



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's Sermon, 1946.

1) ~~1233 pl.~~ ~~2133 pl.~~ ~~1233 pl.~~

This is indeed "a holy convocation" - not.
 But what are we to remember on this holy convocation?
 Other holidays - recall - Draw attention to landmarks.
 None is called -
 The 3 sounds of the call are rendered 3 times - ~~2133~~
 - in honor of Remembrance ~~2133~~.

2) We wish to be remembered. ~~2133~~ ~~1233~~ -

"Remember us for good and visit us with salvation & mercy"
 - On R. H. We turn to God "who remembers every thing - no
 forgetfulness - nothing hidden - darkness, loneliness -
 to include us in the dispensation of his largess. bestowed

- And not only as indiv - families - do we pray to be rem.
 for life & good - salvation - mercy - People -

"Remember unto us, O God, the Covenant and the Compassion
 and the promise made to Abraham our Ancestor."

Look upon our people - how much we have suffered - What
 terrors - What distresses - What Sufferings - Wanderings - Exile

"Soften Thy Wrath. Remember the Everlasting Covenant -
 Remember the people. Remember the land." Grant us

3) But R. H. is also a Summons & a Challenge to us to remember!
 To remember great and eternal matters. Not dates -

To remember who we are, where we come, whither we go
 Our origin and our destiny. The meaning & purpose of our existence
 Our actions and our ambitions. Our progress & our failures.
 R. H. is ~~1233 pl.~~ - be it is a Day of Evaluation -
 It is not about God who causes us - pass judgment -

And to decree - אין אדם - אין אדם - אין אדם -

(2)

We ourselves weigh our lives in the balance of our conscience.
And we are admonished to take stock - to bring up to re-
member everything - all that we have forgotten - like to
all the wrong - cruel - overthrows -

"There is no man" - But there is no man who will ever rise
who does not dare to live with his memories - and
who refuses to accept from them the challenge to account by
אדם אדם אדם אדם - who understands and talks to heart
the alarm of remembrance -

4) There are many prayers - worshippers plead with his Maker
to remember - dust & ashes - weak, feeble and mortal,
beset with many trials & temptations.

And the prayers are for God's indulgence and forgiveness -

"Remember, O Lord, what our span of life is;
"For what frailty thou hast created all the sons of men"

- Job pleads with God: "Recall now, that thou dust make me
like clay". Man that is born of woman is of few
days and full of trouble. Yet upon such a one
dost thou open thine eyes, and bring him into
judgment with Thyself."

5) Our religion is not unmindful of these facts. It takes
into full account the limits of man, the inevitable
boundaries of his life - restrictions - It is: very charitable
and broad-hearted in its judgments.

"Verily, thou knowest their nature, that they are but flesh and blood. Man is from the dust and returns to the dust. He gets his bread with the sweat of his soul. He is like grass which withers, like a passing cloud, like a dream that flies away.

Therefore thou art slow to anger, and ever ready to forgive. Thou desirest not the death of the sinner but that he turn from his way and live. Even unto the day of his death thou dost wait for him, and if he repent thou dost straightway receive him."

6/ But there is much else to in the spirit of our religion and R.H. - thou sympathetic understanding of man's limitations there is also a powerful arousal of man's powers & potentialities. There is in our Holy Day the element of glorification - the blowing of trumpets - the clerical summons to moral exertion. to utmost eff. enterprise -

Many of our limitations are self-imposed. Much of our inherent strength we fail to tap - we know man's origin is dust. But God fashioned that dust in His image and breathed into it the life of God. There are obstacles manifold and thick - coming in humanly but many of them he can surmount.

Scientists have demonstrated in their laboratories that a dozen failures ^{in experiments} may add up to one magnificent achievement in discovery.

Man's soul is the stamping ground of uncontrolled (4)
passions and desires. He can ~~see~~ subdue & break them.
We cannot command the gifts and endowments
or handicaps which come to us at birth.

But we can cultivate the moral qualities of cha-
racter, integrity, perseverance, kindness, justice,
honor and unselfishness without which the most
generous natural endowments are squandered, and
with the aid of which the most modestly equipped
men rise to heights of noble and successful living.

We must not blame all of our failings upon destiny.
We have a hand in the shaping of our destiny.

