



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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New Year, circa 1930s.

RH*1

1. The People of Israel approach - The past year - The pestilence - The catastrophe - Nevertheless such is a year ago - To-night they are prosperous - To-night a year ago, honored, prosperous - To-night they find themselves -

2. Were we a people unaccustomed - But we are an ancient people inured - "Sufferance" and so is durability - For Hitler and the Nazis - we count - we stretch - And our ancient wisdom has taught - How often - sought refuge (Quote Is. 41.8) - this prophecy and promise have held good 27 centuries - So that though our hearts are weighted - yield to mood - Rather as we feel the message - roll - drink deep

3. We shall do more - Bitter experiences - The deadliest poisons - If we inquire assiduously we may derive many wholesome - latest act - classic drama "Israel among the Nations".

4. First of all we shall be instructed by our study of the situation that what we are witnessing - only a scene, an episode - The curtain - The tale has not yet been fully told - Scenes and actions move very rapidly - surprises possible - In fact the least expected - Nothing is so certain as change - Hitler's Germany - a black and ugly interlude - and only another painful incident in the immortal life-epic When I consider - morbid, pol. and social aberration Therefore the first lesson for us children of a race which was old - is to remain solemnly imperturbable - strong, patient and unafraid - to guide ourselves compass - outside the storm -

5. Our second lesson is not to yield to helpless anger - to impotent rage - Bad - Plays havoc with one's critical faculties - sense of balance and proportion - distorts and discolours one's entire outlook -

We must meet the Nazi menace with intelligent action
We must continue to present our just cause tribunal
Our first attempts - Continue to arouse conscience
iniquities - menace to peace - we have friends -
We shall demand action from the League of Nations
- pledged - Hitler - ~~at~~ cut - changed status - As such -
there are German minorities - we have friends
in the League - Germany has alienated

Above all we must continue to bring the utmost pressure to bear - Economic Boycott - by refusing to buy - patronize - until - In this all freedom-loving - regardless of race or creed - This is moral action in self-defence - The Jew who buys - the Jewish merchant or manufacturer - uncovers crisis enemy - bereft of all sense of dignity and self-respect.

6. Along these lines of intelligent action we must proceed -
Let us bear in mind that Ger-jew. problem is not a problem in relief and philanthropy - Primarily it is a Political problem - We must help, of-course - And in this connection let it be said. response far from magnanimous -

But the Ger-jew. problem cannot be solved by charity even if it were ten times - Not victims - Victims of system of hostile and discriminatory legislation - Charity can be of no help here - Laws must be - Regime - Poisonous anti-jew. propaganda - Situation requires political & philar leaders and huge welfare fund - to carry on pol. activity -
- I wish that the Jews of Cleveland - would envisage Baffled - obtuseness - girding - sole task is maintenance

→ They do not grasp the fact that basic J. problems are international in scope - farflung as are the habitations - and require an intern. program, strategy & org. - There is a call to-day for J. intelligence to apply - world-wide J. problems - antisem. etc. - we dare no longer be provincial - limit - J. Social Service or congregat.

7. A third lesson which we might learn is to relate see the Ger. Jew. problem in its true setting, to relate it - We may take it as an axiom - reaction By reaction - Strong Nationalism - (Abbott) "Israel in Europe" - The new nationalism which arose 1848 deprive - The strong nat. Franco-Russian - and the nat. chauvinism - rampant - The spirit of egotistical, arrogant and belligerent - fructified - The dream - A crime - tribute - To call a man - blackest infamy.
- The youth of the World is no longer taught - Therefore uniform -
- They can no longer get the masses - greed-fascinating myths
- In a world of such intolerant nationalism allied with Oryan racialism - Jew is hopelessly the logic of such a pol. philos. is to regard - an alien.
- Therefore we must see clearly that the fortunes of J. are everywhere tied up - liberalism - and Internat.
- Renan - We should not reject appellation hee. of temporary expediency - We are international.
- Nat. is the highest type of Nat - Only a buffer.
- Int. is predicated - submitting to the higher law
- Militarists are everywhere super-nationalists and the enemies of inter. cooperation.
- That is another reason why Jew should oppose war is a curse - we have little else 1913

