



## 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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Taking Stock of 1961, 1961.

TAKING STOCK OF 1961

DR. ABRA HILLEL SILVER

SUNDAY MORNING - December 30, 1961

The year 1961 was a dishevelled year politically speaking. It was full of sound and fury but it added up to little. No forward step was taken towards peace. There was much coming and going among the world's leaders. They shuttled between Paris, Vienna, Moscow, Washington, London and Bermuda but the net result was to sharpen differences and increase tensions. Not a single problem which was acute in 1960 was in any way solved or even mitigated in 1961 -- Cuba, Berlin, Laos, Vietnam, Algiers, the Congo. The last few weeks of 1961 added to the roster of the world's headaches, Goa and New Guinea. The hardening hostility between the East and the West was best symbolized by the Wall which was erected during the year across the city of Berlin. This wall, figuratively speaking, has been extended, enlarged and reinforced across the entire globe, and East and West are now more sharply separated and divided than ever before. The Allied statesmen seemed to be far apart on nearly all of the great issues.

The fear of atomic warfare increased immeasurably among people. In our own country, many of our citizens began to clamor for a national program of fallout shelters, for concrete umbrellas, as it were, against the rain-fall of poisonous radiation which would follow a thermonuclear war. The moratorium on nuclear bomb testing broke down completely when the Soviet Union broke off negotiations which were going on for a permanent ban on testing, and unilaterally resumed the explosion of powerful atomic bombs in the air -- some of them in the fifty megaton class.



The cumulative effect of all that has transpired was reflected most violently and damagingly in the United Nations. The successive acts of defiance of its authority, the cynical disregard of its injunctions by one or another of its constituent power blocs, the wilful and one-sided interpretation of the provisions of its charter by member nations whenever it suited their purposes, and the actual refusal of some member nations to pay their share of the cost of United Nations operations which had been voted, on the ground that they did not approve of the action taken, have rudely shaken, if not yet undermined, its foundations. The year closes as prophecies of doom are heard in many quarters: The United Nations is dying! The United Nations is rapidly going the way of the League of Nations. There are people who are even eager to ready its coffin and to write its epitaph. This is perhaps the saddest and most ominous note which was heard in last year's symphony of pessimism. For there is no substitute for the United Nations but anarchy and war. It was not long after the League of Nations broke down that the Second World War began.

Who was to blame? It would be simple, indeed, if one could put the accusing finger on a single culprit or two. But, in a sense, all the great powers were culpable. Our own government began the year with Cuba -- and that was a whopper! A political blunder of the first magnitude which was quickly followed by humiliating failure. The evil consequences of that rash act have pursued us in all the chancelleries of the world to this day, and the end is not yet. On the international scene, it gave the new administration a bad start. The close of the year saw us, the leader of the free world and the champion of democracy, flattering and praising Franco of Spain, who is



as ruthless a dictator as there is in the world today, and continuing to under-pin his regime with American dollars.

The Soviet government, under Krushchev, while officially extolling co-existence, in practice, proved to be no more cooperative and conciliatory than under Stalin and Molotov. It did its utmost during the year to hamstring and discredit the United Nations and to hound Haamerskjold out of office. It climaxed its acts of willfulness and contumely by resuming nuclear testing in defiance of the appeal which was addressed to it by the United Nations, and to continue to threaten the non-communist world with the ~~poix~~ first of one hundred megaton bombs. One gathered the impression that Khrushchev, powerful as he undoubtedly is, may not really be free to negotiate because of his critics and dogmatists at home and the undisguised opposition of Red China.

Great Britain -- and this is the testimony of Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, who quit in protest as United Nations Chief in Katanga, deliberately obstructed the effort of the United Nations to get the foreign mercenaries out of Katanga and encouraged Tshombes' efforts at secession from the Central Congo government. From British Rhodesia, military aid was sent to <sup>the</sup> Katanga government. Britain publicly threatened to withhold payments to the United Nations if it continued to use force against Katanga. In so doing, it threatened to follow the example of the Soviet Union which refused to contribute to the cost of the Congo operation because the United Nations would not employ force against Katanga. Neither Britain nor the Soviet Union were guided by principle in the position which they took, or by concern for the authority and prestige of the United Nations, but by their own financial or political interests.



