



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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Passover Sermon, 1942.

1. P. commemorates the most decisive moment in J. history - the Exodus.
Every thing dates from it, almost every thing is referable back to it.
- marks our beg. as a people. Before Egypt strikes the Patriarchal
period - when Israel was no more a small family group, a
nomadic clan - 70 souls - After 430 yrs. we have Eg.
a people - 600,000 souls - in the 3rd stage of history
- marks our national birth - our return to Palastine a con-
quering people.
- marks also, in a real sense, the beg. among J. Judaism, in which
Abraham was the first to worship the one God, it was Moses
who gave body to the faith and a law and a code which
became the basis, the religious discipline, ritual and ethics
which are Judaism.
- Our 3 major festivals are Passover / Sukkot / Shavuot - also the Sabbath
Shabbat / Yom Kippur / Tisha B'Shvat - "the first, the
holy convocations, in remembrance, the departure from Egypt"
- the supreme proof for Existence of God: with gratitude as reason
- the supreme warrant for the moral living: "Ye shall not oppress the
stranger..."

2. There are several facts to this Festival

- (a) Political - Freedom - First Revolution - First attack upon
national enslavement - a great empire found it to its
advantage to subjugate Israel a small people & subject to
build its cities & palaces - all manner of servitude
physical & psychic degradation - Tax - work - Extermination
It - 4000 yrs ago - How recent contemp. it all appears
(Hitler)

- Lesson - Slavery cannot last - Revolt - Leader -
- P. is triumph; these ideals of liberty - for which world is fighting to day - always -
- Seal of U.S. - "Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God"
- Moses the Emancipator is the eternal adversary of all tyrants
- Properly Thomas Paine's maxim - ~~God is the author of our rights~~

(a) Religious significance - God's intervention - "God heard - crying God remembered the covenant - God saw the suffering. God summons Moses - burning bush - "Come and I will send thee to Pharaoh" - God in name of God - Semites - Open Red Sea - unifying force demonstrated

most compelling proof - Experience - (1) Existence (2) Great Nation (3) Chosen - Redeemed in some great purpose - Revealed most clearly at Sinai

"Ye have seen that which I did to the Eg. Then I carried you on the eagle's wings - and brought ye near unto me. And now if ye will hearken unto my voice and keep my covenant - then ye shall be my chosen people from among the nations.. & ye shall be unto me a Kingdom of priests and a holy nation" - all other nations idolaters

- Exodus led Israel to God and to the mission of being first in the world =

- Eternal war upon Paganism, idolatry =

(c) Ethical significance - Slaves - suffering -

3) אנו לא יכולים להיות אנונימיים. אנו לא יכולים להיות אנונימיים אנו לא יכולים להיות אנונימיים

Jews demand compensation - sympathy with suffering mankind

Transferred into חולל - most sensitive - not only my Egypt - we vibrate to human needs. Prophetic

Our sons - vanguard - champion human rights.

אנו לא יכולים להיות אנונימיים = charity.

Exodus - struggle was upon injustice - oppression -
Exploitation

3) Passover, thus, is a glorious exaltation of the Unchained Man.
It is battle cry against Pol. Tyranny - Pagan idolatry -
and Economic Wrong.

It is Pol. Rel. & Ethical Freedom

As surely to day - as on first day after Red Sea
- Pass thru Red Sea 7 Black

= אנו לא יכולים להיות אנונימיים