



## 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.

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Reel  
158

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Folder  
575

The Heart of our Jewish Morality, 1939.

1) Difficult to Epitomize - but Necessary.

Without a Summary - in compact & condensed form - danger

① Miss the general in the specific;  
the words for the trees

Loose Contour; Sense of Unity & Wholeness; Theme & Thesis

② Danger of Wrong Emphasis;

Less important - incidental - fortuitous exalted about  
more important - fundamental - characteristic

③ Distinct Pedagogic Value - For educat. purposes best  
to begin with minimum - מה שיש לי

2) Bible & Talmud frequently offer such epitomes - summaries

① Kohelut - philos. Speculat. - proverbs - may lead astray  
strikes balance אין חסד בלא חכמה, ואין חכמה בלא חסד

② Horeb - אין חסד בלא חכמה - אין חכמה בלא חסד

③ Unicah - אין חסד בלא חכמה - Ethico-thet. summary

④ Gen. 5.1. אין חסד בלא חכמה - "in the day that God  
created man, in the image of God made He him"  
Siman b. Asai: - "Essence of Torah contained herein!"

The fact that man is reflex, the divine - basis of  
entire sp. interpretation of human destiny!

⑤ 613 Commandments - Abstracts made, then

David = 11, in Ps. 15 - "Who shall dwell in thy tabernacles"

Isaiah = 6, in 33.5

Micah = 3, in 6.8 3127

Habakkuk = 1 in 2.4. 7101 12/10/12 71331

3/ Literary Sources as Moral Code as Past - can easily lose  
one way is it -

① Numerous Texts - from earliest Biblical sources

Covering 3000 yrs -

works of thousands of scholars, sages, Sages, Prophets

Hailing not alone from Palestine

written not only in Hebrew - Aramaic - Greek - Arabic

② In other words, a library of rel. liter with Universal  
as to place of origin -

Millennial as to chronology

Refining Mind, Intel. Climate, Scientific level

③ Most assuredly there will be found in it

currents & cross-currents

Conflicting ideas, contradictions,

Varying emphases,

Essential & non-essential

Enduring Import - Transient Import

4/ In such a liter - so vast, so encompassing - you will find almost any thing.

You can quote - to substantiate -

they say that the literil - only small part of an enormous literature

Our Enemies have had no trouble - sweep crowded liter man - pick up some strong points -

abstracting it from context - false emphasis or implication - build up any theory about Jew

© Attack on Talmud - worth part time - ages O.T. spend

In recent years - even O.T. - Nazis scavenger critique

"Higher criticism" - low - tide

5/ But in spite of Variety - Extent - certain unbroken threads - strong & clearly visible - running

The unmistakable major themes of Jewish literature

their presence def. stands a work - belonging - tradition

Threads give Pattern + Design to entire Tapestry

Unify + Harmonize - Distinctive Character

6/ What are the Golden Threads that have continued unbroken  
Contributed authentic <sup>translucent</sup> water-marks of way & life  
that proved so destructive & challenging to Ancient  
again - challenged & its destruction sought?

7/ Fate - Rel. Persuasion.

- World in Grip of blind Fate - Gods as well
- No escape from relentless processes of Nature &  
from inevitable decadence of Humanity - where  
careers began in Golden Age - Silver - Copper
- The older World gets - nearer to approaches its end
- the larger mankind exists upon earth - nearer it  
moves to its moral tip. decline & dissolution
- life is a series of increasing imperfections  
Neo-Platonism - Buddhism - Spengler
- Man is not free to master his fate  
to uncoil himself - to unweave  
to translate .. to higher worlds
- Continuity without Progress

God of Freedom - rules Universe bec. its creator (Just)  
Rules it according to Moral Principles & to Moral Ends

- Man, fashioned in God's image, is Free to achieve in an evolving world.
- He is free to rise upon scales of perfection. עולמו
- World is advancing to Golden Age - עולם הזה וְעוֹלָם הַבָּא - eternally!
- Messianism - Helps to hasten its advent. משיחיות - עולמו
- It is the human messiah - Humanity - God (Moses)

① Hence - Rel. Optimism. In all this there is a Summons to sp. enterprise, adventure, sacrifices!  
עולמו של עולם הזה

② And Judaism - for there is hope - עולמו של עולם הזה  
∴ עולמו של עולם הזה

③ Hence Millennial optimism of Jewish Race!

8). Whole in Metaphys - a Pseudo-Metaph - of a pagan movement -  
- morass of alienation - order  
like Nazism - in spite of heroic blustering -  
Vast Personism - emphasis on Fate - Determinism -  
Return to instincts + concepts of Primitive, pre-Judaic  
world  
Kolnai - "The War against the West"  
Exaltation of "Volkstum" - a form of Atavism

(6)  
- The desire to lose the Ego in the Group -

- Engulf the "I" in the "We" - "Orbal bond"

{ is a "Flight" from Hard Reality of life which is a  
tax on Psyche, the Individual

- Escape from effacement of selfhood + Personality

Regression - trauma -

- Comfort & warmth of Mother's womb #

9/11. Idea of Progress - (1) For Individual towards Self-Perfection

altruism, Social-mindedness (2) For Humanity towards  
universal justice, Peace, Brotherhood

- is one of Golden Threads - One, the Force of Morality! <sup>- concentrates</sup>

(1) Best of Sons + Daughters - followed that Vision!

(2) Even-regarded as - Mission - To Lead -

8/ Worth of Individual -  $\rho\beta z$  -

- Life cheap in ancient world.

