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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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Rosh Hashonah, 1962.

RH-62

ROSH HASHANA SERMON  
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
September - 1962

*My dear Friends:*  
*present*

OUR AGE HAS FOCUSED ITS ATTENTION ON D<sup>5</sup>ISTANT SPACES  
AND ON FAR-AWAY THINGS. PEOPLE ARE DEEPLY <sup>excited</sup> INTERESTED TO  
FIND OUT HOW FAR MAN CAN GET AWAY FROM THE EARTH, AND HOW  
SPEEDILY <sup>and how often</sup> HE CAN ORBIT AROUND IT. THE HEROES OF OUR DAY ARE  
THE ASTRONAUTS, THOSE CAPSULED NAVIGATORS OF OUTER SPACE.  
WE HAVE BECOME <sup>in truth</sup> WATCHERS OF THE SKIES! GREAT NATIONS ARE IN  
FEVERISH COMPETITION TO REACH THE MOON, AND TO SEND ROCKETS  
TO PLANETS MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY HAS GIVEN US WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED  
"THE AGE OF THE TELE". TELE, <sup>telegraph</sup> (T<sup>9</sup>), IS A GREEK WORD WHICH MEANS  
FAR, FAR OFF. THIS CENTURY HAS GIVEN US THE TELEGRAM AND THE  
TELEGRAPH, THE TELESCOPE AND TELEVISION. NOW WE HAVE THE  
TELSTAR.

THE EXPLORATION OF OUTER SPACE <sup>is</sup> HAS NOT BEEN <sup>the</sup> AN IDLE  
PAST-TIME OF A FEW GEO-PHYSICISTS AND ENGINEERS. IT IS IN-  
CREASINGLY ENGROSSING THE THOUGHT, LABOR AND WEALTH OF  
NATIONS. WE ~~HAVE BECOME VERY EARNESTLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT.~~  
OUR <sup>own</sup> NATIONAL BUDGET HAS COME UNDER A DISTURBING, SOME SAY  
A BALEFUL PLANETARY INFLUENCE. THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE  
EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THE COST INVOLVED IN OUR SPACE



EXPLORATION IS SUCH THAT WE MAY BE OVER-REACHING OURSELVES. ADDED TO THE STUPENDOUS OUTLAYS FOR ARMAMENT, AND OUR FOREIGN AID, WE MAY BE SPENDING OURSELVES INTO BANKRUPTCY AND COLLAPSE. SUCH OVER-REACHING HAS HAPPENED TO PEACEFUL NATIONS IN THE PAST.

I AM SURE <sup>however</sup> THAT THIS COSTLY ADVENTURE INTO SPACE WILL NOT BE ABANDONED, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THE UNDERTAKING HAS COME TO HAVE A POLITICAL, EVEN MORE THAN A SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVE. ~~BUT~~ EVEN APART FROM THE COMPETITIVE AND PRESTIGE FEATURES INVOLVED WHICH HAVE GIVEN UNDUE PRESS TO SPACE EXPLOITATION, <sup>as well as undue</sup> HASTE AND WASTE, MAN'S <sup>in</sup> ERADICABLE CURIOSITY <sup>would</sup> ~~WILL~~ INSURE ITS CONTINUATION. WHAT IS UNKNOWN WILL ALWAYS INTRIGUE AND CHALLENGE THE QUESTING SPIRIT OF MAN.

BUT IN ALL THIS COMMENDABLE AND INEVITABLE, EVEN IF COSTLY EFFORT, ONE FACT MUST NOT BE OVER-LOOKED! HOWEVER FAR WE GO <sup>travel</sup> IN SPACE, <sup>however far we may go along the asphalt ways</sup> WE CAN NEVER GO BEYOND OURSELVES.

WHEREVER WE GO WE CARRY OURSELVES ALONG, WE ARE BOUND TO <sup>remain</sup> LIVE IN OUR OWN <sup>private</sup> PERSONAL WORLD, OUR WORK, OUR FAMILIES, OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, OUR COMMUNITY. WE MUST INESCAPABLY LIVE WITH OURSELVES!

