

May 24, 2023

Dear Phil,

Our story was one of epic, even “biblical” proportions – much of it took place in Israel. Before I left, I went on a trip around the small country with my parents and I found this winery in the Golan Heights, the sight of a number of important battles in the history of Israel. This bottle is from that winery. I hope that you enjoy it, and drink with your wife *l'chaim* (to life). I also got you my favorite Halvah from the Tel Aviv Shuk. It's a delicious middle eastern dessert made of sesame paste and sugar; this one is also seasoned with cardamom.

Let this small gift serve as a token of my huge gratitude to you for fighting with me side-by-side against a nefarious cultural force – a new McCarthyism – that is persecuting many young men these days. When the history books are written, people like you and I (but especially you) will go down as the heroes.

You've certainly pulled me from despair several times with your sober mindedness. It's not easy, after all, to sift through hours of recordings in which your professors and deans discuss ending your career, and slap false psychiatric diagnoses onto you, or to read dozens of emails in which blatant lies and defamation are thrown at you. (It wasn't even easy *obtaining* this material... let alone in English, if you recall).

The accusers, investigator, faculty, and prosecutor wanted to overwhelm us with their repetitive defamatory content, and perhaps lesser men would have been overwhelmed if they were standing in my shoes.

But not us... we mopped the floor with them. And, minus some ridiculous political machinations on the part of the panels, we unequivocally won.

Regarding the dismissed action in SDNY: this was disappointing. My parents, as immigrants, viewed a victory here as their contribution to justice in America. Interestingly, though, had my case happened in a proper American medical school inside of America, I would have probably been expelled outright; and while we would have subsequently won in the courts after years of hard battle, I would have never become a practicing physician.

But Winston Churchill said: “Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.” And without your expertise and steadfast friendship, I wouldn't be here continuing my career.