



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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Man and his fears, 1940.

1/ Our world full of F. - a diff. kind of F.
 In primitive society - man was afraid of drought, famine, pestilence,
the unknown - the mysterious - and nature's cataclysmic forces -
thunder, lightning, earthquakes, floods and storms. What
was before life and what was after life also filled him with affec-
tion.

Man's scientific and spiritual progress, freed him from the prison -
 house of many of these fears. He knows more and fears less.
 He has learned ^{in some instances at least} to anticipate disaster, to protect himself
ag. some, the more violent eruptions of nature. He has
stamped out some of dread plagues and diseases, and is hot
in pursuit of others. His world is better organized and hence
 more secure against the ravages of famine and starvation.
 He has probed into the secrets of natural processes & forces,
 and what is still unknown fills him with challenge
 but not with dread.

But there are new types of fears which fill the hearts of man today,
 as real as overshadowing as some of those of old. They are
social fears - induced and stimulated by society and
 govt - Man is afraid to state his thought. Afraid
 to utter an opinion. Afraid to write his thoughts.
 Afraid of being slandered. Afraid of persecution, concentration
camp; afraid of being purged and liquidated.
Minority groups have been taught to fear - disfranchisement,
expatriation, debasement and exile.
Small nations have been taught to fear - invasions,
conquest and annihilation.
Strong nations have been taught to fear - preparation,
Fifth Columnists - mass disintegration - sabotage
and treason.
Men of property ^{wealth} have been taught to fear the loss
 of their possessions thru econ. revolution, or inflation

or compulsory taxation or state socialism.
Men of no wealth or property - have been taught to fear un-
employment - lack of opportunity - and helpless dependence
in their old age.

Our earth is full of F. - Certain governments - have perfected a
Technique for the intimidation and exploitation - "Schreckmittel"
Political purposes - a Strategy Terrorism for
→ When man once divided the world among himself - the system - of domination and subjugation - to
Terror has become a policy and imperial weapon - to
crush all opposition within a country - to intimidate a
nation into absolute submission - and to paralyze
the resistance of nations marked out for conquest.
The Bolsheviks began it - The French developed it - The Nazis
perfected it. (Quote p. 82-3)

And so F. is winning large areas of the face of our world Refuge
people flee from persecution camped in their hearts Conquered
people take it as their daily bread Business deal
in living lash Civilians convey in air-rail shelters
in holes in the ground have it bring at to them in the
ghastly thick and shattering crash of bombs People take
free are driven by F. of losing their freedom to convert
their lands into armed camps to conscript their
man-power and to drain their wealth with armament.

The extent of our private and collective F. today is the
measure of the failure of our civilization.
Fa. Civil's aim is to emancipate man from F. - to save
man confidence - security - a sense of rest and peace.
Man's religion was once a matter of F. - Sacrifice - magic -
centuries passed - Fear gave way to Remembrance - as man
learned to think of God - as Father and Friend.

Moral life based on F. Punishment - Savage observes his Faber - for fear of offending supernatural powers and bringing down disaster upon himself - A long sp. analysis - last the SP 212

Political life F. Man was afraid of Ruler, Tyrant, King. Vast permanent power. State was feared. Centuries passed before man moved toward the democ. conception of State - voluntary org. of men for mutual protection and of rules - possessed only of delegated and revocable powers.

Family life also based on F. Head of Household - was Master. Cooperation, free fellowship, united in love and mutual responsibilities and privileges - agreement Master - Slave - all principle enforces - Education - Pedagogy was inseparable without the rod.

Interest the child - develop his critical judgment and his personality in freedom.

Civil. has thus attempted to banish F. from every dept. - substitute intelligence - reason - love -

Civil. has collapsed in a day. Never returns of Hydra - cheated F. to an end.

2) These Fs - the major Fs, as day - which enter every home and every heart - will not be allowed until "The Voice / Deth." is silenced - until "The Rev. / Nihilism" is crushed. Until the Nazi-Fas. overtaught on land - is defeated.

