



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series III: Personal Correspondence, 1914-1964, undated.

Sub-series B: Alphabetical, 1915-1963, undated.

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144

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50

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327

Silver, Dinah, letter to Max Silver, re: arrangements in event of  
her death, 1917.

New York December 27 1917

My dear Mr. [unclear]  
I have just received your letter of the 26th and am  
glad to hear from you. I am well and hope  
these few lines will find you the same. I am  
very busy at present but will try to write  
you more often. I am sure you will  
understand. I am, dear Mr. [unclear],  
very truly yours,  
[unclear]

















[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]













[illegible]

710 Mr. L. A. 2853

711 Mr. L. A. 2854





LETTER ADDRESSED TO MAX SILVER N.Y. 12/27/1917

My dear child, Max, you should live and be well. I want to write certain requests because soon I am going to have an operation. We don't know what can happen, so I want to tell you my wish and I would like you to do it the way I am writing to you. You should not tell anyone about this letter and I will write to my brother, Abe, he should live and be well. I will write to him the same. I do not want my husband to know or my sisters. I will send this letter to you and you should hide it and that is what they call a will. If God will allow me to live through my years and then you will let them know that that was my wish. I ask that you do everything as I have written.

About my big wealth that I will leave, I don't need a will, but I am leaving it anyway. I do think that what I have is a big richness, more than any millionaire. The rich people leave a will for their children and the children are never happy about the way the will is made out. One you leave too much to and another you leave not enough. They are not happy about the way it is divided. Also, when you leave for strangers, they are not happy the way it is. Everyone talks and they say "well why didn't they leave something more important?" You can't make anyone happy. I, myself, have heard and seen that thousands of people are happy with my wealth that I leave after I die. This is, my dear children, how I feel - that I am the richest person in the world. My heart is filled with pride and I am happy that I am able to leave such wealth for my family and strangers. They will always remember me kindly. Everybody will be happy with what I am leaving. The first thing that I ask of you, my child, is a family plot. I do not want to lie in the cemetery of your Father's lodge. I want you to buy a place in a cemetery that belongs to a synagogue. You can buy from Biet Hamidrash a godal or from the Kalverier Synagogue Biet Sid Cemetery. I would like, while I am still alive, for you to do it now so that I can see for myself where it is. But I want to wait. Maybe God will allow that I live from the time the fighting will stop and we will get our own land, Israel. I and your Father should live and be well. We would like to go to Israel and not die in America. But that will be God's will, if I will be worthy. Whatever God does, I will be happy. I also, my child, ask that you follow my wish. I am a member for almost 15 years of the Old Home. They are going to build in the Bronx. They are making a synagogue there. I would like to give that synagogue a Sefer Torah. It won't cost much. When the war is over they will be able to get a Sefer Torah for \$200. This is what I worked so hard for. I wish that my name should remain in the synagogue. Also, I want to give the Torah mantle and yad. On the yad and the mantle they will write my name and that I donated them. When the time will come, they will invite all the members and it will bring in quite a lot of money, because my name will bring them. I hope that you, my child, will be there and you should invite the whole family. You should speak



in that synagogue and they will know who you are because you were there when you were a little boy. You were Bar Mitzva in that shul. I am thinking to give that Sefer Torah as soon as that Home is built. They have already started to build but they had to stop because the materials cost more than they expected so they could not finish this year. I did talk about my wish with your Father and he discouraged me from doing this. I stopped talking about it. I realize that I cannot do it while I am alive. I would very much have liked to be there for the big occasion. You, my dear child, I wish that you will give this after my death. You should buy this with our money which we worked very hard for. In two years there will be a paid up policy and you will get \$1000. From the lodge you will get \$500. That will cover everything that you are to buy; a stone and also the other funeral expenses during that time. The money that you are giving to me comes easily to me. Because of that, God should give you good health and life. You are working hard and you are sending me money to live on, but for the debt and expenses I wish to be paid out of my hard earned savings. My dear child, I want you to know that my wealthy sister wrote that she wants to buy a plot for me and your Father. I don't want to lie in her plot with your Father. I did not have property in this world as she has, but for my plot I wish to have my own. I don't need her to give me charity and I don't want her for a partner. She did not want to rent me a place to live in her property while I am alive and now I don't want to live in death near her. She was never my good friend and now she begrudges me that God has given me good and dear children. God should give you health and life and you should live to have pleasure. She was always mean to me. She helped me out with Bessie's wedding by giving \$200 for which Bessie was deserving. Bessie worked hard for her, but I "got it" from her. She took out my strength and aggravated me to death. Now, with Pallan, [diminutive form for Paula] she did not open her hand and she treated Pallan very badly. She tried to turn Pallan against me and then told her that she should not believe what I say to her. She will give her everything before her wedding. As a result Pallan has been very mean to me and it is very hard for me to live through this. I almost died from the aggravation.

