

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

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November 17, 1983

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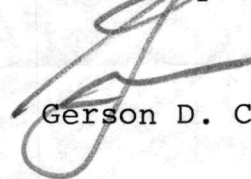
Dear David:

Thank you for your kind and gentle letter. I appreciate your sentiments. However, I must explain to you that at formal occasions, such as convocations, commencements and dedications, some people are at a loss for words while others carry on with speeches that are inappropriate and interminable. We have therefore always done what all academic institutions do, and that is what Maimonides said had been done in the case of prayer, namely, formalize the wording. This has, of course, its disadvantages but it also has the advantage of preventing the making of invidious distinctions between one person and another. I hope you understand.

Again, I thank you for writing the way you did.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,



Gerson D. Cohen

GDC:slk