WE MIGHT PARAPHRASE PSALM 139: "WHITHER SHALL I GO FROM MY SPIRIT? IF I ASCEND UP INTO HEAVEN, I AM THERE; IF I



TAKE THE WINGS OF THE MORNING, AND DWELL IN THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE SEA, EVEN THERE WOULD MY HAND LEAD ME AND MY RIGHT HAND WOULD HOLD ME. "

PLANES MAY SPEED US TO THE MOST DISTANT LANDS AND, FROM LAUNCHING PADS, WE MAY BE HURTTLED FAR OUT INTO THE OUTER REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE. BUT WHEREVER WE GO OR LAND AND HOWEVER FAST WE TRAVEL, OUR BODIES AND OUR SOULS, OUR INSTINCTS AND OUR PASSIONS, OUR VIRTUES AND OUR VICES <sup>will</sup> GO WITH US.

WE SHOULD <sup>also</sup> ALWAYS BEAR IN MIND THAT ALL OUR TELE- COMMUNICATIONS AND OUR TELE-TRANSPORTATIONS HAVE NOT GIVEN US A HAPPIER OR A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD; AND THAT WE <sup>cannot and</sup> SHALL NOT BE BUILDING JUSTER AND NOBLER COMMUNITIES ON EARTH BY DESPATCHING AND LANDING A FEW ASTRONAUTS ON THE MOON. ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE MAN REMAINS MAN, AND HIS BASIC NEEDS AND <sup>fears and prejudices</sup> APPETITES REMAIN UNCHANGED.

THIS, TOO, WE SHOULD REMEMBER. HOWEVER FAR WE EXTEND OUR DOMAIN INTO THE SPACIOUS FIRMAMENT, THE REAL KINGDOM OVER WHICH WE <sup>can</sup> EXERCISE <sup>any</sup> DOMINION, THE TRUE DOMAIN OF OUR SPIRITUAL SOVEREIGNTY <sup>will always</sup> CONTINUES TO LIE WITHIN THE FRONTIERS OF OUR OWN HEARTS. FROM IT FLOW ALL WEAL AND WOE, ALL GOOD AND EVIL FOR OURSELVES AND FOR OTHERS. HERE AND HERE ALONE



WE HOLD CROWN AND SCEPTRE BY DIVINE RIGHT. <sup>Our</sup> ~~THE~~ CREATOR OF ~~ALL~~ <sup>all</sup> HAS ENDOWED US <sup>^</sup> WITH THE FREEDOM TO EXERCISE WILL AND CHOICE IN THE LITTLE WORLD WHICH IS OURS. THE RIGHT OF ACTION AND THE RIGHT TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO OUR WILL AND CHOICE MAY SOMETIMES BE DENIED TO US BY HOSTILE <sup>human</sup> ~~^~~ FORCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL; BUT WE CAN NEVER BE DEPRIVED OF OUR INNER FREEDOM, OUR THOUGHTS, OUR FEELINGS AND OUR ASPIRATIONS AS FREE MEN. ;OUR SOULS CAN NEVER BE BRIBED OR COERCED -- IF WE DO NOT WISH IT.

ON A DAY LIKE ROSH HASHANAH WE ARE ASKED TO TURN OUR GAZE AWAY FROM THINGS FAR AWAY TO THINGS VERY NEAR TO HOME -- FROM TELESCOPE, AS IT WERE, TO MICROSCOPE. IT IS GOOD <sup>^</sup> ~~FOR~~ <sup>course</sup> THE SOUL <sup>of man</sup> ~~TO~~ CONTEMPLATE THE VAST IMMENSITIES OF THE UNIVERSE AND <sup>^</sup> ~~TO~~ BE FILLED WITH AWESOME REVERENCE AND MYSTIC ADORATION OF <sup>the</sup> ~~^~~ GOD WHO CREATED THEM. "LIFT UP, YOUR EYES ON HIGH AND SEE; WHO HATH CREATED THESE?"