- Cheap again to-day - Chinese (Mao)

$\rho\beta z$  - Invisible - (Tyrant or State checked at frontiers / main inaccuracy right)

$\rho\beta z$  also  $\rho\beta z$   $\rho\beta z$   $\rho\beta z$   $\rho\beta z$   $\rho\beta z$

Mussolini - 'He will believe in sanctity, the Individual'

Dictators - find it easy to submerge him -  
a statistical item - Ind. count for nothing.

Person Worth - assets lost even in Prussia, 1. Jan.

① Jew cannot be represented, perhaps

too much of individualism - 2 Jews - 3 persons

But even with this defect / what is after all  
an underlying virtue.

9/ Humanity -

- Sympathy for the oppressed ① Egypt - Refugee!

- Poor - widow - orphan - slave - Refugee!

- Not rec. of econ. determinism - Exploitation -  
but rec. of supra quality of moral excellence  
Kindness is strength - Cruelty is weakness -  
God -  $\rho\beta z$   $\rho\beta z$   $\rho\beta z$   $\rho\beta z$   $\rho\beta z$

① It is from this instinct / humanity - that any  
for moral justice arise - not from any ~~that~~  
of speculation on the field / economics.

It was inhuman - unworthy / man - desecrating  
the God in man - to deny a fellowman his  
just share in the good / life which is the  
last analysis as God's, not man's -

It was not primal communistic equalitarianism,  
that prophet pleaded for - but end / exploitation,  
+ oppression, - and the responsibilities that await  
oppressors as stewardship - for the not  
for private benefit exclusively - but for  
social benefit as well -

② Of all things which Israel abhorred -  
- in 500 - Cruelty - bloody arenas - Torture <sup>Charles</sup>  
- Cruelty to slaves - children - ~~captives~~

③ War - First Peace Advocates

of these moral forces - unpaid / Christian as well as Jewish  
- attacked to-day +

But remembering our first-principles - Principles -  
we will not despair -

# THE LIVING AGE

*Founded by E. Littell*

In 1844



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## The World Over

ONCE, IN THE MEMORY of those now living, the primary concern of a nation's leaders was, in theory if not in absolute fact, the protection and well-being of the people. There was a time, too, when office holders, from Presidents and Premiers on down, were 'servants of the people.' At any rate, that was the platform on which men—good, bad or indifferent—were elected to government office.

But now the men who form the government are, apparently, no longer concerned with the well-being of people as a whole. In their pursuit of a nebulous political ideology—that may, or may not, prove workable in some hazy future—the plight of the people is ignored. It is, in fact, worse than ignored. For—left to themselves—the minority-ridden masses could inevitably find some way out of the morass of a synthetic civilization—a civilization in which propaganda has become a substitute for thinking; racism a substitute for bread and regimentation a substitute for faith and loyalty to one's country. Instead, we have the dire result of Chamberlains, Hitlers and Mussolinis playing a macabre chess-game with huge blocks of mankind as unwilling pawns on the European checkerboard. And in Eurasia we find a puppet dictator offering to gamble the fate of millions in the struggle of ideologies in both the West and the East.

The leaders of the 'democracies' thought nothing of placing the world in a panic and dread of war in their dealings with the dictators, creating a terror that now is discovered to have been largely unfounded. And the dictators, in turn, cared little whether they threw their people into the maws of war, so long as they achieved their own selfish points. The dictators, in the person of Hitler, won—but the people got nothing out of the victory and are, in fact, worse off than before, while their leader has the satisfaction of an enlarged ego. Chamberlain and Daladier, acting for the 'democracies,' cared less whether the people, whose 'servants' they were, suffered death or ignominy as long as they retained their 'personal honor.'

History may well have another phrase for it.

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CHIANG KAI-SHEK is wiping out the Chinese people at an appalling rate, according to guarded reports and belated figures now being compiled by the Chinese press, and the question is being asked whether he is fighting Japan or his own country.

How many millions of people have died in the present Sino-Japanese conflict probably never will be known, but in the 18 months of fighting across China's good earth, extending 1,400 miles inland from the sea, even a casual computation of losses in lives and property is staggering. Ironically, according to the Chinese press, about four-fifths of the property damage and about nine-tenths of the human losses can be directly attributed to the Chinese armies themselves. Always known as being reckless with human life, the Chinese commanders, from Chiang Kai-shek down, are now declared to have deliberately destroyed whole civilian populations and entire cities and towns in their flight to the western hills.

As early as last April, before the undeclared war was a year old, official figures set the number of Chinese people left destitute and starving in Central China by their own armies, at a conservative 10,000,000. Subsequently, three-fourths of these people died. The release of the dikes on the Yangtze by retreating Chinese troops, in an effort to stem the Japanese, was reported to have drowned fewer than 2,000 Japanese while 750,000 Chinese peasants perished. The destruction of cities and towns, while presenting a high figure of loss, now proves to be insignificant compared to the destruction of crops to prevent them from falling into the hands of the invaders. But while this move inconvenienced the Japanese, who had hoped to live off the land, it only caused them to travel well provisioned. The actual damage was to the civilian population, which starved off in batches of 100,000 at a time. This policy, by which it is planned to leave nothing to the victors, is outlined in an

~~אשר בראשית בראשית בראשית בראשית~~  
~~לפיכך בראשית בראשית~~

— "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens  
He is God.

He created the earth and made it

He established it.

He did not create it in chaos

אשר בראשית בראשית בראשית

He formed it to be inhabited.

אשר בראשית בראשית בראשית

I am the Lord. There is none else."

Ps. 45



~~Get Away~~  
~~Chase~~