→ liberalism - democracy - humanism - ^{Peace} have fallen on evil days -
Force - monopoly - These are dark days - darker -
middle ages -

But the March of Human Progress - The future
hate, tyranny and discord - to reasonable life -

→ Our destiny is linked up with these ideals. It
is ∴ the part of enlightened self-interest if nothing
else for the Jew to champion - ~~When Hitler denounces~~
~~let us not go galloping with the pack!~~ Sacred and
holy mission - preach - distract and mislead
eternally true and enduring ideals - of Int. Brotherhood
and Peace -

8. And this is the last lesson which we can learn from the
events in Ger. - The utter futility of trying to build the
security of our lives - self-alnegation & assimilation.

→ What good - out-germaned the Teutons - comp. degraded
repected the heritage - refused sp. sustenance of his
faith and traditions.

→ His self-alnegation neither beguiled nor appeased his Enemy.
And he was made to suffer for what - acknowledged as held dear
Double Trapeedy - There is grandeur & sp. compensation
- aura of martyrdom about such heroic suffer -
But to be made to suffer for what - repected, denied
humiliating and destroying

→ The Jew who died in the cruelth of Crusades - or at hand
- His feel and belief

But what comfort was there for their descendants -
faithless to Israel - who suddenly found his flung
from their positions - driven to want or expect
suicide -

→ The record of J. suicides is harrowing - In the whole
history - no record of faithful Jews - destroyed as
despised them - defeated - These Jews did not
place their souls and their destinies in alien

hands. They knew how to meet misfortune - slings
They did not collapse spir. when hostile pnt.

Confiscated - ex. l. - They had other resources -
survive and await dawn of better day.

9. In all this there is Providential reminder to Jews
everywhere to return to their own sp. homes and
their own pre. sides → we must live as Jews in
the world whether we like it or not → we cannot
win pol. or econ. security - or good-will by obliterating
we shall have to fight.

→ we must: strengthen our forces - increase our
powers of defense, fortify our children - for their
mentality of life and destiny -

→ we must upbuild a great pol. and cultural
center in Pal. to which those who are driven
- a home for our race -

→ all this does not mean to isolate - segregate -

- make our position in the world clearer and
less equivocal - share in the life - perform our duties - in our country
It is to meet the world on

our own terms - as we have ~~at~~ done in the past -
and to make our progress or suffer our reverses
as self-conscious and self-respecting Jews.

10. And so we face the New Year - calm and unafraid:

and as our life is the song of the Psalmist

"The Lord is my light and my Salvation. When
need I fear

The Lord is the strength, my life - of whom
need I be afraid"

אני לא אפחד מפני ה' - ה' הוא אורי וישועתי

year?

Writing a quarter of a century ago, George Frederick Abbot declared: "*Israel in Europe*"

"Nationalism more than any other cause has helped to bring discredit upon the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity."

Renan, political critic and friend of the Jews, remarked long ago:

"Every Jew is essentially a Liberal, while the enemies of Judaism, examined closely, will be found to be generally the enemies of the modern spirit."

But thou, Israel, My servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
The seed of Abraham My friend;
Thou whom I have taken hold of
from the ends of the earth,
And called thee from the uttermost
parts thereof,
And said unto thee: 'Thou art My servant,
I have chosen thee and not cast thee away':
Fear thou not, for I am with thee,
Be not dismayed, for I am thy God;
I strengthen thee, yea, I help thee;
Yea, I uphold thee with My victorious right hand.
Behold, all they that were incensed against thee
Shall be ashamed and confounded;
They that strove with thee
Shall be as nothing, and shall perish.
Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them,
Even them that contended with thee;
They that warred against thee
Shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.
For I the Lord thy God
Hold thy right hand,
Who say unto thee: 'Fear not, I help thee.'