The government of France, under DeGaulle, pursued its own nationalist, independent course in the matter of Berlin and refused to join with the other members of the Western alliance to open negotiations with the Soviet for the settlement of the Berlin problem and all the related issues.

Adenauer, in the face of all practical considerations, kept on pressing for a United Germany, and refused to recognize the very existence of East Germany. He would focus all Western diplomacy and the strategy of world peace on that one issue -- regardless of anything else.

And Nehru scuttled his self-righteous peace crusade and his self-assumed role of moral conscience of mankind by an act of military aggression in Goa, which blazingly revealed, for all to see, the true nature of the political neutralism which is practiced by some member nations of the United Nations. Khrushchev congratulated Mr. Nehru and the Soviet Union vetoed a resolution in the Security Council which would have asked India to withdraw her invading troops.

And culpable also is the now powerful fifty-nation African-Asian bloc -- which stands to gain most from a strong world organization, both as far as their ~~political~~ political defense and their social progress are concerned -- which did nothing to halt or even to express indignation at the Indian invasion of Portuguese Goa, and on several other occasions ~~had~~ placed group interests above world interest and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. For the Charter of the United Nations does not authorize the use of force to "liberate" any territories which nations may claim belong to them. Nor does any resolution of the United Nations, regardless of alleged justifications. There are peaceful means provided by the machinery of the United Nations for the settlement of all disputes and there are ways of enforcing them by the United Nations.



In the affairs of men and nations, there are moving tides and there are eddies and whirlpools. The latter, as a rule, are the more noticeable but less permanent. We have witnessed many distressing and perilous international vortices during the past year and they have alerted us to the dangers which are lurking in our world. But, we should not overlook the irresistible tides which are moving mankind forward to a better and juster day. The trends everywhere towards the social evolution of the less-developed peoples of the world, the concerted efforts which are being made to improve their standards of living, to lessen disease, illiteracy and poverty among them and to eradicate all discriminatory practices based on racial inequality, the movements to help nations to self-government are continuous and unmistakable. They cannot be measured in terms of a single year, or even a single decade or generation. These forward-moving deep-channeled rivers are not free of dangerous rapids and cataracts. Some of the newly established independent and sovereign states are not at all ready for self-government. They are torn by tribal rivalries and beset by illiteracy and superstition. The Dark African continent will not become bright and transformed into a world of exemplary free and peaceful states in a generation, nor will the unchanging East change over-night and adopt Western concepts and institutions of democracy. You can telescope time and pressure-cook a civilization -- only up to a certain point. But history does not always wait upon the ripe and favorable moment, and the gradual and bloodless evolution of nations is a rather rare phenomenon. These peoples of Africa will have to acquire the art of self-government the hard way. But the tides are ~~moving~~, nevertheless, moving on and no one can stop them.



In spite of all difficulties, the free world is not only holding its own, but is moving forward. It is consolidating. While on the surface the free nations are in disagreement on techniques and procedures in relation to this or that issue, a centripetal force is at work in the democratic world. A cheering evidence of this truth is to be found in the successful and expanding European Common Market, which now embraces six continental countries, but which may soon embrace also Britain, Norway and Denmark, and in time may include in a working arrangement also the United States, as well as Canada and other members of the British Commonwealth. This economic union will soon encompass hundreds of millions of people and will constitute the largest <sup>single</sup> market on earth. It is not unwarranted to hope for a growing political integration of the free world as a consequence of this economic integration.

Another evidence of the strong tides that are moving is the Alliance for Progress which was launched last year. It is a ten-year plan of economic aid for Latin America to which the United States committed itself to contribute a billion dollars annually to help their people to a better life, to better homes, more work, more land, better health and more and better schools. This is conditioned upon certain minimal economic reforms which the governments of the Latin-American countries have committed themselves to introduce.

