

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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Yom Kippur, 1941.

Frair

Religion has always posited (charted) two worlds for man to dwell in: this world and the next - the world here and the world hereafter - the world in time and the world in eternity.

For man is a creature of the real and the ideal; of the fulfilled and the unfulfilled, and his heart throbs in the limited present and the unlimited future. One world is not sufficient for man to live in, or to make his life liveable. There must be a beyond to give perspective to his transient experiences. There must be distant and beckoning horizons. There must be another world to complete this world and to compensate for the frustrations and defeats, for the heart-wearying limitations of the life of every man on this earth; a world where Death will be swallowed up in victory and God shall wipe away the tears from all faces.

We know very little of that other world. It is hidden KXXXXX behind impenetrable veils. Failing to see it with naked eyes, some men have denied it, for men are prone to deny what their senses do not grasp. They are not aware that what their five senses do grasp are the least real and accurate facts and the least important truths in the world. But even those who do not concede the other, super-mundane world, which religion posits, live and act consciously or unconsciously as if there were another world, a future world, a different and better world, beyond XXXX their present ken, toward which all their efforts and aspirations are directed. All who work for the improvement and advancement of mankind, for a better social order, for the eradication of poverty and injustice and cruelty and war from their world, do so because they believe that all that is possible, that man can rise from his present and past plane of imperfect and evil (distorted) existence to a higher plane of existence, more perfect, more harmonious and nobler. He too has faith in some future, as yet unsure and unrealizable, as far removed from him as the after-world is to the pious. He too pins his hopes, draws courage for his struggles, and compensations for his frustrations, from a wishful vision of another world. He too cannot live in only one world.

In yet another sense did religion chart two worlds for man - the inner and the outer worlds. There are two worlds for man not only in extension but also in depth, and man actually lives in a four dimensional universe. Our physical WAXIN life, our environment, our contacts with other human beings, our visible acts, these constitute our outer world. Our motives and wishes, our thinkings, our attitudes, our standards and values, these constitute our inner world, the world not visible to the eye of the observer, only inferred, only guessed at. At times the worlds within reveals itself. It becomes manifest in the outer world in our words and deeds, and the two worlds are in harmony. At times our words and deeds do not at all reflect our real thoughts and motives. There is no correspondence; the two worlds are in disharmony, and we live torn between two worlds. Very often we ourselves are unaware of what is actually motivating us; why do we do the things we do? Few men know their own inner life, and most of us are lost in the images of that strange, shadowy world which is INMINION inside the heart and mind of man.

The two worlds are companion we worlds. They interact sharply and continuously. Some men are physically sick and their sickness is directly traceable to a mental or psychological disturbance. Some men are mentally or psychically sick and the root of their trouble is organic.

Of all these four worlds, our religion laid the greatest emphasis upon the fourth - the inner world, the domain of the mind and the heart.

Above all else, God desireth the heart of man. It is, of course, there in the of human experience, in the depths of human MXNX thought and human longing, even more than among the vistas of nature that God can be known, that God reveals Himself.

The utmost prayer

And it is by what we are within that we are judged by the judge of the Universe. His eyes see through the deed to the motive, through

the words to the spirit behind them. Performance of times lags behind intent.

We are not always able to carry through what we desire to carry through of good of and worth. The tools may be missing. The strength may be wanting. God "searches the heart and tries the ". "It matters not," declared our sages on all occasions, "whether you do much or little, so long as your heart is directed to heaven". Deeds are important but even more important is intent! The poor woman brought only a handful of flour to the altar for a sacrifice, hardly enough for a sacrifice in the Temple, but it was all she had, so the sacred writ speaks of her offering as the offering of a Soul!

omon who built it and dedicated it. And yet the Bible speaks of the dedication of the Temple of David
. He deserved to have the Temple named after him but he set his whole heart and soul upon the building of the Temple although he was unable to carry it through. Complete, wholehearted devotion to a task, a cause, an ideal, is in itself an achievement, even if it remains unmaterialized, a concrete and meritorious act - for it paves the way for ultimate materialization.