We must not plead lack of opportunity. Some take
advantage, others opportunities. Others do not.

A block of marble lay unpecked in the cathedral of
Florence. It was so shaped that every sculptor
who saw it rejected it. But Michaelangelo -

~~the~~
7) This is ~~the~~ what we are called upon to Remember - ~~Cap 1000~~
not so much our limitations but how we limit our-
selves! The sloth and apathy and loss of ease which
keep us from making the effort to overcome - Greed -
meanness - arrogance - hate - intemperance -
and which keep us low and unworthy - and
defeated measured against our glorious possibilities.
But Man does not always choose life!

8) Our Age is morally slack to a dangerous degree.

There is a vast post-war inertia.

Disillusionment followed the last war - Unconcern and a weary listlessness -

However, whether in private - compelling sense of urgency
or a strong, clear call to human idealism -
outreaching for a better order of things

There has been no driving moral purpose apparent in
all the Inter. Peace Conf. during the year.

These statesmen - unable to sign a Peace Treaty.

The world has been treated - undignified & dangerous

Wangling - trying to build up power
Instead of trying to understand - "trough" - egg on
technique of competition but dozing

Disastrous ideological divisions of world - Nazis & Communists

> 100 yrs ago - the absolute monarchs of Europe - sought to
estab. such an unideal division - Holy Alliance

Monarchy & Republic. could not coexist.

- Anglo-Saxon dom against Russia - Cap. vs. Com.

- "Wood" Germans - rebuild Ger. strength as ally

9) Whether one listens in on the sessions - heart-sick
black Germans - though-poor despair - surging

snapping, piddling.

In neither place - manifestation of rough char, conceal visas
as act of generosity.

The world seems to be "too unhappy to be kind," too selfish
to save itself.

10/ Armaments - appalling level. - no confidence in UN.

Experiments - new more powerful atomic bombs -
robot planes - deadly cosmic rays

A new super-deadly poison has been developed by the
U.S. Chemical Warfare Service

An inch-cube size of it, roughly an ounce,
could kill every person living in the U.S. and
Canada, silently and swiftly.

Biologic warfare threatens to make atomic warfare
child-play.

11/ When we should remember - seeing only a year -
we choose to forget that armaments, military
alliances, balance of power - not peace -

We have returned to the discredited, obsolescent for -
atomic age diplomacy - border - seeing world

12/ In our domestic life - too many evidences - moral
and sp. laxity - break-down

The bitter indus. strp - numerous strikes - paralyzes
 shoulders black-markets - consciousness conspires
 portents of a serious moral undermining.

- 13/ In industrial disputes - marked reluctance - too great
an experience - too little concern
 - NA has management been any more - patristic
 - Democracy cannot long survive -
 - A free people - equally assume - share freedom
of the farmer - Just as if the American

- 14/ Time is fast running out for men, nations & humanity
 must work at terrific speed to avert disaster
 The secret of the atomic bomb - Dr. Schroeder who had
 charge of atomic project at Los Alamos - "no secret
 at all." The production by other nations is only a
 matter of time and no very long time at that"
 The super-poison - as much as a brewery and the
skill to operate it.

- 15/ Mankind needs a "Time of God" - U.S. - new
inspired diplomacy
these are apocalyptic days - Pol. evangelism

- 16/ America needs a "new birth of the Spirit"
 all means for human happiness are her - but they are
what is lacking - Vision - and without Vision -

RH-46
1/ "Beginning" - a beaut. word - almost the 1st

Thrilled - curtain - book -
when I began school -

Thank God for these beginnings -

"Beginner" - in experienced - Hope & pray

2/ God gives us many chances to begin
all over again

If you failed - class - game

R.H. - always make fresh start

3/ How to make sure of success -

3 Things - 3 Kings -

① David - Head - 8 - helmet - coat of mail
smooth stone - bag. sling.
8th lvs - education -

② Solomon - "Ask what I shall
give thee" "young" - "I am but
a little child" - 8th lvs 21
Heart - year - wealth - covenant.

