



March 15, 2007

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Dear Mr. King,

As a frame of reference to identify myself, I was one of the jurors on the recent [REDACTED] et al case. Specifically, I was the mouthy guy who stayed after the trial that pontificated so freely. And just to take care of any professional ethics issues, I am the one writing to you without solitication.

I just wanted to take a moment to clarify something I said to you in particular after the trial, hoping it was not taken the wrong way. I believe I said that if I were to cast you in a movie, I thought you would make a good Rabbi. It was a compliment. I sincerely meant that in the best possible manner. Your courtroom persona is one of charm and compassion, a contemplative demeanor that I can testify first-hand serves you and your clients very well. I took note that you even objected quietly. And even with the driest, most sterile evidence, you still appealed to the human element, something that will always resonate.

I have no idea if the person I encountered during the trial was the real you or whether it was something affected. It would be foolish of me to think I know you simply from watching you in court for a week. I myself am divorced, so clearly my judgment regarding personalities is highly suspect. But I think it is important for you to know your self-deprecating style compelled the jurors to think that we did know you, or that you were someone we would like to know. And if you doubt the power of a self-effacing appearance, simply look to the unassuming guise's effectiveness on display on every television talk show, where self-absorbed actors and rock stars attempt to portray themselves as "just folks".

But whether you were the jury's friend or not, in the end it doesn't really matter. What mattered was that the jury wanted to be your friend. I found the jury wanting to believe you, to befriend both you and what you argued for. Even when you caught Mr. [REDACTED] being disingenuous, you still did not raise your voice, only modulating the cadence of your words. You are the master of the dramatic pause. In short, your personality and style were very effective. Well played.

I can't remember everything I said out there in the hallway, but I did want you to know that the issues, evidence and testimony of the case were discussed and considered in the jury room. But the problem with a jury that is representative of the populace is that it is truly representative of the populace. One person seemed to have a problem understanding the topic, any topic for that matter, while others seemed to have only a rudimentary understanding of English at best. (If you recall during the polling process, one juror didn't even know how he had voted) I put you through this harangue simply to exemplify that while all this minutiae may seem trivial, it does in fact matter. For these people more than most, appearances are reality.

This was the first time I was ever on a jury, so take everything I say with a good deal of skepticism. But I think in any dispute or contest, the natural inclination is to look for a hero and a villain. People believe what they wish for, and people wish to see the good guys win.

In my opinion, when it comes to voting, I believe people do not select a political candidate by reading all the facts, considering his or her position on the issues, and then making a choice. Rather I think people make a gut reaction and then look for facts to support that initial gut reaction. Home or car buying probably taps this same impulse. I suppose we all do that to a certain extent. After all, who doesn't use a few good rationalizations to get through the day? Since you deal in the same raw material, human emotions & feelings, I would have to think jury trials work much the same way. And when hunting that quarry, your demeanor works extremely well.

Go get 'em, Rabbi.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

P.S. As you can tell, brevity was never my long suit. Perhaps I would benefit from a lesson from the Laconic Kings of Sparta.