Conversely, a man may build an institution and pay for it - and yet it may not be his at all, if it fails to express him, his inner convictions or well need, if the act does not XXXX up XX out of deep springs of devotion to the cause which the institution is to serve. He has only transferred money, not loyalty or love. That is why the so-called charitable giving of so many people is so banal, so hollow, so unmeritorious; for it (is) wrung from them by pressure, by coaxing, by fear of public opinion. It does not represent a generous impulse, a heart eager to give and share and help. Their charitable contributions are not theirs at all. They are not in them!...

Inward living - that is the secret of living! The greatest and most potent reality in man's inner world is love - and why? Recause love, far from being blind, is man's clearest vision. It is the

The lucid speculum - the prophetic insight. It enables him to see through all surface obstructions, all the outer darkness and blemishes, and to look deep within. It does not depend upon material causes, with the passing of which, love, too, passes away. It is

. A parent does not love a child less because the child is sickly, or, in the eyes of a stranger, unattractive, or even erring and sinful. With trial and suffering the love of a parent is intensified. And so with all true love! Love does not calculate, measure, is not politic, seeks no rewards. It is sovereign, intent, autonomous, selflessness. It lays up no treasure on earth. It is treasure. It is inward living at its finest and noblest.

There is too much surface living among men, lives lived 2 on the physical and intellectual planes only, and too many existences which have no roots in the spiritual, the inner life. That is why, like trees, they are overthrown when a storm sweeps over them. Our entire world today has been shaken and ravaged by a hurricane of war, hate and fear. All about us governments and institutions and cherished rights and pleasant ways of life are crumbling. And men and women who have lived all their lives in the outer world are now mortally afraid. Afraid of what will happen to them, to their children, to their possessions. Some of them have so despaired of the future that they do not wish to bring any chikiren into the world. They would like to enter into the clefts of the rocks and into the corners of the the terror of this world. This is the inevitable cowardice which overtakes all those who put their trust in the outer world and their entire hope for happiness in it. "It is not wisdom to be only wise - and on the inward vision close the eyes; but it is wisdom to believe the heart!"

Among our Jewish mystics the Evil Spirit was called - the shell, the empty envelope, the hollow cortex. It is an evil spirit because it has no spirit in it. It is just surface, a dark covering for an empty void.

And our age is afflicted with such an evil spirit, surface without depth. We find no certainties to cling to in our outer world and we forget that the only certainties worth clinging to are the spiritual certainties, and that these still exist, thank God, in the inner world of man, as invincible and as indisposable as ever - truth, honor, love, loyalty, justice, charity. We can still practice them. We still can make out lives beautiful and meaningful and rich in satisfactions by practicing them. We can still raise children to tive by these certainties and fight for them, and if need be, give thier youth away for them. There is no more career open for man. Does the war in Europe keep you from living nobly. from doing good, from seeking God - from being a good son or father or husband or friend? From doing justly, loving mercy and walking humbly? But if it does not - then in the great reaches of your life you are secure and full master of your destiny. (Quote) For that you require neither political security nor economic security.

Behind the ramparts of his MWMXinner spiritual life, armored in XXXXX faith, fortified with courage, man can live confidently in spite of the tremors and convulsions of his outer world.

Just because the outer world, sinking back into the slough of chaos and anarchy, is losing or attacking these spiritual certainties of life, there enters into the life of the man who lives inwardly, who has insight, an especial mandate to defend them, to live dangerously in these dangerous times, in their behalf; he takes up the challenge hurled down by the — the dark forces of the empty shells, and strikes back with all his might and with all his confidence —

Now, if at any time, is the summons to adventurous living. We have come to understand, I trust, that a man can live on one sparse meal a day, and wear a shabby coat, and live in one little room, and yet be content so long as his freedom and his dignity are not destroyed, so long as he is treated as an equal among his fellow men. It is therefore not the uncertainty of fortunes

or possessions or careers which should worry men most in these days of upheaval, but the attack which is being made today upon the spiritual values of life, that (that) undergird man's outer world, and chief concern should be today what they can do to defend them.