(3) Soaks - loved Elchah, old prophet
Syma - Talk the arrows and
Smith upon the ground - 3 times
and stop - destroyed altar

(Hand)

4). Go into new Year with 7 on
Head - Heart - Hand -

1). A Tree does not think - but it makes us think
Joyce Kilmer. "I think that I shall never
see - a poem lovely as a Tree"

Shaker pears: "And this our life - Finds tongues
in Trees - books in the running brooks - Sermons
in Stones - and God in Every thing"

"To-day I have grown taller from walking
with the Trees"

2). How many things make you think? Really

"Eyes have they... notice - observe - react -

- Are you sensitive to your world?

- (Just)

3). What do they make you think?

Gratitude - Good to be alive - & dream of
sweet sensations -

A grateful person is a precious person
wants others to feel good - share

4). Challenge - Wellspring - humor -

"Hops bits get away from her. If ever I get a
chance to hit that thing - hit it hard!"

5). Married war

6). How many things make you think?

Congratulations - Enjoyed - Esp. House Pupils -

How does one become an S. L. BERNSTEIN, M. D. House Pupil? In life?

1322 B. F. KEITH BLDG.

1621 EUCLID AVE.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

"Haste Not - Rest Not"

Without Haste - Without Rest!

Don't be in a Hurry! "Festina lente" - Make haste slowly.

China man - If you are in a Hurry ^{in leaving training} Careless - Reckless - Thoughtless

Manners - No time for "Thank You"! Congratulate - Friendship

It's in your life - "Don't You Want to Go to Heaven?"

A DOCTOR'S EPITAPH

Glad that a little less of pain and grief,

A little more of courage, hope and joy,

Are in the world because I lived a while,

I go to rest, and hope to rest, and rest-

(Unless God has more work for me to do).

From "The Cicada"

by Samuel W. Kelley, M.D.

② Rest Not. Life is marching by - Waste time - Waste life!

Idle - Lazy - Rest on your oars - Never reach port!

Inspiration - 1/3 Perspiration

③ Carry On! Steady Performance (Art) (Heart)

(Hare & The Tortoise) - Rely on Spirit - Sprint!

Slow & Steady Wins the Race!

④ This is How to work - Study - to prepare - for What

Kind of a life - Rich? Powerful? (Doctor)

EXCERPTS OF ADDRESS BY DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER AT THE TEMPLE, ANSEL ROAD AND
E. 105TH STREET ON THE EVE OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT, October 4, 1946

Among the great truths proclaimed by the holy Day of Atonement is the Truth of Holiness" as indispensable to the salvation of men and of nations.

Holiness is the characteristic word of religion. In a sense it is its complete summation. It is not only the embracing term for the whole moral code of mankind; it is also its over-tone. "Ye shall be holy for I, the Lord your God, am holy" -- that is the challenge -- a striving after perfection and an outreaching within the limits of our finite lives to be God-like.

There are sanctities in life which must not be desecrated if life is not to become coarse, cheap and decadent. There are basic human relationships which are holy ground. There are fundamental associations among human beings which do not yield their deepest satisfactions unless attended by spiritual sensitiveness, delicacy and reserve.

I am afraid that our age is not fostering this quality of holiness in life. The menacing increase in the number of broken homes in our country, the speed with which men and women resort to separation and the divorce courts, ~~xx~~ are a symptom of a desecration of life. The appalling increasing in juvenile delinquency is another indication of social collapse. The vulgar and the obscene are becoming characteristics of ~~many~~ much of American literature today. This is neither art nor realism, but indecency which always flaunts its shamelessness whenever the spiritual disciplines which protect the healthy life of a civilization break down.

An individual or a people is kept healthy not by wealth or by learning, but by the vigorous life of the spirit which makes many exacting demands of self-restraint, sacrifice and aspiration.

GREETINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR, 5707
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

May God grant you and your dear ones a year of grace and goodness and a full measure of all the things which men truly need for their happiness and quietude of soul.

May our country be blessed with a year of prosperity and peace, with progress in the ways of justice and advance to the larger brotherhood of man.

May our world be ushered into an era of lessening strife, of peace-making and world reconciliation so that fear may be banished from the hearts of men and the hopes of mankind which were laid low during the last war may be restored.

To our people Israel and to the myriads of them who are still homeless and weary refugees, may the New Year bring release from all tribulations and rest at last. The new day of hope and promise for which we have waited so long, may it finally dawn!

Let us greet the New Year with high faith and courage and with the resolve to live worthily in these stirring times and fully to match our great hour.

