



## 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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Reel  
163

Box  
59

Folder  
858

The importance of neighbor, 1951.



1) I can give no better text - (Ber. 17a).

Note the central ideas. ① Just as I am a creature, God - i.e. important - ~~parent~~ of descent with divine kinship - so is my N. Just as I have Status - Rights - Deputy - so has he!

It is God who makes me important - and <sup>also</sup> my N.

- I may receive certain preferments, prerogatives, positions on the strength of my personal efforts, attainments, or those of my family, which other men may not achieve. Those are secondary.

- Essentially, my basic rights, to "life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness", are mine because they were gifts to me by God and ∴ - they are my neighbor's also - he, too, is a child of God.

- If one man is important in the universal scheme of things all men are important.

- My N. is important, in and for himself, just as I am important, in and for myself. - Just apart from what my N. means to me, ~~and~~ how indispensable he is to me, and how much he influences my life. - And my N. does mean much to me - is actually indispensable to me - ~~does~~ very decisively influence my life.

2) Note the 2nd central idea - "My work is in the city and his way he in the field". Our occupations may be different - our calling and our professions. I may be working in the city at some skilled trade - at some learned profession, at some exacting



best in fact - at some very beautiful Preservers. My 11 May (2  
 is only a pleasant morning in the field - perhaps valued  
 and unvalued - perhaps poor - "stolid and stumped, a brother to the  
 ox". He is still extremely as important as I am. "He cannot  
 excel in my work, I cannot excel in his work" - I must  
 not assume that I do great things and he does small things.  
 "We have learnt that it matters not whether a man does  
much or little - if only he direct his heart to heaven" -

It is the right of God all good work is important - whether  
 it is healing the sick, or governing a state, or plowing ~~the field~~ <sup>a field</sup>  
 to bring forth food out of the earth. It is not how much  
 or how little, how richly or how poorly rewarded by man,  
 how esteemed or how lightly held, but how earnest and  
faithful and useful.

3/ Because that, as says, admonished <sup>2/12/17 7/12/17 3/12/17 17/1</sup>  
 2/12/17 - When Epiphany is - both you and he share an essence of human  
dogma which transcends all accidents of fortune, of adversity  
 or of occupation.

"He who despises his 11 - ruins us on!" (Provence)  
 However lowly a man's position whatever his role a rose, or level  
man may be - hold us on in contrast - for in so doing  
you continue the image of God - in which both he and you  
 are formed.

4/ R. Elazar b. Simeon. indeed - super - brilliant scholar. 27/5/17  
 17/12/17 - Did not respond. 17/12/17 27/12/17 - 17/12/17



As all the members of your family study as Ushy! 21 - 22/10/13  
\* לוי ויהי נא נא ויהי נא - Descended - Kneel - Fajrah Mo'  
will not v'atle! - Came to city - Harbored a great Teacher!  
When do you call Teacher, Rabbi! - Why then was, bend ya'  
If this is a Rabbi - may then he have like him in Israel -  
For you call, do I for, with him! - Not do so, say am!

5. In Ethar, For this - we read - לוי ויהי נא - Shate <sup>decept</sup> paper -  
Los Deple Chah - לוי ויהי נא

6. My N. is important bec. he and the many others he has been -  
was and for - make my world - in which I live, grow  
up, <sup>from</sup> ~~too much experience~~ make any career, find my rewards very satisfaction.  
- Search is just another name for my world of N. -  
- I grow up + develop + realize myself thru him -  
- I grow with. Th. on my world. Th. neighborhood grows  
and expands.

The contacts which I make with neighbors, friends, associates -  
teachers, playmates - and an instructor's + writer's  
determine my world.

- No man lives in isolation no man is an island all to himself.  
Everyone has N! He may not have friends!  
We receive an stimulation, an challenge, an discouragement  
an an inspiration from others - not ourselves

"Every N. is a Teacher" - Arab. proverb - True!

7. Here an faith counsels us to make friends -



"Iron sharpens iron; So a man sharpens the conscience  
of his friend!" - Mutual inspiration - (4)

The Rabbi advises us: > 27 71 2771 - 27 71 2771 -

Ecclesiastes: "A faithful friend is a strong defense; and he  
that hath found such an one hath found a treasure.. A faithful  
friend is the mechanic of life."