The efforts of our government to come closer to the peoples of Latin-America, the friendship visits of our Vice-President and Mr. Adlai Stevenson, head of our delegation to the United Nations -- to some of the South African countries, and more recently the visit of President Kennedy to Caracas and Bogota, were intended to undergird this Alliance for Progress and, as such, they were far-sighted steps and very beneficial. We could not but applaud the forthright manner of approach of the President of the United States, the honest acknowledgment of past mistakes, the sincere desire, evidenced in concrete acts of assistance



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There were episodes in our own South during the year, such as the arrest of Freedom Riders and other anti-Negro demonstrations which continued to focus attention on the prime unsolved problem of American democracy. But, below the surface eddies of these conflicts and acts of resistance, the irresistible rivers were moving on in their deep channels. School integration went on, even if the pace was slow. In interstate transportation, in restaurants, in employment, <sup>in the right to register to vote</sup> and in the matter of restricted neighborhoods, progress was made. As long as our government will stand <sup>squarely</sup> ~~actively~~ behind all measures of Civil Rights, progress will be made. Racial and religious intolerance dies hard -- even in such countries like the Soviet Union, which never misses an opportunity to denounce us for our share of it.

The Peace Corps, which was established during 1961, belongs to these same on-moving tides. This was not a monumental contribution but it should not be ignored. ~~Perhaps it is to be likened to the grain of mustard-seed in the ancient parable, the mustard seed which is the smallest of all seeds, but when it is grown it becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and make their nests in its branches -- or~~ perhaps it is to be likened to that little cloud, the size of a man's hand, rising out of the sea, which announced to Elijah, the prophet, that the years of severe drought were about to end, and that the heavens would soon grow black with cloud and wind, and the great and blessed rain would descend upon the land.



The Peace Corps proposal was a new note! It was a clarion call to men to come to the aid of their fellow-men in need of that aid in other parts of the world, by-passing all politics, all ideologies, by-passing the cold war. Not to destroy communism or to save democracy, only to help other human beings, men and women and children, the under-privileged of the earth, the timeless victims of ignorance and disease and poverty, to help them to help themselves -- what a noble call that is to the human spirit -- and how truly responsive it is to the best in our proud American tradition.

Another event in 1961 which attracted world-wide attention was the trial of Adolf Eichmann. From the moment of his apprehension and throughout the lengthy trial and the months which preceded the verdict of the court, I refused to make any public comments, although I was frequently asked to express an opinion on one or another of its phases. I saw no reason for doing so. That Eichmann should have been brought to trial, no reasonable man could question. Hundreds of other men, charged with crimes committed during the Second World War, had been brought to trial in Allied countries and were sentenced, some to prison terms, others to death. The Western Allies tried some twenty thousand Nazis as war criminals.

Our own country participated in the famous Nurenberg trials where eleven of the foremost Nazi leaders and military men were tried for crimes committed against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity and were sentenced to death. The defendants were tried and convicted, according to the text of <sup>the</sup> indictment, not alone for crimes against peace and for war crimes, but for crimes committed against humanity, both within Germany and within occupied territories, including murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation



