

June 2, 1980

Dear Dovid,

A letter from you always makes my heart soar. Your last missive arrived, auspiciously, in the same mail that brought me the "author's copy" of my book (at last!). I have asked the Press to send you a copy, which I hope you'll receive before long (I will inscribe it at our next reunion). Look carefully at the "Acknowledgements" but don't let that prejudice your critical and, as always, honest reading of my work.

I am far from wild about the color scheme on the cover, or about the title page, on which my name is emblazoned in bold letters worthy of Aristotle himself, and onto which the barbed-wire-enclosed pen which I rejected as a cover image was smuggled. Let me know what you think of Alfred's introduction. He refused to change certain parts (especially the opening section, which I objected to on the grounds of its topical and ephemeral nature)-suggesting that it was rather impertinent of me to request such revisions . . . . It was, nonetheless, most generous of him to write the foreward to a book by an unknown writer with an unpronounceable name--and I daresay will help to promote sales.

It is of course unfortunate that my book comes out in tandem with Alexander's and Rosenfeld's, and we will probably all suffer from a kind of wholesale treatment, but--well, it's all out of my hands now and I'm relieved and satisfied.

I'm enclosing a copy of a query I received from one of the editors at the Press, which I thought you could help me with, being so much more informed in these matters than I am. Please send any suggestions you might have.

I didn't need Hillel to confirm what was already clear to me from your letters this year and from our long-distance phone conversation. (Hillel, by the way, does not betray confidence and I had to pry the "news" out of him only after I assured him that you had empowered him to convey that message). I am sorry about all the time and emotion spent over the last decade but I am sure you are doing the right thing. And now you can go on to explore "the road not taken." My love goes with you in this time of trial and promise.

Loved your piece for the Reconstructionist. The balance you strike between a tone of personal engagement and scholarly wisdom is just right. Have you had any responses to the article on the Pogrom Poems? I incorporated it into my classroom syllabus this year.

Thank you for your reading of the Karmel/Borowski piece. I am thinking of submitting it to *PISSER*.

Enough for now. I missed you at my "book party" last Sat. eve. Be well, dear friend.

*Love as always,  
Sidra*