HOWEVER, OUR GREAT TEACHERS <sup>have</sup> ~~^~~ TAUGHT US THAT EVEN IN OUR QUEST FOR GOD, WE SHOULD NOT LOOK FOR HIM IN THE <sup>far away</sup> ~~DISTANT~~ REGIONS OF THE SKIES, BUT NEAR AT HAND. "GOD IS NEAR UNTO ALL WHO CALL UPON HIM". "AS FOR ME, THE NEARNESS OF GOD IS MY GREATEST GOOD." <sup>They wisely reminded us</sup> ~~MAN SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT~~ "THE HEAVENS ARE THE HEAVENS OF THE LORD; BUT THE EARTH HE GAVE TO THE CHILDREN OF MEN." IT IS HERE UPON EARTH <sup>where</sup> ~~^~~ <sup>accomplish</sup> THAT WE MUST MAKE OUR APPOINTED PILGRIMAGE,



HERE LIVE, HERE DIE, ~~HERE FIND WHATEVER LOFTINESS WE SEEK,~~  
*by way of the world, the world of the world*  
HERE SOAR, NOT NECESSARILY IN SPACE BUT, ON WINGS OF ASPIRATION,  
INTO THE CLIMBING ALTITUDES OF OUR SOULS.

ON ROSH HASHANAH WE ARE ASKED TO LOOK INTO OUR SOULS,  
CLOSELY. HOW GOES IT WITH US INWARDLY? WAS THE PAST YEAR WELL  
SPENT BY US? DID WE USE OUR TALENTS AND OUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
PURPOSEFUL LIVING, WISELY AND WORTHILY? HOW GOES IT WITH OUR  
MINDS? HAVE WE ENRICHED OUR STORE OF KNOWLEDGE <sup>these?</sup> AND WISDOM?  
"FOR HE WHO DOES NOT INCREASE HIS KNOWLEDGE, DECREASES IT." HOW <sup>peace</sup>  
GOES IT WITH OUR FAMILY? IS OUR HOUSE IN ORDER? <sup>Does it sound in</sup> IS IT SOUND, HAR-  
<sup>or discord?</sup> MONIOUS, HAPPY? WHAT ABOUT OUR CHILDREN? <sup>Are we giving</sup> HAVE WE GIVEN THEM  
WHAT THEY NEED OF OUR LOVE AND GUIDANCE? <sup>are</sup> ARE THEY FIRMLY  
<sup>and the Holy Day days</sup> LINKED TO US IN PRIDE AND AFFECTION OR ARE THEY DRIFTING AWAY <sup>from</sup>  
<sup>us. Set things right with us. It's better than you think.</sup> ROSH HASHANAH WOULD HAVE US FOCUS A MICROSCOPE UPON  
OUR OWN ACTIONS, UPON OUR BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES.  
HAS OUR CONDUCT BEEN BEYOND REPROACH? AND UPON OUR SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITIES, OUR CIVIC DUTIES, THE COMMITMENTS OF GOOD  
CITIZENSHIP -- HAVE THEY BEEN ALL THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN <sup>Be</sup>  
OR IS THERE ROOM, MUCH ROOM, FOR IMPROVEMENT?

THIS IS THE WORLD WHICH WE ARE ASKED TO EXAMINE ON ROSH  
HASHANAH. ( <sup>122/ 431 (16 1277)</sup> "SEARCH ME, O GOD, AND  
KNOW MY HEART. TRY ME, AND KNOW MY THOUGHTS, AND SEE IF THERE  
BE ANY <sup>thing</sup> WAY IN ME THAT IS GRIEVOUS, AND LEAD ME BACK TO THE WAY  
THAT IS EVERLASTING. " "GO TO YOUR BOSOM <sup>and the past,</sup> AND KNOCK THERE, AND  
ASK YOUR HEART WHAT IT DOTH KNOW. "



*My dear Friends!*

IF WE WISH TO PRESERVE OUR PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE IN  
AN AGE WHEREIN MAN MUST STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE AS AN INDIVIDUAL,  
WHEREIN THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN STEADILY RECEDING  
INTO THE BACKGROUND, IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD  
LOOK TO THE SOUNDNESS OF OUR PRIVATE LIVES, TO THE INNER  
SANCTUARY OF OUR SOULS, TO OUR PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND RECTITUDE,  
OUR ONLY MEANS OF RESISTING THE RELENTLESS MERGER TRENDS OF OUR  
DAY, THE CORPORATE, ABSORPTION TENDENCIES, AND THE RUTHLESS  
FORMS OF POLITICAL DICTATORSHIP WHICH ARE REDUCING THE STATURE  
OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO INSIGNIFICANCE, IS FOR US TO ASSERT OUR  
INHERENT MORAL AUTHORITY, THE CLEAN SPIRIT WHICH IS IN US, AND  
OUR LOYALTY TO THE MORAL LIFE DEMANDED OF US BY OUR CREATOR  
WHO ENDOWED US WITH UNALIENABLE RIGHTS WHICH WE CHERISH, AND  
TREASURE AND REFUSE TO SURRENDER.

PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY DEAR TO  
US JEWS. PROFESSOR ALBERT EINSTEIN ONCE DECLARED THAT "STRIVING  
AFTER KNOWLEDGE FOR ITS OWN END, LOVE FOR JUSTICE BORDERING  
ON FANATICISM, AND STRIVING AFTER PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE --  
THESE ARE THE INCENTIVES OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE'S TRADITION, WHICH  
MAKE ME REGARD MY BELONGING TO THEM AS A GIFT FROM FATE."

ROSH HASHANAH WOULD REMIND US THAT THIS PERSONAL IN-  
DEPENDENCE GOES HAND IN HAND WITH PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY,



THAT NO ONE IS FREE WHO IS THE WILLING SLAVE OF PASSIONS, VICE AND SIN, AND THAT NO ONE IS A SLAVE WHO IS THE WILLING SERVANT OF GOD.

IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE, TOO, WE HAVE BEEN LIVING, I AM AFRAID, TOO FAR BEYOND OURSELVES, IN DISTANT PLACES. OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CENTER THEIR ATTENTION UPON BERLIN, LAOS, VIETNAM, THE CONGO -- ON FOREIGN LANDS, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, AND UPON FOREIGN PEOPLES. AS IF <sup>indeed</sup> IT WERE IN THOSE PLACES AND AMONG THOSE PEOPLE THAT OUR REAL DESTINY LAY! MANY OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEGUILED THEMSELVES INTO THINKING THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FREE WORLD WHICH WE HAVE ASSUMED MEANS THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO ESTABLISH OR DEFEND DEMOCRACY, BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND RACIAL EQUALITY EVERYWHERE, IN THE MOST DISTANT PARTS OF AFRICA AND ASIA, WHILE IGNORING THESE SAME RIGHTS AND FLAUNTING RACIAL EQUALITY HERE AT HOME.

NO ONE WOULD WISH OUR COUNTRY TO ISOLATE ITSELF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD -- NOR CAN IT. NO NATION IS AN ISLAND UNTO ITSELF. WE ARE <sup>genuinely</sup> PART OF AN INTER-RELATED COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. WE HAVE OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS <sup>as they have</sup>. BUT FOREIGN RELATIONS, HOWEVER EXTENSIVE, WILL NOT GIVE US DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY AND STABILITY. A CONTENTED CITIZENRY, PROFITABLY EMPLOYED, LIVING UNDER FAIR AND EQUITABLE LAWS, WHICH ARE JUSTLY ENFORCED



WITHOUT FAVOR OR DISCRIMINATION, WILL INSURE OUR SURVIVAL AS  
A FREE NATION AND WILL INSPIRE EMULATION ALL OVER THE WORLD.  
IT IS NOT COMMUNISM WHICH THREATENS OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM, BUT  
THINGS MUCH CLOSER TO HOME --CORPORATE CORRUPTION AND GREED  
IN HIGH PLACES, PROFITEERING SCANDALS, SECRET CONSPIRACIES ON  
THE PART OF RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVES TO CIRCUMVENT AND DEFEAT  
THE LAW FOR THE SAKE OF LARGER PROFITS, AND CONSCIENCELESS  
LABOR RACKETEERING. IT IS THESE EVILS WHICH EAT AT THE <sup>very</sup> HEART  
OF OUR SYSTEM OF FREE ENTERPRISE.