and other inhumane acts committed against civilian populations before and during the war, and persecution on political, racial or religious grounds." These Nazi crimes against humanity <sup>were</sup> spelled out in great detail and documented <sup>in the indictment</sup>. They were carried out by devious means, including shooting, hanging, gassing, starvation....kickings, beatings, brutality and torture of all kinds....and the performance of experiments by means of operations and otherwise on living human subjects....They conducted deliberate and systematic genocide, viz:"They extermination of racial and national groups." In this connection, it is proper to <sup>reveal</sup> ~~reveal~~ that the infamous Julius Streicher was sentenced by the International Military Tribunal and hanged on <sup>this</sup> ~~the~~ one count of the indictment -- crimes against humanity. Unlike Eichmann, he did not himself carry out the Nazi program for annihilating the Jewish race, but as "Jew-baiter, Number One" of Germany, he incited the German people to active persecution of the Jews and to bring about their extermination." He infected the German mind with the virus of anti-Semitism by his <sup>speeches</sup> ~~speeches~~ and articles, week after week, month after month. In other trials conducted by the United States at Nuremberg, sixteen hundred and seventy two Nazis faced the courts, two hundred and fifty-eight were executed, two hundred and nineteen received life sentences and eight hundred and seventy got prison terms of up to twenty years, three hundred and twenty-five were acquitted. I was certain that Eichmann, who was known to have been directly responsible for carrying out Hitler's criminal program of extermination <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ all Jews -- the program of the so-called "final settlement" of the Jewish question -- would receive a fair trial at the hands of an Israeli court.



Before all the evidence was presented in court, before the defense had been fully heard and the verdict of the Judges rendered, what was there to say?

And now that the almost unbelievable story of human cruelty and depravity unmatched in the annals of mankind has been finally told and recorded in testimony, which was presented during more than sixteen weeks, now that the accused's defense and self-exculpation during four weeks on the stand has been heard, and the complete story and sifting of the evidence of one hundred witnesses and fourteen hundred documents by the Judges has been given to the world, and their unanimous verdict of guilt announced, what is there to say other than what the whole world is saying *that* the trial was eminently fair, and the verdict just. Even the government of West Germany has voiced its approval.

Here and there a voice is raised, not in defense of Eichmann's innocence, but in mitigation of the death sentence. I can understand it, if the argument is made by those who are opposed on principle to capital punishment. I cannot understand it when it is argued that death is too good for Eichmann, that he should be allowed to live and suffer, perhaps in life-long solitary confinement, to reflect upon and to expiate for his crimes and so that he may serve as an example and warning. This is a form of Sadism which, I believe, is repugnant to civilized man. Some have maintained that life-imprisonment, rather than the death sentence would be good public relations, a noble gesture. Perhaps. But that was not the task of the Judges. They were charged with the responsibility of declaring the guilt or innocence of the accused and whether there were any extenuating circumstances to warrant leniency. They found none. Clemency rests with the President of the State of Israel -- to whom an appeal for clemency by the convicted Eichmann has not yet been made.

What of 1962?



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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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*What of 1962? I am not a prophet. But I would give my fellow-Americans ten words of counsel for the tense days which lie ahead.*



WHAT  
The ~~Temple~~ CONFUCIUS CAN TEACH  
~~THE~~ MODERN MAN

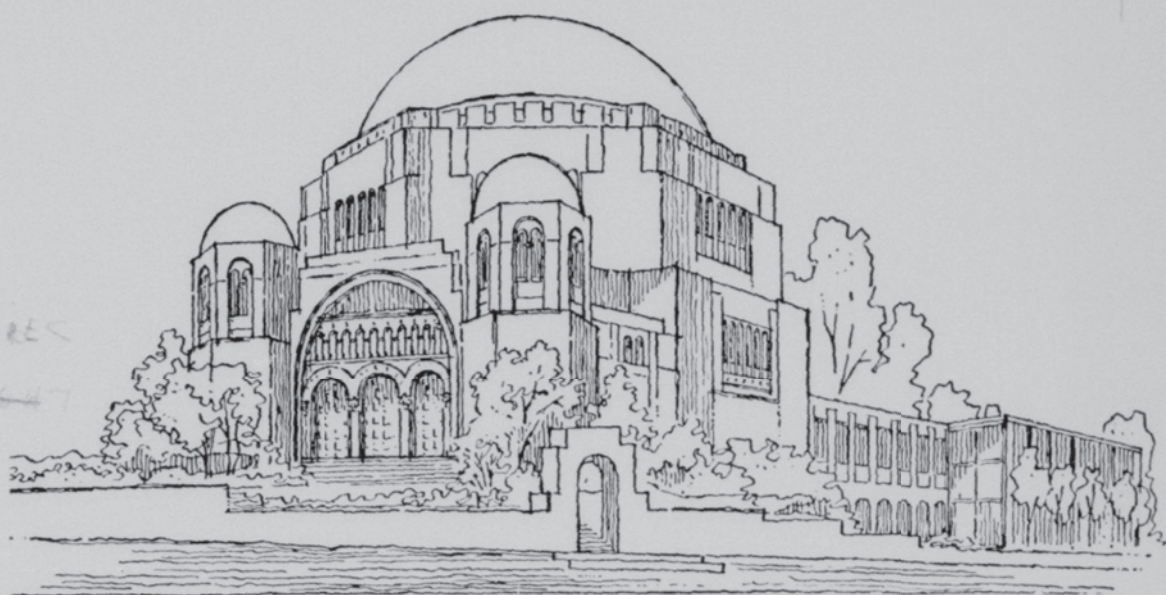
## THE TEMPLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