These values will emerge triumphant if men do not through fear and cowardice betray them; if men are prepared to sacrifice their outer world, in tears, sweat and blood, for their inner world - they will come to possess both, so that in the future, "in this little plot of earth belonging to mortal man life may pass in freedom and peace".

Why destroyed! Not strong but stronger! Defeatists. Sinned against the spirit of man!

Only the two!

(Nebrew- see p.7 of mss.)

No, this is the time to live maximally, to be matched with one great hour, making no concessions to fear or terrorization. This is the time to live fully in our inner world and draw solace and strength from spiritual certainties. This is the time to turn to the neglected things of God!

There is a haunting phrase in Zechariah:

"At eventide there shall be light". When darkness covers this cold and weary outer world of ours, other lights must begin to shine in our inner worlds, the torches kindled by the free and uncowered spirit of men - the fires of faith, hope, courage, honor, nobleness, and love - the eternal flames of life. Then our night shall be filled with music!

I Ret he's always possible 2 worlds for man to dwell in: this "I would and the west the world here and the world Hereafter the unted in their and the world in eternity. In man is a creature of the real and the ideal; of the buffeld and the un fulfilled, and his heart thirds in the him to present and the under tol future. ou world is not sufficient for man to kine in, or To wate his life liveable. Then want he a her med to 91 1/2 perspective to his hour cut expenses in the and feel the work of the war then most he another until to complete this wired and to compressate for the furthaties and dipale, for the heart- wearying how to firm of the life of every would when sporth will he mallowed all faces. all fores. We know very little , that other world. It is hidden he hand un penishable vices. Failing to see it with their yes were were have devised it, for were an person to day what then senses do not pasp. They are not aware that what their fire senses do parts on the least real the and imported and accurate facts and the boost nisportant further in the world. But even those who do not correde the other, super unvalant, world which religion points, live and act consuming in vision. different and as of their way gues the undel-a future world-a factor undel-beyond their Run, forwards which all their effort and as furations are distributed. All who are work for the in programment and advancement of markeil for a better and anely and war, do so heraun they helier that

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- 3). Without Perspecture, without to distant, beckoning Houzens life would hardly be liveable.

Then must be another world to complete this one to plot the course of our hoursient experiences.

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THE HIGHER GOOD

Father, I will not ask for wealth or fame,
Though once they would have joyed my carnal sense:
I shudder not to bear a hated name,
Wanting all wealth, myself my sole defense.
But give me, Lord, eyes to behold the truth;
A seeing sense that knows the eternal right;
A heart with pity filled, and gentlest ruth;
A manly faith that makes all darkness light:
Give me the power to labor for mankind;
Make me the mouth of such as cannot speak;
Eyes let me be to groping men and blind;
A conscience to the base; and to the weak
Let me be hands and feet; and to the foolish, mind;
And lead still further on such as thy kingdom seek.

Theodore Parker (1810-1860)



I when alexander - Tomb of Cyrus O wan whosever thou art and when seven thou comest - for come I know thou wilt - I am Cyrus the Founder of the Persian Empire. Envy me not the little earth Ithat covers my brdy" 21. The little earth that covers wy boly Sut Death - a little earth to cover his brdy - was everyth afraid to like even that! 3). Before Duran Saladin duch courmonded no stemmy at his burial only his shirt, in manun you Eusign med fast to point of a lover to he Carried before his dead broky a plean I were going before it congruency the fact of all the greatness and niches to had in his life. Carried and niches to had in his life, carrieth not with him weything

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(3) True Words (4) Shoric connegé. To be a jost man, a true man, a I soud man, and unafield trucomparmy Hearth - the fact that his days jant great glife which 7. There is some they walk in thinking with , what Zeath with us but what it count not us. had and lost - a lette earth - a shert - But a life, with 7 conquest but y Server leave behind it - rachaut worker

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