SOME OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT ALL THAT <sup>is</sup>  
NECESSARY FOR THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF AMERICA IS TO FULMINATE  
AGAINST COMMUNISM, AND TO POINT THE FINGER OF ACCUSATION AND  
CONDEMNATION AGAINST OTHER NATIONS. MEA CULPA, IS NOT IN THEIR  
VOCABULARY! OUR RABBIS TAUGHT US DIFFERENTLY -- <sup>לפי דברי חז"ל</sup>

<sup>פסוקים</sup> "DO NOT TAUNT YOUR NEIGHBOR WITH THE BLEMISH  
YOU YOURSELF HAVE." AND <sup>אדם הראשון</sup> "FIRST  
ADORN YOURSELF, AND THEN ADORN OTHERS", THAT IS: <sup>לומר</sup> "BE JUST  
YOURSELF, BEFORE DEMANDING IT OF OTHERS". THE ANCIENT PROPHETS  
OF ISRAEL, WHO WERE <sup>באמת</sup> NOT ENEMIES OF THEIR <sup>עם</sup> PEOPLE, BUT WHO LOVED <sup>הם</sup>  
WITH A BOUNDLESS LOVE, WERE NEVERTHELESS UNSPARING IN  
DENOUNCING THEIR <sup>עם</sup> PEOPLE'S FAILINGS AND SHORT-COMINGS EVEN AS  
THEY DENOUNCED THE WRONGS <sup>העוונות</sup> OF OTHER NATIONS. "FOR THREE  
TRANSGRESSIONS OF DAMASCUS, YEA FOR FOUR I WILL NOT REVERSE



WHAT OF OUR APPALLING NATIONAL RECORD OF BROKEN HOMES  
AND DIVORCES? WHAT OF OUR STAGGERING TOLL OF JUVENILE DE-  
LINQUENCY? WHAT OF THE SLUMS IN OUR OWN CITIES? WHAT OF THE  
RECURRENT OUTBREAKS OF BIGOTRY AND INTOLERANCE HERE AND  
THERE, AGAINST THIS OR THAT GROUP OF OUR CITIZENS? WHAT OF OUR  
HUGE WAR-MACHINE, AND OUR NUCLEAR TESTING, WHICH IS POISONING  
THE ATMOSPHERE, AND THE MAD ARMAMENT RACE IN WHICH WE ARE  
ENGAGED WHICH IS DRIVING OUR WORLD TO THE BRINK OF ANNIHILATION?

IF WE DO NOT REACH THE MOON IN FIFTY YEARS, NOTHING WILL BE LOST.  
BUT, IF WE DO NOT ESTABLISH PEACE ON EARTH IN FIFTY YEARS, OURS  
WILL BE A BURNT-OUT PLANET, WHOSE INHABITANTS WILL HAVE  
DESTROYED THEMSELVES THROUGH FIERY BOMBS AND THEIR POISONOUS  
FALL-OUT. A HOUSE-CLEANING IS CLEARLY IN ORDER! HERE IS MUCH  
WORK TO BE DONE. HERE IS A CHALLENGE FOR EVERY MAN AND WOMAN.



FORTUNATELY, ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE CAN BE DONE --  
IF WE FRANKLY AND HONESTLY CONFRONT OURSELVES --IF WE  
SWITCH THE DISTANT SEARCH-LIGHT ONTO THE SCENE HERE AT HOME,  
IF WE REFUSE TO BE DISTRACTED BY WHAT IS OVER THERE. "THIS  
COMMAND WHICH I COMMAND YOU THIS DAY IS NOT FAR OFF...IT IS  
NOT IN HEAVEN, NEITHER IS IT BEYOND THE SEA. BUT IT IS VERY  
NEAR UNTO YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART TO DO IT."

FOR ALL THE AMENDS AND RECTIFICATIONS IN OUR NATIONAL  
AND PRIVATE LIVES FOR WHICH THIS HOLY DAY OF ROSH HASHANAH  
CALLS, WE REQUIRE COURAGE AND WISDOM AND, ABOVE ALL,  
HUMILITY. IF WE BELIEVE OURSELVES TO BE PERFECT, BEYOND  
REPROACH, IF THE FAULT IS NEVER OURS, AND THE GUILT IS ALWAYS  
THEIRS, THERE IS NO HOPE FOR US.

"STILL STANDS THINE ANCIENT SACRIFICE,

AN HUMBLE AND A CONTRITE HEART."