It is through others that we rise or fall. - Indeed they  
are important in our lives!

① <sup>People</sup> Not to be used by us - or exploited - or rise upon  
the ruins of their lives to levels we wish to reach.

- There are such as use other men <sup>merely</sup> as stepping stones  
and heed not how brutally they trample upon weak  
lives.

- Such men, who use other lives simply as ladders, are  
not friends, or neighbors - but beast & prey -

- They see life only in terms of Rivalry, Competition, Struggle  
for Survival - "Nature ~~not~~ is tooth and claw"

- They do not know the higher law of Nature & Israel  
Justice, the law of Cooperation, of sharing & working  
for mutual security and mutual development

- It is only as you regard your life as important  
as your own - that you can be a friend - a  
part of it. - a part citizen - a part human  
being!



8/ It is only thru an association with others - that we can  
grow ethically and sp - And become truly religious. (5)

We are advised in Deut: - Not to be like the nations

"After the land has been sold shall go with it" How? - imitate God?

It is thru work for + in behalf of our N. - that we find  
the God in us - thru <sup>the righteous</sup> Justice, Love, compassion, forgiveness,  
charity - mercy - that we take the deep, refreshing sleep  
and draw ~~the~~ us joyously from the work / Sabbath.

9/ This is what our Prophets taught -

"He judged the cause, the poor and needy. Then it was well."  
"Is not this to know Me?" Says the Lord

As we identify our life with the life of all - our interest  
with the interest of all - our destiny with the destiny of all  
we rise to the highest level of our nature - and become  
truly mature human beings.

10/ As I come to understand that my N. is important to me  
and to my well-being - I will come to respect and  
defend his rights as I would my own!

I will not will wish to defraud him - I shan't harm  
him ~~to his harm~~, a desire evil against him, or harm him  
in my heart, a pride of myself against him, inward  
against in Sacred Writ -  
I will want to defend his rights - to fight for his



rights, to champion his cause when it is denied. 6

If he is in poverty, we want, in self-defense, in charity, -  
in misery, growing under the yoke of slavery - I would  
want to fight for him - to help him he dares.

~~I will not stand idly by the blood of my N<sup>o</sup>~~  
(5) For my in his freedom and I security free -  
and a his friend - human rights are made firmly secure  
as mine demand secure - Right, Man man rights, rights  
"When your N's house is afire your own property is at  
stake" (Hosea)

Common sense - Feudalism -

brother must also live. If you wish to live - you

11). My N. is not more important to I am -

~~I am not called~~ ~~to~~ ~~stand~~ ~~up~~ ~~for~~ ~~him~~ ~~when~~ ~~to~~ ~~make~~ ~~needless~~ ~~sacrifices~~ -

I must be free to criticize and correct my N.  
even as I am duty-bound to help him - even as he  
should feel free to admonish me.

= Human Rights (Pursuant to the Jewish Law)  
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But - we need each other  
we must feel with others as if they were ourselves -  
- President - Confessors - Tobit - Mahabharata - pari  
- others - 2nd/1st/16 - Jerome - Hillel - Jesus  
"we within the boundaries of what we regard as our own country"



"Desire nothing for yourself, which you do not desire for others" (7)

- Rubs out all intention - Byzantium - Rosicrucian - Things  
- cross anagrams - all anagrams in fore

12/ "Do others, or they will do you -

13/ כב אלמך בקצ"ה / למה - מ ע ו א מ נ ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת  
א ה ו י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת - א ה ו י א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת

14/ This is ד כ ו ח - Paganism - Slavery - Division / hated -  
Rule / Might -





It was a favourite saying of the Rabbis of Jabney: I am a creature (of God) and my neighbour is also His creature; my work is in the city and his in the field; I rise early to my work, and he rises early to his. As he cannot excel in my work, so I cannot excel in his work. But perhaps you say, I do great things, and he does small things. We have learnt that (it matters not whether) a man does much or little, if only he direct his heart to heaven.

