**Open letter to My Wife on Our Wedding Anniversary**

My love……….. ,

I have never addressed you by your name or any other name so far… so shall continue this tradition even today. I don’t think I have expressed my appreciation to you often enough for having given me so many happy years, so I’ve decided to write this open letter – an anniversary card just doesn’t say enough. This way I can sit down and gather my thoughts together and present them to you with a small token of my love.

We haven’t been to too many theatres or movies in the past, but don’t think that either one of us minded too much, as our kids always seemed to provide enough entertainment of their own. Though I never admired your parenting skills through the years, I still don’t know how you did everything so well, even from the beginning – our little ones certainly didn’t come with a manual of how to raise children. Today, after 39 years, I have learnt from Swati Lodha, that it is parents who have to raise themselves first… Haha..!

I will always be grateful for the help you gave me, too, when I started to get a little heavy-handed with them. I benefited from your guidance and motherly skills almost as much as the children did. Now that they have all left the nest, we can be glad that none of them have any (major) complaints about their childhood years–at least not yet. For the moment, anyway, we can wipe our forehead in relief and turn our attention back to each other and our well-earned freedoms, as our granddaughter Ayrra of Pracchi and Amrish fame is now 5 and can manage most by herself… and till Nakuul and Jankee have a baby.

I want to assure you that the passing years have not diminished my love for you in the least. Instead, my love has only deepened with time because it always gives me more opportunities to appreciate how you successfully manage every new challenge that confronts us. Taking care of Papa (my father-in-law) for time being is a blessing in disguise, as my mother left very early and father too left over 25 years ago. Wish Papa could stay with us forever..!

Please don’t ever be complacent with your a black hair here or a silky smooth skin there, my Dear. You can hide but can’t run away for a long. Although you are as beautiful to me as ever, I also admire your inner beauty, which merely intensifies with the passing years.

I still cannot fathom the meaning of all those songs that talk about endless love. I think they are just poetic expressions, after all. I believe that a love that has endured this earthly test can never end. I swore to love you for time and all eternity and I will happily do that, my Love. I am so grateful that you continue to love me, too – despite my failures and shortcomings. Thank you for always being there and helping me to be all that I can be.

Happy thirty-ninth Anniversary.. to my Kanwaranisa..!

Yours ever loving,

Pratap Singh Mehta