

Preface

My parents were poor immigrants from Sicily, who came to the United States for freedom and opportunity shortly after World War I. They worked at odd jobs, and had four children. As their only son, I was regarded by them as the hope of the family. They encouraged me to try hard to get an education, and to find some career that was honorable. In contrast to the other children of immigrants in my classes, I immersed myself in learning and growing thereby. So, my teachers also saw me as the hope of my family, and supported my efforts, encouraging me to continue schooling. With the help of scholarships, I completed my BA and MA at Brooklyn College, in New York, and my Ph.D. at Harvard, in Cambridge. Step-by-step, I found myself pursuing an academic career, first at the University of Chicago, and then at the University of California, Irvine.



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