December 31, 1961

Vol. XLVIII No. 12

LECTURE  
THE FIRST OF A SERIES  
ON THE TRUTHS TAUGHT  
ON LESSONS FOR US TAUGHT  
BY THE GREATS OF  
OTHER FAITHS



## THE UNITED NATIONS FACES THE NEW YEAR—FROM THE RABBIS' DESK

Goa falls. New Delhi calls it liberation. The world labels it aggression. Whatever term we apply, it is all very sad. India's role as a peace maker had become a powerful one. Like Ghandi's fasts, Nehru's preachments goaded the lagging conscience of the world. But those who preach patience and arbitration must have patience and must be willing to arbitrate. A minister caught with his hand in the charity box may still mount his pulpit, but his words are empty of effect. India will be heard but no longer heeded.

My concern at this moment is not India's tarnished reputation but the United Nations' troubled future. India's philosophy of non-violence and her psychology of patience go to the heart of the United Nations' purpose, and these are now suspect.

The Indian debacle comes at a time when the world body is beset by serious financial crisis, the Russian troika, and Katanga. The United Nations stands at the crossroads. A decision will soon be made. Either it will become a powerful agency of international law and order, or it will become a political platform of pious exculpation and apologetics. The world did not create the United Nations to be an international debating society. Let us be clear, however, on this—if the United Nations becomes an empty shell India alone will not be at fault. For some time now France, Belgium, Russia, not to mention many lesser governments, have refused to pay their obligations. The more encouraging a

United Nations program, the more certain powers refuse to abide its authority.

What now? Our own government ought not underwrite unilaterally the world body's operations. Every nation must recognize its crucial role. Every nation must pay its share. We can be helpful by insisting that our allies adopt a more generous and whole-hearted attitude. One is staggered to realize that half our NATO compatriots either no longer contribute or threaten not to contribute.

Perhaps it would be wise to convene an international body to amend the United Nations charter. We need not accept the troika or the reasoning

behind it to recognize that the organization requires streamlining and administrative adjustment. The secretariat is cumbersome and has too little power. The method of financial apportionment needs overhauling. Such a convention might increase effectiveness and remind the governments of the world that the people of the world count heavily on the world body and feel that its work is vital and urgent.

A new year begins. It will be a fateful period for the United Nations. In it this body will become either an empty sounding board or a sound and stable agency for peace. Our prayers and our hopes go with it.

*Daniel Jeremy Silver*

### SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

December 31, 1961

10:30 o'clock

### RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

will speak on

### TAKING STOCK OF 1961

Rabbi Silver will again give, this year, his customary review of the past year.

#### FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES

5:30 TO 6:10

#### SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES

11:00 TO 12:00



## The Temple

### Rabbis:

ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

### Associate Rabbi:

MILTON MATZ

### Staff:

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EDWARD D. FRIEDMAN.....Associate Treasurer

## THIS SUNDAY

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Meldon will be hosts for the Social Hall coffee hour preceding the worship service. Mr. Meldon is a member of The Temple Board of Trustees.