*Our world stands in need of this ancient sacrifice -*  
*עניוּת, צדקה, אמונה, אהבה, תורה*  
*"In the way of humility, is reverence, peace,*  
*prosperity, honor and life."*



ROSH HASHANA SERMON  
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
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OUR AGE HAS FOCUSED ITS ATTENTION ON DISTANT SPACES AND ON FAR-AWAY THINGS. PEOPLE ARE DEEPLY INTERESTED TO FIND OUT HOW FAR MAN CAN GET AWAY FROM THE EARTH, AND HOW SPEEDILY HE CAN ORBIT AROUND IT. THE HEROES OF OUR DAY ARE THE ASTRONAUTS, THOSE CAPSULED NAVIGATORS OF OUTER SPACE. WE HAVE BECOME WATCHERS OF THE SKIES. GREAT NATIONS ARE IN FEVERISH COMPETITION TO REACH THE MOON, AND TO SEND ROCKETS TO PLANETS MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY.

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THE EXPLORATION OF OUTER SPACE HAS NOT BEEN AN IDLE PAST-TIME OF A FEW GEO-PHYSICISTS AND ENGINEERS. IT IS INCREASINGLY :ENGROSSING THE THOUGHT, LABOR AND WEALTH OF NATIONS. WE HAVE BECOME VERY EARNESTLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT. OUR NATIONAL BUDGET HAS COME UNDER A DISTURBING, SOME SAY A BALEFUL PLANETARY INFLUENCE. THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THE COST INVOLVED IN OUR SPACE



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ROSH HASHANAH WOULD REMIND US THAT THIS PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE GOES HAND IN HAND WITH PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY,



THAT NO ONE IS FREE WHO IS THE WILLING SLAVE OF PASSIONS, VICE AND SIN, AND THAT NO ONE IS A SLAVE WHO IS THE WILLING SERVANT OF GOD.

IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE, TOO, WE HAVE BEEN LIVING, I AM AFRAID, TOO FAR BEYOND OURSELVES, IN DISTANT PLACES. OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CENTER THEIR ATTENTION UPON ~~BERLIN~~, LAOS, VIETNAM, THE CONGO -- ON FOREIGN LANDS, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, AND UPON FOREIGN PEOPLES. AS IF IT WERE IN THOSE PLACES AND AMONG THOSE PEOPLE THAT ~~OUR~~ REAL DESTINY LAY! MANY OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEGUILED THEMSELVES INTO THINKING THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FREE WORLD WHICH WE HAVE ASSUMED MEANS THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO ESTABLISH OR DEFEND DEMOCRACY, BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND RACIAL EQUALITY EVERYWHERE, IN THE MOST DISTANT PARTS OF AFRICA AND ASIA, WHILE IGNORING THESE SAME RIGHTS AND FLAUNTING RACIAL EQUALITY HERE AT HOME.

NO ONE WOULD WISH OUR COUNTRY TO ISOLATE ITSELF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD -- NOR CAN IT. NO NATION IS AN ISLAND UNTO ITSELF. WE ARE PART OF AN INTER-RELATED COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. WE HAVE OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS. BUT FOREIGN RELATIONS, HOWEVER EXTENSIVE, WILL NOT GIVE US DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY AND STABILITY. A CONTENTED CITIZENRY, PROFITABLY EMPLOYED, LIVING UNDER FAIR AND EQUITABLE LAWS, WHICH ARE JUSTLY ENFORCED



WITHOUT FAVOR OR DISCRIMINATION, WILL INSURE OUR SURVIVAL AS A FREE NATION AND WILL INSPIRE EMULATION ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT IS NOT COMMUNISM WHICH THREATENS ~~SO~~ OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM, BUT THINGS MUCH CLOSER TO HOME --CORPORATE CORRUPTION AND GREED IN HIGH PLACES, PROFITEERING SCANDALS, SECRET CONSPIRACIES ON THE PART OF RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVES TO CIRCUMVENT AND DEFEAT THE LAW FOR THE SAKE OF LARGER PROFITS, AND CONSCIENCELESS LABOR RACKETEERING. IT IS THESE EVILS WHICH EAT AT THE HEART OF OUR SYSTEM OF FREE ENTERPRISE.

