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Dear David,

I have just finished reading your book and want to say that you thoroughly deserve all the honors that will come your way for it: it is a strong-even muscular - and nuanced performance, with great range and power of analysis. I hope the reviews will bring out just how innovative and strong it is (sadly, Otter's piece in 'Commentary' is self-serving and does not properly contrast your performance with Mintz's), and will appreciate the literary dialectics and transformations you have investigated. Naturally, I am sympathetic to this line of argument and

and

Thank that you have done marvelous literary work
with it. The force of the anti-traditional yiddishists
and others of whom I was not aware thoroughly deepens
my cultural understanding, and I thank you for
that (I trust there was a tactical reason why you
did not treat trends like those represented by Zaitin,
and his anti-apocalyptic stance, more fully). There
is, too, a lot of strong and subtle 'deconstruction' work
going on in your book, and the culture can only benefit
from it.

As I do when I go through annual fits of reading
lit. of the Holocaust period, your book filled me with rage
and anger (and, I must confess, I don't know
how you keep your sanity in all this). Thanks for keeping
the wound raw...

As ever,

Alvin

Buzzy.