



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
169

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Succoth, 1950.

1) A festival of Nature - but the only one - 5-50 Lent - Easter - Succoth 1950
- our religion is very close to nature - Chr. + Islam
- our forefathers, ^{beg. with the patriarchs} were shepherds + farmers - and their faith which they bequeathed - rests on the earth, tho its tracks heaven.

- The laws of the Bible are intended primarily for an agr. community.
- The Bible begins with the story of a garden. - / 31 / 2

West, its superb imagery - borrowed from nature.

"The Lord is my shepherd - I shall not want -

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures

"He leadeth me beside the still waters"

^{100 names of plants + flowers - 150 animals + birds}
The blessings promised as a reward for obedience to God are all of the treasures of nature:

"Then I will give you rain in their season,

"The land shall yield her produce.

"The trees, the field shall yield their fruit.

"And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage

"And the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time."

with what ^{SAVOR} ~~relish~~ ^{as if savoring in anticipation} ~~and passionate fondness~~ for the good earth
does the Bible describe the land of Israel which the people were marching to possess it!

"For the Lord thy God, bringeth thee into a good land, a land of

"brooks, water, of fountains and depths, springing forth in valleys

"and hills, a land of wheat and barley and vines and fig-trees

"and pomgranates, a land of olive-trees and honey"

And ^{with} what lyric, tender, beauty is described the coming of spring in the song of songs -

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;

"the flowers appear on the earth: the time of singing is come,

"And the voice, the furtle is heard in our land"

The entire song of songs is a rhapsody of nature's redolent of field, orchard, fruit and flowers - and exultant love

with a gazelle and a young hart upon the mountains of Shinar.

2/ The great revelations came to men out of doors - under the open sky - ~~to Abraham by the firelight at Mamre~~
When God revealed himself unto Abraham: "He brought him forth abroad and said: Look now toward heaven, and count the stars - so shall thy seed be."

Moses - a burning bush - desert

David - Mt. Sinai

Elijah - heard the "still small voice" - in a cave on Mt. Carmel - ~~Israel~~ - wind - sent gate, fire

3/ Great moral teachings are re-enforced by reference to phenomena in nature: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise."

The incisive parables of the Bible - have drawn upon nature for their theme. So then uses the parable of the trees "which went forth on a tree to arbor a king - and he ^{no fruit-bearing} would ^{not} accept the olive - only the bramble - and he likened the evil Absalom to the bramble -

Isaiah - vineyard - dropped it - drained it - planted it with thorns - hung forth traps - wild grapes

4/ Every human experience and emotion finds expression in a metaphor - borrowed from nature.

Fear - "walking through valley of shadow of death"
Trouble - "the stream has found over our soul"
Immovable in soul - ~~not like~~ "they that trust in the Lord are as Mt. Zion which cannot be moved"

To be saved from evil - "our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare, the fowler"

Paradise for present life - the happy home life - "thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine, in the innermost parts, thy house. Thy children like olive plants, round about thy table."

5) Judaism, its life & life - always ^{close} to nature. (3)
The ^{typical} ~~unusual~~ contribution, i. to the rel. that, manifest was that
natural forces & natural phenomena, are not gods
but the work, God.
They are not to be worshipped - They are to lead man to
the worship, their creator.
Nature is God's handi-work - God is-dwells in
nature but transcends it - as artist transcends
his handi-work

6) At harvest time - pagans would celebrate with bacchanalian
revelry & offer sacrifices to the gods of the earth, of the
vine, of the corn.

Jud. declared "The earth is the Lord's & the fulness thereof"
& taught men not to worship trees, & plants, or sun
or moon - but to worship God - who created them
all.

And not by sacrifices or gifts - and unbridled animal
spents - but by prayer, thanksgiving - and good
works

7) "When ye have gathered in the fruits, the land, ye shall keep
a feast, the Lord seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn
rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest, and ye shall
take ye on on the first day the fruit of goodly trees... and ye
shall rejoice before the Lord your God."

8) Gratitude to God - who made man to dwell, & rain
to make the earth fruitful - and created the seed
of all life - "They are thine, O Lord" - וְהָאֵלֹהִים - וְהָאֵלֹהִים

9). Gratitude - humility, We are part, ~~the~~ nature, subject (4)
to its laws, growth and decay.

We ~~cannot~~ soon complete our cycle, life.

Our days are few. Our lives insignificant, like the 2110

Remember that, O man, child of dust. ^{Lean your weary}
^{small frame, stone}
^{sway.}

all your pride, power, wealth - as frail - as straw

2 times, 2110

Thence, ~~from~~, all pride and arrogance! Be humble!

Walk humbly. (Isaiah)

Lean - on that which is stronger > you are - which

alides the all else perishes - which is mere

powerful > nature



19. "Lift up your eyes to the heavens,

"And look upon the earth beneath,

"For the heavens shall vanish like smoke

"And the earth shall wax old like a garment

"But my salvation shall be for ever,

"And my deliverance shall not be abolished.

THE HAPPIEST HEART

-- John Vance Cheney

Who drives the horses of the sun
Shall lord it but a day;
Better the lowly deed were done,
And kept the humble way.

The rust will find the sword of fame,
The dust will hide the crown;
Ay, none shall nail so high his name
Time will not tear it down.

The happiest heart that ever beat
Was in some quiet breast
That found the common daylight sweet,
And left to Heaven the rest.

