



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

Reel
145

Box
51

Folder
36

The American Jew of Tomorrow, 1918.

1. It is to you - young men and women - the American Jews of tomorrow that I shall address myself today. I shall speak to you of the things that are most sacred and intimate to the soul of the Jew - and of the service and discipline which must be yours, and of the tasks which you must undertake if our faith is to move with the progressive spirit of the new day and our ideals are to become more effective and helpful in your own lives.

2. The world is now turning to its young men. It needs new enthusiasm, the free spirit, the broader vision of youth. So that this war which was the greatest tragedy of youth has also proved the greatest opportunity to youth - the wearied generation of yesterday has placed the torch

(pp missing)

* * * * *

5. Judaism now wishes to follow up - extend, increase the gains. And it needs loyalty, its young men - our fathers remained true to them when the world denied them. Shall we become false to them when the world is ready to accept them?

6. To carry out the work we need a virile Judaism and a loyal Jewry.

A. Our reform Judaism is sufficiently broad () to meet the needs of the new day - we have no confining creeds to destroy - our faith is broad, universal.

B. But the reform Jew is not sufficiently loyal to carry on the work. We need greater religious discipline and restoring religious habits and higher group loyalty and finer racial pride and a strong historic consciousness - and greater knowledge and acquaintance with the life and literature of our people.

C. The orthodox Jew perhaps errs in not stressing the broad prophetic element of Judaism but the reform Jew errs in not stressing the disciplinary element which makes for the morale of the people. The one ~~may~~ ^{see} not clearly

the soul - the other overlooks completely the body - and both are essential.

7. American Judaism of tomorrow - which is to be your Judaism - if it is to be (er) effective must be of the strength of both - the soul must be kept pure - free from all superstition and falsehood, and the body - the people, must be kept strong. Judaism cannot live without the Jew and Jewish ideals would never have been potent if it were not for a loyal () people that carried them on.

To have such a people you must preserve a discipline not in and for itself but for the sake of the ideal. You must have traditions, regulations, customs and ceremonies, the beautiful and the worth while of course, but they must be observed. And you must have group spirit, group pride and group loyalty - and enlightened, intelligent, justly proud Jew.

8. And this is my appeal this morning. We need you - young men and women to carry on! But you will do this only when you have learned

1. Discipline - religious habits and practices, 1. Sabbath, 2. holidays, 3. worship

2. Knowledge - acquaintance, a Jew who is ignorant of his past is as bad as a man who has forgotten his past - who has lost his memory.

3. Pride - I dislike the Jew who imitates - 1. Christmas tree, 2. clubs, hotels, 3. Live your own life

4. Loyalty - to defend and stand is to () much for the sake of one's own.

9. This is what you must give to Judaism. What will Judaism give to you. We cannot offer you 1. health, 2. reward of heaven 3. threats of hell, 4. ease, free of prejudice, ().

10. We do offer you

1. A glorious history and tradition
2. Shining examples of beautiful lives
3. A faith strong enough to help you and a moral code to guide you.
4. Infinite opportunities for service for God and man.

And true happiness. You will not find happiness by buying yourself. More talk of prejudice among those de-Judaized Jews than anywhere else and naturally so - when you are for a cause you reconcile yourself to nobility - but when you have no cause you have no comfort at all. You are just miserable.

11. You will be loyal, you will be proud, you will be enlightened Jews - and you will carry on the work.



The hour for 5 to-morrow

"The Garfield Hotel"

3848 PROSPECT AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Sermon. 031

1. It is to you young men tomorrow
the hour for 5 to-morrow - that
I shall address myself to-day -
~~To you~~ I shall speak to you
of the things that are most sacred
and intimate to the soul, the Jew-
and of the service and discipline
which must be yours and of the
tasks which you must undertake
if our faith is to work with the
proper spirit of the new day
and our ideals are to become
more effective the helpful in
your own lives.

2. the world is now turning to a
young man. It needs the new enthus-
iasm the fresh spirit the broader
vision of youth. So that this
war which was the greatest tragedy
of youth has also created the
greatest opportunity to youth -
the old world weary generation
of yesterday has placed the torch

"The Garfield Hotel"

3848 PROSPECT AVENUE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

5. Jewd. now wishes to follow up -
extend measure the gains.
and it needs loyalty its
young men - Our fathers re-
maind true to them when
the world demand them. Shall
we become ~~further~~ also to them
when the world is ready to
accept them -

6. To carry on the work we need
a mild Judaism & loyal Jew -

A. Our Reform Jewd. is sufficiently
broad hearted to meet the
needs of the new day - We
have no confining creed to
destroy - our faith broad
universal -

B. But the Reform Jew is not sufficiently
~~loyal~~ ^{loyal} to carry on the work.
we need greater self discipline
& maintaining self habits &
higher ~~pure~~ loyalty
& finer racial pride

"The Garfield Hotel"

3848 PROSPECT AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

and a heavy burden sen-
siveness - and ~~also~~ all
greater knowledge & ac-
quaintance with the life
& literature of his people.

C. The Dr. Jew perhaps errs
in not stressing the broad
prophetic element & jud-
icial responsibility in
the Jewish community
which makes for the moral
of the people. The one really not
yet clearly the soul - the other
looks completely the body -
& both are essential.

7. The Am. Jud. & to-morrow - which
is to be of an Jud. - if it is
to be progressively effective

"The Garfield Hotel"

3848 PROSPECT AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

must be of the strength of
15th - The soul must be
kept pure - free from all
reflection & preachment
and the body - the people - must
be kept strong. Ind. cannot
live as a system of ethics -
without the Jew + Goldsmith
ideas would never have been
potent if it were not for a loyal
sacrificing people that carried
them on.

To have such a people you
must present a discipline not
in the staff but for the sake of
the ideal. You must have traditions,
regulations, customs & ceremonies
the beautiful & the worth while
I know - but they must be
observed - And you must
have group spirit, group pride

OFFICE COPY

"The Garfield Hotel"

3848 PROSPECT AVENUE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

9. This is what you must give to
God. What will God give to
you -

We cannot give you -

1. Health -

2. Reward & Heaven -

3. Thrills & Hell.

4. Ease, free of pain, suffering, criticism etc.

10. We do give you -

1. A power which I had for

2. Many examples of beautiful
love -

3. A faith strong & pure enough
to help you in a moral code
to guide you.

4. Infinite opportunities for
service for God & man.

"The Garfield Hotel"

3848 PROSPECT AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

1. And sure happenings

1. You will not find happenings
by buying yourself more
talk & prejudice among
those degraded Jews than
any where else & actually
2 - When you have a
cause you accuse you
are to antagonize - but
when you have no cause
& still you meet prejudice
you have no comfort at
all. You are just miserable

11. You will be loyal, you will
be proud, you will be substantive
Jews - & you will carry on
the work.