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Dear Joshua,

many thanks for your wonderful letter. Let me say again how absolutely delighted we were that all went off as it did. I shall not deny that I had a certain amount of hard work to do in reading through your monumental production and trying ~~to~~ not only to understand it but also to interpret it to colleagues in all fields of medicine and in beautiful Swedish. However, I did ~~not~~ seldom have a job with more pleasure and satisfaction. First, I have learned a great deal ^{about work} of it, which I should never have had a chance to penetrate really otherwise. Second, my work was not wasted in the secret files of the Foundation but has led to a more positive result than I could hope. The reason for this was of course that I had a wonderful case to put forward, so far from the usual half-enthusiasms and and doubtful afterthoughts of everyday life. Third, although I share your feelings about prizes of this kind and am certainly aware of the hopeless difference between the way the public looks on science and science itself, I am quite positive that this was a good choice, and if it helps to focus attention on the tremendous ~~work~~ achievements of microbial genetics, the prize has certainly served a good purpose. A small case in point in my immediate neighbourhood is the awakening interest for microbial genetics here, previously non-existent, as I indicated on my last card (incidentally, I did not get your answer to that card which you indicate to have sent off last Monday). You can be absolutely sure that our personal friendship played no role whatever in this; I can safely say that seldom has a candidate with so many important achievements been considered as in this case.

I understand from some of the press reports (which must have been a torture for you as I can well understand; incidentally, we have no idea about how the information leaks out ahead of time and are very annoyed about it) that you were somewhat worried about the ~~arithmetics of the~~ division of the prize between yourself and Beadle & Tatum. I realized in the beginning that this will worry you and it did worry me. However, our hands are bound by the will of the donator, written more than sixty years ago. According to the will, the maximum number of prize-winners is three. Also, the prize cannot be given for achievements in general ~~work~~ but a single "discovery" must be picked out. Under the conditions this was the only possibility and had there been the slightest disagreement on this point, the result would have been that some other field would have taken the prize in this strange Monte-Carlo play between widely diverse, ~~incomparable~~ and absolutely incomparable areas of research. So, for the sake of genetics, this was the only way. Incidentally, I don't think that it is unjust, but I can see that it might have bothered you. The same reasons made it impossible to mention a fourth name in addition to your own.

Now we can relax and look forward with great pleasure to seeing you both ~~soon~~ soon again. As to the formalities, you will get plenty of expert advice; in addition to the Nobel Festival, you will be invited to a dinner given by the King in his palace and will be taken care of more than enough by representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the American Embassy, etc., etc.

As you probably know, you will be asked to give one formal lecture about your work. As to the formal suit, you can certainly rent it in Stockholm and if you let us know your measures we shall order it for you ahead of time. Since you will be the center of continuous attention from the public and its representatives at the official and the press level (sorry), it may cause you some embarrassment and perhaps difficulties in timing to pick it up and perhaps have it fitted; so if you can do it without difficulty, it might be wiser to bring one with you (tails with white waistcoat). However, if there is the slightest difficulty, please let us know your measures and we shall be very happy to take care of it. Esther will need a full evening dress for the same ~~occasions~~ formal occasions (that is the Festival and the King's dinner. The rest will be informal as to dress. Apart from dress, nothing is ever informal here as ~~is~~ you well know).

If there is anything ~~not~~ else you would like to know, please don't hesitate to ask me about it. We certainly do hope that we shall have a little chance to see you in private also. My sympathies will be with you during all the ceremonies and I shall realize that this is not the thing ~~that~~ you enjoy most in life. However, for the sake of genetics I hope you will ~~be~~ take it with patience ~~(XXXX)~~ (have you heard about the difficult time Faulkmer had?). Please let us know when you arrive so that we can meet you at the airport.

With love, also to Esther, also from Eva,

[Handwritten signature]

P.S. The ceremony will be sent by TV through all Europe. On the other hand, there are many people who feel that the usual celebration after the ceremony in Town Hall should be less intense and perhaps omitted as a protest because of ~~Pasternak~~ Pasternak. This has not been finally decided yet.