

Speech by Marit Tjessem

Your Majesties,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Dear Bride and Groom,

Congratulations dear Haakon and Mette-Marit! This is truly a great day for all of us, and it gives us great pleasure to see your radiant happiness and love.

Like most people in this country, I never thought I would be a guest at the Palace. The King's palace was the stuff of fairytales and fantasy. I must admit that it is all a little unreal.

I have always been certain that you would be a beautiful bride, Mette-Marit. But today I see that you are even more beautiful and more elegant than I could ever imagine.

All through your life you have been a very special person for your parents and your siblings. You have been a ray of sunshine and a great source of pleasure for all of us. I hope that you will give as much pleasure and inspiration to Haakon and all the others you meet along your way. We are extremely proud of you.

The task you are embarking on is a great and important one. I hope that you will be able to support and encourage each other. Practise taking care of each other. Good luck with your life and work together!

I know that one of the most important things in your lives is being able to talk to each other and with other people. I hope that you will continue to spend time and effort on preserving such golden moments.

Mette-Marit, you have a wonderful husband. Haakon charmed us all from the very beginning, and we have all become extremely fond of him. Thank you, Haakon, for the way you have accepted Mette-Marit - and the whole of our family.

I would also like to thank The King and Queen and Princess Märtha Louise for the warmth with which they have received us. We have always felt welcome and surrounded by affection. We are very moved by the way you have included us and taken care of us.

On behalf of our whole family, I would like to thank you, King Harald, Queen Sonja and Princess Märtha Louise, for giving us so much support, - and above all for the way you have accepted Mette-Marit.

Good luck, dear Haakon and Mette-Marit! I wish you every happiness with the words of the poem 'Being Great' by Tove Houck:

"Great deeds are not what make you great
deeds are often an expression of the abilities life has given you
but the love that warms your deeds

the goodness that smiles in your hands
show how great you really are."