The flowers which will grace the pulpit are contributed in memory of William B. Cohen, by his wife and children.

## CHAPEL FLOWERS

The flowers which will grace the Chapel on Friday evening, January 5th, are contributed in memory of mother, Julia Guthoff, by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jacobson and family and Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Guthoff and family.

## THE TEMPLE

## HOMECOMING

Welcome home! This Sunday, December 31st, The Temple will welcome Confirmands who are attending colleges and universities throughout the land. Participating in the worship service will be: Adrienne Meldon, Ohio State University; Helene Coblitz, Kent State University; Andrew Jarmel, Miami University; Alan Samuels, University of Michigan; Marlene Gilman, University of Pittsburgh; and Richard Kotz, University of Pennsylvania.

Following the service, a luncheon get-together has been planned, to be held in the Social Hall. Temple friendships will be resumed around the luncheon table. Assisting as hosts and hostesses are: Jeffrey Bauman, Miami University, Victoria Bernardi, Western Reserve University, Paula Bloch, Western Reserve University, Gerald Chattman, University of Michigan, Ellen Eisner, Syracuse University, Stephen Evans, University of Wisconsin, Jared Faulb, Miami University, Laura Goodman, Russel Sage College, John Gross, University of Pennsylvania, Leslee Koffler, Michigan State College, Philip Kranz, Ohio State University, Brian Lurie, Lafayette College, Gail Malevan, Duke University, Adrienne Meldon, Ohio State University, Cathy Morse, University of Pittsburgh, Richard Sampliner, Yale University, Naomi Saslaw, University of Michigan, Paul Schultz, Miami University, Pamela Silverman, Western Reserve University, Paula Silverman, Western Reserve University, Howard Sperber, Miami University, Jim Spira, Hobart College, Patricia Steuer, University of Miami, Joel Sugarman, Miami University, Barbara Victor, University of Michigan, and Barry Pomerantz.

Welcome home! We are looking forward to visiting with the collegians and being brought up to date on their doings.

## THE TEMPLE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

## MEETING

Wednesday, January 10, 1962

Luntz Auditorium

"RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN METROPOLITAN SCHOOL SYSTEM"

Talk by

DR. WILLIAM B. LEVENSON  
Superintendent of Cleveland Public Schools

Petite Luncheon

12:30 P.M.

Social Hall

Nursery Care Available

Admission by Membership Card

Guests \$1.00



THE TEMPLE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

"OUR SOUND OF MUSIC"

A CONCERT

Starring



Richard Tucker  
Metropolitan Opera Star



Vronsky & Babin  
Duo-Pianists

Tuesday Evening, April 10, 1962 8:30 P.M.

Severance Hall

Proceeds will be used to redecorate and beautify our Temple Sanctuary  
Mrs. Sydney N. Galvin and Mrs. Merrill D. Gross, Co-Chairmen

THE TEMPLE MEN'S CLUB

ANNUAL FAMILY DAY

The Temple Men's Club will feature an exhibition of the creative art talents of its members at the annual Men's Club Family Day at The Temple on Sunday, January 21, 1962.

All members who wish to display their paintings, sculptures, photography, enamels and other works of art are requested to contact Stan Morganstern at SK 1-7590, or Stan Kramer at SK 2-3137. All exhibits must be in perfect showing condition.



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## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sunday, December 31 — Sunday Morning Services  
Collegiate Homecoming and Luncheon
- Tuesday, January 2 — Temple Women's Association Tuesday Activities
- Sunday, January 7 — Sunday Morning Services

**THE TEMPLE LIBRARY** is open Tuesday through Friday 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon, and Sunday 9:00 A.M. to 10:30 and at the close of Sunday morning worship.

**THE TEMPLE MUSEUM** will be open at the close of Sunday morning services in addition to all occasions of organization meetings. Arrangements to view the Museum by special appointment may be made through The Temple office.

**THE ISRAELI GIFT SHOP** is open during all Tuesday Activities sessions. Selections can be made at all times from the display case in the lobby through The Temple office.