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Raising the Banners High, New Year, 1937.

ABSTRACT OF ADDRESS DELIVERED BY RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER AT THE TEMPLE, ANSEL ROAD AND EAST 105TH STREET ON NEW YEAR'S EVE., SEPTEMBER 5, 1937.

RAISING
LIFTING OUR BANNERS HIGH

It is characteristic of every settled culture that it produces an effective code of conduct for people which they accept as a matter of course. It is the moral atmosphere which they breathe as naturally as the air about them. For the average man this settled and accepted norm of conduct is the greatest boon. It sustains and directs him. The lives of most men are held together by social routine, by a social mechanism which keeps their lives from falling apart.

Unfortunately for our age it has no longer any recognized and universally accepted code of conduct. There is not a single moral concept in our private or public life which is accepted axiomatically by everyone. Every moral section of the past is the subject of bitter controversy and negation. Among organized groups, classes and governments, this is particularly true. Governments, for ~~example~~ example, which should be the natural sources of moral guidance and authority for their citizens, are today polluted cesspools of moral iniquity. Governments, particularly dictatorships, are today confounding the moral lives of their people by the examples which they set of cynicism, opportunism, terrorism, broken pledges and piracy.

The great religious festival of New Years is a summons to every man to raise his own standard high in the midst of a world of darkling confusion and apostasy - the clean, bright standard of his own faith in the things he believes in, by which he is ready to live and for which he is willing to die.

"In the place where there are no men, strive thou to be a man." Regardless of the heathen raging and the folly and crimes of the mass or the class or the government, the individual man is admonished by the spirit of our Holy Day to abide in faith until the madness passes, to do that which is nearest to him, courageously, according to the unyielding rule of the Law of the Spirit.

He is to square his own conduct by the gage of this law, and, by so doing, he will help to regenerate the whole world.

As the Hand of God shuts the portals of the old year and opens the gates of the new, we are admonished to remember on this Day of Remembrance that there is no peace or satisfaction in the world except for those who believe in the spiritual inner structure of all things and in the spiritual design of existence and who fashion their lives accordingly.

We are on the eve of Labor Day. We are reminded of the past year and its labor history of bitter and bloody strikes in which the law of the land and the laws of economic justice were disregarded and violently resisted. What free nation can long survive such large scale disorders, such forceful attempts to achieve the ends desired by labor and the counter attempts to frustrate them? Our social morality broke down in the face of a major industrial problem. Like bullies we found ourselves resorting to clubs, machine guns and tear gas instead of resorting to the civilized and democratic methods of conference, concession and compromise.

Must peoples go through the hell of revolution, the loss of all freedom and the agony of dictatorship before they will learn to raise the standard of industrial justice and peace in their midst and give unto all men an equitable share in the wealth which a nation produces?

Sept. 1936 7. RH-37

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

By
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

Unto all the Jews of Cleveland I send my warmest greetings and best wishes for the coming year. May it bring to all of us renewed hope, courage, faith and the realization of those wishes which will contribute to our contentment and peace.

This season is replete with deep spiritual meaning. The loftiest sentiments of our faith echo through the sacred rituals of the Holy Days. May our inner lives be illumined and our spirits exalted by the great days ahead of us.

The new year finds the Jewish people still in the midst of many serious trials and crises. The road ahead is neither clear nor straight. Large Jewish communities throughout the world still find themselves in the midst of great want and severe persecution. Tens of thousands more will have to emigrate from their present homes in quest of refuge elsewhere. May we be strengthened in our sense of Jewish loyalty and solidarity so that we may do our utmost to relieve the stress at home and abroad and to give new hope to those who walk in darkness.

As we pray for ourselves, may we also resolve to sacrifice for others.

Le Shono Tovo!