Marked will then have a chance to try to eradicate those other socially-created Fs - unemployment and poverty and Want and Insecurity - To attempt then greater freedom and ~~more~~ more efficient

democracy to distribute more equally the social goods which
man can create and ~~also~~ create in such abundance, and
which will enable each man to live not in -

3/ As men grew in knowledge they lost ~~these~~ many of their F.S. -
unfortunately they lost one F. which they never should
have lost - Fear of Sin! Sin became dated. Sin
was out-moded! A sc. age is superior to Sin. There
is ~~no one~~ ^{no} man's disaster ~~as~~ mis take as long
as man fears Sin - as long as he reverses the moral law and
is fearful of transgressing it - he can shed all his
other fears - and be the better and stronger for it.
But once having abandoned the Fear, Sin - in private or
in public life - he levels his defenses of appears more un-
men and more dangerous than those which he enabled
him to desper of. - In fact his whole entire collapse
and the wright of his accumulated knowledge and
reverses only hastens the collapse -
- AN, IN MAN - EX NO ND / AN 3, 11 CO, 10 10 10 -

4/ Afraid of Future. So much revolution - so much change -
so much confusion - so many frightening things happening.
men felt that way in every world upheaval!
life went on! The good earth remained! men continued
their planning and their working and their dreaming! And
on the ruins of older ways of life + older forms and be -
helps more beautiful edifices arose! A new equilibrium
was found - a new way of life! Things will be diff.

2-course - but with courage and daring and high hope - (5)
the diff. way be made all to the good. The Metaph is
hot and glowing now. It can be beaten and forged
with the shape we desire - provided the hammer is
ready in the hand of our generation -
The present will determine what the future will be
for us & our children. If we cast out fear -
retaining only the one F. of Science - & wringing down - & desecrating
the holy spirit in us and in life - and thrusting ourselves
into the raging struggle - with intubated & transe -
holding our banner high - against great odds - like the
Finnish - Greeks - English - we shall, by our stomies
mold the morning future.

We Jews - our banner - AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES 1011 1011

{ Our struggle is world's struggle!
Our agony is world's agony!
The world's triumph will be our triumph!
{ Fear & danger is more dangerous to us > danger itself!
" death " " deadly to man > death "!

We must believe in ourselves! in our righteous cause!
in our inexhaustible resources! in our power of
survival! in Israel!

→ We must continue to hold our persecutors in
utmost contempt - unimpressed by their showing
striking, breast-thumping and temporary triumphs!
They shall be swept off the scene -

5/ There is one fine way ^{- and it must be cultivated -} of acquiring courage - by identifying ⁽⁶⁾
yourself with a cause which you believe to be unshakeable.
Link up our destiny ^{with something} (which you know to be true - real - nothing
can stop it) ^{& you will get} something, the enduring quality
that lasts in your spirit, in your blood stream.
Then you ^{will} become strong beside your hunted strength!

You will have ^{the} courage the impenetrability -
You ^{draw} courage from ideals - convictions -

Rel. man - $\text{לֵב יִשְׂרָאֵל יִתְּצֶה אֶת הַיָּם וְיִשְׁלַח אֶת הַיָּם בְּיָדָם}$
 $\text{וְיִשְׁלַח אֶת הַיָּם בְּיָדָם}$
"our refuge and strength - a very present help in time of trouble"
"we will not fear, though the earth quake - tho the hills be moved
into the depths, the seas"

One has a Kings man! Powerful, Eternal! The very earth
shaken and its foundation - did not frighten him. -

6/ A man with an ideal - with ^{dark} inner strength - ^{more than anything} more valuable than all men.
will make him more conscious - more conscious of his own strength and purpose and more
daring, more determined. - ^{He will be afraid, but he will never doubt the power} He will never make him
a coward, or a traitor. They will never defeat him