



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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Succoth, 1944.

- 1) Close upon the solemn penitential season, R.H. - Y.K. - comes Succoth - the festival of Nature - the rich, color. And happy harvest festival.
- R.H. & Y.K. - are dedicated to the inner ^{world} of man.
S. to the outer world of nature, of which man is a part.
Thus man is made aware of his two worlds - the world within, and the world about him, and their constant and dynamic inter-play. Historically man acquired sc. - afraid of both worlds over
- 2) ~~the~~ The solemn season ~~calls~~ man to look within himself - to examine his life, ~~his~~ to search the innermost recesses, his heart; to take stock of ^{his} motives, ideals, values. He is admonished to listen to his conscience - to the voice, his soul.
- 3) The joyous season of S. summons ~~man~~ ^{man} to ~~look~~ ^{look} ~~out~~ ^{out} ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~world~~ ^{world} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~nature~~ ^{nature}. ~~He is~~ ^{He is} ~~ad-~~ ^{ad-} ~~vised~~ ^{vised} to open his eyes to see the wonders of God's wonderful world of nature, and to open his ears to hear the great message which nature brings to listening ears.
- 4) It is desirable that man should do both - to look within and without - Both ^{resulting} ~~five~~ profound insights and they ^{both} each complement and re-enforce on another. It is not good to be too introspective, too much absorbed in self-analysis and inner probing and examination. It is also not good to be too extrinsic, to live exclusively in the ^{physical} ~~world~~ ^{the world} of outer reality - ~~they~~ ^{the 2 worlds} are connected world and a man should frequently go from one to the other.

set about acquainting himself w. with his
surrounding phys. universe before he began to
acquaint himself w. with his inner universe.
Thus ~~man~~ among the earliest sciences developed
by man was astronomy - the sun, stars and
planets, weather, winds, removed from man -
while psychology - the man's mind, his
thoughts and emotions - he has ever the
most recent. ~~his~~ Man was always more or
less afraid to look into himself, ~~to~~ un-
willing to face up to himself. ~~Sanctity~~



57. Thus the Bible, which is a book devoted essentially to the (2)
inner life, man - to man's resp. to himself, his God
and his fellowmen - frequently calls man to the study
of nature, and frequently draws its richest metaphors
and imagery from the marvellous pageantry of
nature, and frequently versifies its ethical and
philosophic teachings by reference to the nature
and its ~~manifest~~ manifestations.

6). Some, the most glorious descriptions of nature
that is to be found in the whole literature of the
world - descriptions of nature in all its varied
moods - the serenity and beauty as well as the stormy
and triumphant - all the climes and all seasons,
and all the beauties of its unfolding process in seed-
time & decay. Life & death are found in the Bible.

7. Nature speaks! to the poets, prophets and seers
the Bible is unmistakable accents. Even the great
silences, nature - as full / meaning to
them - nature speaks with a thousand voices!

{ "Day unto day uttereth speech
And night unto night revealeth knowledge"

And day and night, and tempest and storm, and the
song of birds, and the whispering, the leaves and the great
rustling in the forest, the great spontaneous revelation
of existence. They speak of God - his wisdom
- his might - his justice

(a) ~~proportion~~ ^{proportion} ~~proportion~~ God is revealed in nature (3)

"The voice, the Lord is upon the waters.
"The " " " " is full, majesty
"The " " " " breaketh the seas
"The " " " " heweth out flaves, & fire.
"The " " " " shaketh the wildernesses.

God speaks thus every appearance, nature, and
thence the magnificence, of its order, and arrangement
and symmetry.

8) The marvels of nature should teach man to have
faith in God even when the moral foundations
of his union be so shaken, and man is con-
fused, bewildered and in despair.

Thus (Job) who suffered so much, is comforted
at last when he is made to contemplate the
majestic power, of God's creation.

"Hearken unto this, O Job;
Stand still, and consider the wondrous work, of God.
Dost thou know how God does his work
And causes the light to shine?
Can you beat out with him the skies
Hard as a molten mirror?..

... when were you when I laid the foundations, the earth!
Upon what were its bases sunk,
Or who laid its corner-stone?

Who enclosed the sea with doors!

Have you gone to the source, the area?

Have the gates, death been revealed to thee?

~~who~~ Do you know the laws, the heavens?

"Behold, I am insignificant; what can I answer thee
I put my hand over my mouth"

"I put my hand over my mouth"

9). Job learned submission humbly in his
 confessions of nature. And he also recognized
 his ^{own} divinity. For he learned anew that he
 was made in ^{very} the image of God whose
 omnipotence created & sustained the universe.

(a) Psalmist. Job 41:12 - Ps. 8

(a) Psalm.

דף 8

A sp. condemnation / rather will mark us
both humile and proud!

10) About all it will reach us Patience.

While there are vast eruptions in waters, earth-
quakes, storms and floods - the great, continuing

unremitting work, nature goes on in growth,
in order, in slow, patient inevitable cycles of
maturity. Growth in ~~nature~~ ^{from seed then blossom then fruit} is a secret, an
almost imperceptible and insensible process.

Water is unhurried.

The farmer who plows and sows must

want an appointed time before he can gather in
his harvest.

~~There may be drought~~
Nature teaches us to think in cycles -
in sweeps & turns and seasons - not in
small unrelated fragments of time and
experience. We should take the long view!
not ~~to~~ yield to the momentary but a
frustration. Winter is here. But spring is
sure to come. There is suffering now and
worry and anxiety! But God's great future,
moving slowly but unmistakably is sure to
come.

In spite of war, & movement papers into
barbarism, manhood is moving forward!
The promise, God is unveiled, not in the
great, strong wind which rears the mountains,
and in the earthquake, and in the fire, but in
the still, small voice -

The still, small voice, of education, of religion,
of social progress, research, of patient planning,
of good-will, of sympathy, of love & brotherhood -
this is the true voice of history & of human progress,
which tells story of long and quiet growth & maturing before the
blessed harvest is gathered. Stages