RH-37

1/ Rel., in its profoundest sense, - obedience

2/ In the world of animal life - There -
Animals are not aware - claw-fang
No wrong-doing - not conscious of sin
In many ways, Man, - vice -
Lives by -

But bec. man is more > another set

3/ At times man forgets -
Human beings, all too frequently, -
- blinded - outdo -
Man's capacity - sadism -
Therefore Religion - signs - rituals -
banners -

4/ Just such a banner
Its sole purpose -
A period - Law & Judgment
R. H. is the 130 ph - Animal world -
This sp. Law is defined
Live up to it - Fall ~~to~~ short -
It is only - denies

5/ It is the characteristic
this norm - universally recognized -
enforced -
At times -
For most people - routine -
Only rare few - cement of social standards

6/ Unfortunately -
All of us - chaotic confusion
Not a single - receives univ. sanction
marriage etc.
Every moral precept - rules - standards - subject
It is not - observed - Org. groups -
Govts, which should - polluted
By their moral laxities etc - confounding
Particularly true of absolutists -
But because -
There is not a democ. country -

7/ The lamentable absence - indignation
any accommodation - rehabilitation -
Ethiopia - Japan -
Spain - Nazis -

"That it should come to this -

"Within a month, you get the salt of
"most unrighteous tears had left the",
"flushing of her galled eyes, she wept"

8/ This banishment

Nations - carried along - currents
One feels like crying out -

Must the world be blasted - God's law -
shamers - law of sophistries - Exalt
reign supreme - chancellors

9/ We are on eve of Labor Day.

What free nation -

Our social morality - like bullocks -

Must peoples - hell of revolution

10/ Not like -

Our generation is failing to lift -

11/ R. H. is 125 pl - ¹²⁵sp. order - children of God
" is 512 pl - raise the standard -

"Let us raise a standard to which the
wise and honest can repair; the rest
is in the hands of God"

"You cannot choose your battlefield"

"The gods do that for you -"

"But you can plant a standard
Where a standard never flew"

17. pld p 1712 - In pestibutrial
Regardus - mass - do that waent
regenerate

Square your own conduct - one
refuge

Be ready to charge in earnest -
battle not lost

Living Fortness of Sp. Resistance - Involute -

17. My friends - Hand of God - portals -

There is no peace in the world - see God

no satisfaction -

May much peace + satisfaction / Germany

[illegible]

It is only when a man denies the very existence of the
sp. world and accepts no code but on sp. prohibitions that
he is lost and doomed. ^{This adherence to a Moral Law which transcends is more than social usage and temporary improvisation is the fundamental need of human life}

⇒ It is characteristic of every settled and established
culture that it produces a ~~def. and effective~~ code of
conduct for people which they accept as a matter
of course, almost like the a moral atmosphere, which
they breathe as ^{and as unarguably} naturally as the air about them. =

This code - ^{its mandated} way of life - ~~is of this manner of conduct~~ is universally recognized
^{and defended} ~~and enforced~~ by public opinion. At times such a code
becomes too rigid and constricting, and some free spirits
rebel. But in ~~the~~ most ^{part} ~~people~~ this fixed and settled
regimen of life is the greatest loss, for it restrains
shoulders and directs ~~them~~ ^{men}. It provides them with that ~~to~~
~~start~~ the lives, most men are held together by social
routine. It is ~~only~~ the social mechanism which keeps
their lives from falling apart. It is only the rare
few whose lives interests are so completely pursued

① It varies in details. Time and conditions ~~are~~
~~the~~ determine the width of the channel. But
the stream is ^{the same and} fairly constant. ~~and~~

② ~~Every epoch~~ Attempts ~~into~~ to approximate the
~~the~~ moral ideal are made by every ethically instructed
age, and the code which it evolves is the index of its
moral progress. It is not ~~the~~ however, the ^{utopian} definition or
~~the~~ expression, the whole moral law.



Japan capitalizes on the preoccupation of Europe & America with their own
difficulties - attacking proceeding on his program to disarm
Nazi - only a few short months ago - outraged - brutally -
to mad doctrines - treatment / helpless J. minority -
Lepers - muck - beyond the pale
To-day same facts - ambassadors to Nazi
countries to demonstrate their good-will fellow-
ship with them —

Hamlet. "That it should come to this!
"Within a month, we get the salt & most
unrighteous tears had left the fleshing of
here galled eyes, she married!"

This banishment of the moral law from the courts of
nations brings with it ultimately a crushing and overwhelming
retribution. The nations of the earth are being carried along
in their currents, their own criminal policies to their
down.