SOME OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT ALL THAT NECESSARY FOR THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF AMERICA IS TO FULMINATE AGAINST COMMUNISM, AND TO POINT THE FINGER OF ACCUSATION AND CONDEMNATION AGAINST OTHER NATIONS. MEA CUPPA, IS NOT IN THEIR VOCABULARY. OUR RABBIS TAUGHT US DIFFERENTLY --

-- "DO NOT TAUNT YOUR NEIGHBORS WITH THE BLEMISH YOU YOURSELF HAVE." AND "FIRST ADORN YOURSELF, AND THEN ADORN OTHERS", THAT IS: "BE JUST YOURSELF, BEFORE DEMANDING IT OF OTHERS". THE ANCIENT PROPHETS OF ISRAEL, WHO WERE NOT ENEMIES OF THEIR PEOPLE BUT WHO LOVED WITH A BOUNDLESS LOVE, WERE NEVERTHELESS UNSPARING ~~ON~~ DENOUNCING THEIR PEOPLE'S FAILINGS AND SHORT-COMINGS EVEN AS THEY DENOUNCED THE WRONGS OF OTHER NATIONS. "FOR THREE TRANSGRESSIONS OF DAMASCUS, YEA FOR FOUR I WILL NOT REVERSE



MY JUDGMENT", DECLARED THE PROPHET AMOS, "NOR FOR THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF GAZA, AND TYRE, AND ~~EDOM~~ AND AMMON AND MOAB." "BUT NEITHER WILL I REVERSE MY JUDGMENT FOR THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL." ON THE ~~CONTRARY~~, GOD'S ~~JUDGMENT WILL FALL MORE SEVERELY UPON JUDAH AND ISRAEL.~~ " ON THE CONTRARY, GOD'S JUDGMENT WILL FALL MORE SEVERELY UPON JUDAH AND ISRAEL, BECAUSE THE LORD HAD :BESTOWED MANY FAVORS UPON THEM. "

"LET US SEARCH OUR OWN WAYS -- AND EXAMINE THEM THOROUGHLY. "

WHAT OF OUR APPALLING NATIONAL RECORD OF BROKEN HOMES AND DIVORCES? WHAT OF OUR STAGGERING TOLL OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY? WHAT OF THE SLUMS IN OUR OWN CITIES? WHAT OF THE RECURRENT OUTBREAKS OF BIGOTRY AND INTOLERANCE HERE AND THERE, AGAINST THIS OR THAT GROUP OF OUR CITIZENS? WHAT OF OUR HUGE WAR-MACHINE, AND OUR NUCLEAR TESTING WHICH IS POISONING THE ATMOSPHERE, AND THE MAD ARMAMENT RACE IN WHICH WE ARE ENGAGED WHICH IS DRIVING OUR WORLD TO THE BRINK OF ANNIHILATION? IF WE DO NOT REACH THE MOON IN FIFTY YEARS, NOTHING WILL BE LOST. BUT, IF WE DO NOT ESTABLISH PEACE ON EARTH IN FIFTY :YEARS, OURS WILL BE A BURNT-OUT PLANET WHOSE INHABITANTS WILL HAVE DESTROYED THEMSELVES THROUGH FIERY BOMBS AND THEIR POISONOUS FALL-OUT. A HOUSE-CLEANING IS CLEARLY IN ORDER! HERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE. HERE IS A CHALLENGE FOR EVERY MAN AND WOMAN.



FORTUNATELY, ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE CAN BE DONE --  
IF WE FRANKLY AND HONESTLY CONFRONT OURSELVES --IF WE  
SWITCH THE DISTANT SEARCH-LIGHT ONTO THE SCENE HERE AT HOME,  
IF WE REFUSE TO BE DISTRACTED BY WHAT IS OVER THERE. "THIS  
COMMAND WHICH I COMMAND YOU THIS DAY IS NOT FAR OFF...IT IS  
NOT IN HEAVEN, NEITHER IS IT BEYOND THE :SEA. BUT IT IS VERY  
NEAR UNTO YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART TO DO IT."

FOR ALL THE AMENDS AND RECTIFICATIONS IN OUR NATIONAL  
AND PRIVATE LIVES FOR WHICH THIS HOLY DAY OF ROSH HASHANAH  
CALLS, WE REQUIRE COURAGE AND WISDOM AND, ABOVE ALL,  
HUMILITY. IF WE BELIEVE OURSELVES TO BE PERFECT, BEYOND  
REPROACH, IF THE FAULT IS NEVER OURS, AND THE GUILT IS ALWAYS  
OTHERS, THERE IS NO HOPE FOR US.

"STILL STANDS THINE ANCIENT SACRIFICE,  
AN HUMBLE AND A CONTRITE HEART."