extraordinary extent.
And today you have chosen to embark on an extraordinary life.

Your ability to care for others is clear to everyone. It is reflected in all your actions, especially in your role as Marius's mother. The Queen and I have become very fond of you, and have deep respect for what you stand for.

Dear Haakon,

Most people regard making choices as one of the most important parts of their lives. An heir to the throne is born to a role that he is expected to accept. But you have never accepted that your destiny was predetermined. You didn't wish merely to accept a role. You embarked on a process that involved a good deal of doubt and hesitation. You worked your way through this and then concluded that you wished to fill your role, and that you would place yourself at the disposal of the Norwegian people if they so wished.

The fact that you have always had to ask questions before going into a new situation has not always made life easy for you, but it has allowed you to make your life your own, and in this way you have made your destiny your own personal choice.

You have close contact with the time we are living in, you are concerned about the issues of our time, and you are living in accordance with the trends of our time. This has been a challenge not only to your parents, but to others as well. However, those who are close to you see other sides of you that have become more visible recently.

In the field of sport, you have always sought challenges, tested limits and taken chances, but we have also been aware that you have a gentler side, which has become clearer since you met Mette-Marit.

We have also got a much clearer picture of the values and the traditions you stand for through the choices you have made in the last couple of years. You have now found your own path, founded on the traditions and values of our nation.

Today you have confirmed your choice of wife. This is one of the most important personal choices we make in our lives. The Queen/Mother and I are very proud of your choice.

Dear bride and groom,

During the last few months, you have experienced the enormous interest aroused by your engagement and marriage. Your life together will also be the object of much greater attention than that of ordinary couples who start out on their lives together.

You are privileged, and you will have a wealth of opportunities that no one else in our country has. You will live an extraordinary life.

In your life together it is important that you accept this extraordinary aspect. At the same time you must not lose sight of yourselves, or of the family life that you will be building. Perhaps the most important thing is that you continue to talk to each other, something that you yourselves have said means so much in your relationship.

You have included The Queen and me in these talks many times. This has given us a great deal - in many ways it has given our lives a new dimension, and we therefore hope that these talks, too, will continue.

Now I would like to ask you all to join me in a toast to the bride and groom, and to wish them every happiness in their future lives.