One feels like crying out with Jeremiah: "O
earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord" - before it is
too late! Must the world be bankrupt, spent & exhausted
before God's law will emerge at last? Must the earth
be a wasteland again before the righteous which alone exalt
R.H. - the judgment day -
nations will come to right reference in the chambers
of the earth?

We are on the eve of Labor Day. We are reminded of
the ^{past} year and its labor history of bitter and bloody struggles
of desperate individual struggles, in which the law ^{the law} and the
laws of economic justice were disregarded
and violently resisted. What free nations can long
survive such large-scale disorders, such frequent
attempts to ~~check~~ achieve the ends desired by labor
and the counter-attempts to frustrate them? ~~What~~
~~we have failed to~~ ~~social inequalities~~ ~~and economic conditions~~ ~~should~~ ~~lead~~
~~into~~ ~~heavy expenditure~~ ~~the~~ ~~course~~ ~~of~~ ~~labor~~
~~progress~~ ~~the~~ ~~severe~~ ~~realization~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~one~~ ~~hand~~ ~~and~~
~~the~~ ~~brother~~ ~~down~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~face~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~major~~ ~~industrial~~
~~problem~~ ~~we~~ ~~did~~ ~~not~~ ~~have~~ ~~any~~ ~~modern~~ ~~for~~ ~~us~~ ~~with~~ ~~us~~ ~~right~~ ~~of~~ ~~unreal~~ ~~severe~~ ~~tragedies~~ ~~and~~ ~~pain~~ ~~to~~
~~little~~ ~~struggles~~ ~~and~~ ~~killings~~ ~~we~~ ~~found~~ ~~ourselves~~
working to clubs, machine-guns and tear-gas.
bombs. ^{instead of the civilized and democratic methods of conference,}
We must ~~not~~ ^{people} go through the hell of revolution,
and seas of blood, and loss of all freedom and the
frances of free, civilized living among of democracies.
before they will learn to establish justice to us their
modest, so that all men may share more equitably in
the wealth which they produce?

וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁקָף אֶת עֵינָיו אֶל הַהָרִים - "I lift up my eye to the mts. There
must be mts, - high, enduring mts - in the dark, men &
waters - to look up to. ~~To essay to climb~~ There must
be moral summits to begin them. and high peaks to
essay. There must be sun-bathed, towering mt. heights
& truth, & further, & goodness, & exaltation to inspire
us & to guide our wandering ways. Our generation
has failed to lift up its eye to the mts - The mts
are there - eternal as God! But our ^{own eyes} have lost
this vision in the under-bush, in the dark, squalid
thickets of bitter joys, refreshments, hate, ^{contumacious} ~~vengeance~~,
and despair.

R. H. is called *Yisroel* - to remind us, these mt.
heights - to recall to remembrance that we are children of
God whose true home is on the heights & not in the
depths -

R. H. is called *Yisroel* - to sound the alarm - the
call to battle. We are summoned to raise our standards
in the midst of a world of darkening confusion & bitter
strife - our clean, ~~clear~~ bright standards - our faith in
the things we believe in and are ready to live by &
die for -

"Let us raise a standard, said the father, thus
warning to his people in a dark hour of crisis - "let
us raise a standard to which the wise and honest
can repair, the rest is in the hands of God."

But, because all nations are inextricably interlaced, they are polluting also the moral life of democratic governments, and ~~and~~ ~~consequently~~ ~~also~~ the moral life of the peoples of ~~democr.~~ ~~to~~ lands. There is not a democr. country in the world to-day where amazingly large sections, the population has not become infected by the same doctrines of militarism, class hatred, national egoism, racialism, and contempt for the democratic ideals and processes, and covert approval of all forms of Machiavellianism in international dealings.

