



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.

Reel
168

Box
61

Folder
1094

New Year, 1926.

There is ^{an} ~~another~~ ^{among many} blessing which I would wish for you - ^{on this New Year's day} the blessing of the helpful life. I pray that your life in the coming year may count ^{even} ~~more~~ more vitally in the lives of other men.

In and for ourselves we are as a grain of dust in the balance. Our beauty and our strength and our pride are soon lowered into the grave. I recall the inscription which I read one day on a small tablet in the British Museum. It had been excavated from some ancient ruin. At its base was a reclining skeleton and above was this inscription: ~~in Greek~~: "Tell me, friend, if you can, whether he who reclines here was once an handsome youth or an ugly clown." Death completely obliterates our little selves but never our social selves. The meaning and significance of our lives which find ^{opportunity} in allegiance to great causes, in service to ~~no~~ ^{noble} ideals, in helpfulness, are treasured forever in the onward sweep of these causes and ideals, and in the unending influence of such helpfulness.

Human life is a cooperative experiment and personal development is a social achievement. No man can improve himself solely through his own resources. We require the outer stimuli and the impressions of other men for our growth. It takes the best in our neighbor to bring out the best in us. Hence the whole of human progress depends upon the readiness of men to select only such objectives in life as will lead to ^{mutual stimulation} ~~the common weal~~.

One serves truly who serves throughout his life and in all the manifold contacts of his life seeks to be helpful, ministrant in a quiet inoffensive way. This is my ~~second~~ ^{second} blessing.

Service is often misunderstood. To serve our fellowmen has for some become merely a formal exercise in benevolence, a way of escaping the ^{boredom} ~~burden~~ of idleness, or an outlet for unsatisfied personal cravings. The creed of service has been long preached in our land, but seldom critically practiced

Or profoundly understood. To help the needy is service, to be sure, but only the first stage in service. The next step and the next is *the fashioning* of one's entire career, ~~not~~ the spare hours or the surplus energy - but one's whole essential life, so that it will count in the lives of other men for *growth and advancement.*
~~ex~~ ~~and stimulation.~~

One is not a servant of society who is *predatory* in his business and philanthropic in his leisure. One does not serve who is an egoist in his private life and an altruist in his public life. One serves truly only who throughout his life and in all the manifold contacts of his life seeks to be helpful ^{and} ministrant in a quiet *patient,* inoffensive way. ~~This is~~
~~my second blessing.~~



1. I greet you, friends, to-night - May you - Travellers
2. We wish each other many blessings - long life... Albert.
- perhaps better so.
3. But there are other blessings which we might. The Proferred Life -
- we pray - It is beyond our power - rigid phy. regimen - 35 cor.
- the measure set - But if we cannot - horizontally -
4. Let me illustrate my thought - Think of 2 Travellers -
5. Any fact of nature - A man lives longer in a thatful -
6. Again as we seek to penetrate - we also increase - worlds -
- A man as the sheet - A friend - A Tree - It is not
sermons - It makes me sad -
7. This mental and spiritual life-extension - infinite - no
limits - to, true - Something truly awe-inspiring -
8. And how few of us are aware - pre-occupied - The real
tragedy - like beggar - We have 1000 words - bagatelle -
9. Think of the days we waste - trivialisations - Take stock -
pebbles - In this age - study - methods of economy -
10. We do try to stretch ourselves physically - English Channel
- if we were just as eager - This is first blessing.

11. 2 Blessing - The Helpful life - count -
- For and for ourselves - our beauty - British Museum -
- health completely obliterated - The meaning.
12. Human life is a cooperative experiment - no man -
we require - It takes the best - Hence -
13. I am speaking now of Service - but service is often misunderstood.
- To serve our fellowman - (personal benevolence) - The
Goal - To help the needy -
14. One is not a servant of money, who is predatory -
-
15. 3 Blessing - The Courageous Life - What a rare quality -
- Trials - no escape - must not give way - Man's
estate -
16. I know the anguish, the beamed heart -
- I bring to the new year only a broken heart -
17. And I can hear the bruised spirit, one who
had been beaten - I bring - only my shame + defeat
- drift -
18. Both, then, the sorrow-laden and the dream-denied -
are surrendering - Have forgotten man's highest
loyalty - Had man yielded to his sorrows -
19. If the new year cannot give to the beamed - Perhaps
20. And if the new year cannot give - promise victory -

21. And lastly - The Religious life - a year full of reverence -
- I am thinking - customs - preachers - the full, strong
faith - daily recreated - in living presence -
22. I would not have you think of your faith - personal ally -
- of your Judaism - to think of it - If you faith -
more eminent - If you historic faith - richly -
23. I would wish you a deep, not-reaching, rel. life -
the blessing, walking - ceremonious - sublime confidence
which comes to those who know - presence.