I thank God that I didn't have to go to her for my needs. Now my dear son, I am asking you, because I was a good and true Mother. I tried my best, as much as I could. You are a good child and you treat me well in my life time and now I am asking you to be a true son after I die. I ask that you say Kaddish for the whole year. I do not know if the temple where you go is closed during the week. Please go to an Orthodox shul so as to say Kaddish daily. If your Father will survive me, then I wish that he say Kaddish also. I wish him to study Talmud during that first year. I am worthy of this. I have been a good wife and have worked very hard in my lifetime. We always lived a quiet, private life. It was not like in other families where they are always fighting. We both got through the hard years and nothing was too much for me to do for you during the years that you were studying. I worked very hard in my candy store making my own candy. I used to make



candy all day and until late at night. Your Father, who should live, did not help me. He used to come at 10 o'clock from where he taught (hader) and we both used to work until very late at night. Then we had to sell it in the store. We went in on the coldest days to sell that candy. I never felt that cold. The few dollars that I made kept me warm. I earned money to buy a house. I always had enough money to make Sabbath and the holidays and I was very happy during that time. That made it possible for you to finish school. I have lived to the time when you have made things easier for me and life is sweet. You took the worry from me. I am trying to get better so that I can enjoy these easier years with you. I want to say as Jacob, our Father said "that in his remaining years he knew where his son, Joseph, was. For those years he did not believe that he was alive and he lived in sadness and was worried". Now came the time when Jacob found out that his son Joseph was alive, then he said that the 22 remaining years were his best years. It is so with me, that my earliest years passed without any good in my life. Not before I was married did I have a good life or even after I was married. If I will get well and I will be able to write, I will write again to you of how I spent my life in my youth until now. That, I will leave to you, my dear child. For now, this letter will have to be enough. Now my dear child, I figure these are my best years. God should bless me with long and good years with your dear Father and with you children and we all should enjoy these good years together. Yes, now my dear child, I am writing that each one of you should have a remembrance from your loving Mother. There are four things I brought from Europe for you from my parents. They gave these to me for a present and I will give them to my dear children. It isn't worth very much, but it is a remembrance from a loving Mother to her loving children. For you my dear child, is a kiddish cup that my Father used. My dear Mother gave it to me for a wedding present. Now I am giving it to you. But your dear Father will use it as long as he will live, and use it, may it be 120 years. Then it belongs to you. Then there is a silver fork that your Grandfather ate with. It should be remembered that this was from your Grandfather. I wish you, my dear child, that you should use it in good health and pleasure. It is not a big thing, but you should remember that it is from your Grandfather, who you are named after. God should grant you that you should live out your life in pleasure and you should live until 120 years. I wish that you should marry in a good year, to a Jewish daughter. You should live a happy life. It is a pleasure to wish you all these blessings with all my heart. God should hear and grant this in the way I am wishing it. I wish to give brother Abe the candlesticks. The seven silver wine glasses are to be given, two to each of the three daughters in Israel and one to Mordchen, who is named after my Father. He was the first grandchild of my Grandmother Yetta. This is the sign from your dear Mother.

And now my dear child, I wish to ask you - I have a chain, a watch and two rings and earrings that the children will not use. These are not for young women. I ask that you sell them and use the money for my sister, Atlas. She's an orphan. There are three



girls who got married and I gave them presents. So now I wish that the three girls who are not married should have presents. If I live until their weddings, I will help them and if not, my dear son, you should give each one, from me, \$10. That will come to \$30. Now my dear child, I have not much more to write to you, so I wish you good health and life.

Your Mother,  
Dina Silver