The lamentable absence of a moral code, on the authority of the spiritual law, in our world to-day is also evidenced by the fact that the world is no longer capable of moral indignation and by the fact of the large accommodations to detestable wrong-doing and facts remembered there with

Ethiopia - Here was a nation raped & despoiled. As shameful an act of international lawlessness - In a brief time the world flattered in a sense, a moral outrage - To-day the punishment is being laid for the official recognition - by the very nations who 10 months ago looked savagely at -

Spain

Japan

Nazis

China - A tragic civil war raged for more than a year. - A shameful fascist attack upon a legally constituted government - was ended within a few months ago - but for the intervention of foreign powers - notably Italy & Japan - who sent their - submarines - unopposed - and while engaged in this undeclared & unqualified war in Spain, these same powers have pledged us to non-interference in Sp. and are engaged in a moral patrol of Sp. frontiers & coasts to keep us from doing what they are determined to do -

by the muddy turbulent currents of our day. Be a
driving presence & sp. resistance to the engaging madness
of our day. Keep your ^{own inner} world inviolate until the
tides recede again. ~~and~~



which ^{says beyond} ~~outdistances~~ the usual, the age, & is a peak
thrust up with ~~the~~ higher values,



1. don't live beyond your reach
you are not an angel

2. " " life of wickedness & cruelty
not a demon

3. " " life of lust and diss
not cattle

4. " " life of stupidity and
not an ass

5. " " " " of imitabilities
not a monkey

6. " " " " of boarding & history.
not an ant

7. " " " " of memory, ambers & perfume
not a woman

live the life of a man!

RABBI JACOB M. ALKOW, OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, REPRESENTATIVE OF SEVERAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF JEWISH REFUGEES AND PROFESSIONALS IN CHINA, LAUDED THE GERMAN CONSUL'S "HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES" IN AN ADDRESS TO A ROTARY CLUB MEETING.

A RABBI WILDMAN AND SEVEN OTHER REFUGEES HAVE BEEN SENT TO MANILA AND ONE POLISH-BORN JEW TO EUROPE THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE REICH CONSUL, RABBI ALKOW SAID.

REICHSVERTRETUNG NEW YEAR MESSAGE URGES COURAGE IN FACE OF ADVERSITY

BERLIN, SEPT. 2. (JTA) -- A CALL TO THE JEWS OF GERMANY TO SHOW COURAGE IN THE FACE OF THEIR PRESENT ADVERSITY WAS CONTAINED IN THE ROSH HASHONAH MESSAGE ISSUED TODAY BY THE REICHSVERTRETUNG, CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF GERMAN JEWRY.

URGING ITS PEOPLE TO TAKE A LONG VIEW AND NOT DESPAIR, THE JEWISH ORGANIZATION DECLARED:

"WE LIVE IN TIMES OF RUSH AND CHANGE. EVERY YEAR APPEARS TO US TO BE A SEPARATE CHAPTER IN OUR HISTORY. WHAT WILL BEFALL US IS IN THE HANDS OF THE ALMIGHTY, BUT OUR BEHAVIOR, WHATEVER IS IN STORE FOR US, DEPENDS UPON OURSELVES. MAN MUST SHOW HIS WORTH IN HIS EVERY TRIAL AND MUST STRIVE TO MAKE GOD'S WILL A REALITY. OUR WISH TO ALL AND SUNDRY IS SUMMED UP IN THE VERSE OF THE PSALM WITH WHICH THE JEWS USHER IN THEIR NEW YEAR:

"WAIT ON THE LORD AND BE OF GOOD COURAGE AND HE SHALL STRENGTHEN THINE HEART." WAIT, I SAY, ON THE LORD."

"HALF-BREED JEWS" BARRED FROM GERMAN JURISTS' LEAGUE

BERLIN, SEPT. 2. (JTA) -- RUDOLF HESS, CHANCELLOR HITLER'S DEPUTY IN THE NAZI PARTY, TODAY ISSUED AN ORDER BANNING ALL "JEWISH HALF-BREEDS" FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE OF GERMAN JURISTS, THE HAVAS NEWS AGENCY REPORTED. A STATEMENT ISSUED BY HESS POINTED OUT THAT HITHERTO THIS "NATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE OF LAW GUARDIANS" WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAINTAIN ITS RACIAL REQUIREMENTS ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THE HITLER YOUTH AND OTHER NAZI PARTY ORGANIZATIONS.

BULLETIN

JERUSALEM, SEPT. 2. (JTA) -- FIFTEEN JEWISH YOUTHS WERE EXILED TO ACRE FOR ONE YEAR BY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER TODAY, UNDER THE CRIME PREVENTION ORDINANCE, REPORTEDLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER OF TWO ARABS IN THE VICINITY OF JERUSALEM EARLIER THIS WEEK.