



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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Yom Kippur, 1945.

1) Festival of Soul - Symphony of soul.

It is the poetry of soul set to the music of the heart.

From the overture of 5" - whose deep organ-tones announce
 - to the finale of the 2nd even-tide - exultant 7 times - chant
 - climaxed by blasts of 12th - Ritual is one majestic
 tone-poem of the spirit - one theme - many variations
 - a Full score composed - orchestrated.

2) It is mostly all southern music - minor key. ♯

- For the music of the soul is pensive, prayerful - contemplates
 human destiny - struggle, sorrow, sin, the path towards

3) But rising from the depths -  - it does not leave us

- It is a Psalm of life - not of death!

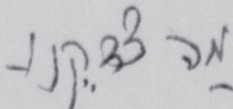
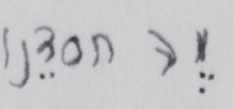
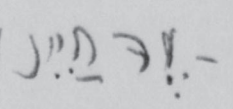
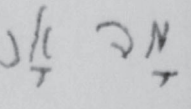
- It ^{in surprising chords of power} moves from night to dawn - and high noon-tide of
 triumph - renewal and salvation.

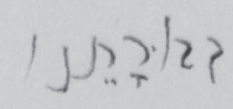
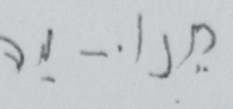
4) To appreciate great music one must - open ear, understand

- Else the message is lost - only sound remains

- One must attune one's soul to message of Y.K. - Reception

5) How? Humble! On this day - shed one's Pride and
 abide in Humility.

On this day our forefathers -  -  -  - 

 - 

In his everyday life - Man is Fortified - (renewed in - confirmed)

- by his position - wealth - power - worldly wisdom
- Encased in this outer armor - secure - prone to ignore in adequacies of his inner life.
- On Y.K. - think only of this inner life - known only to
- In ~~that~~ presence - Man becomes Humble - For we know
- "Then dearest truth in the inward parts"
- As man becomes humble - he is exalted - He approaches God.
- "the broken pride!"

6). ~~From~~ Humility as first step to salvation - Nations
How few nations - even in defeat - acknowledge, Boast - Vaunt
Not so Israel! Their greatest disasters they blamed at
- Neh. 9 - Entire History of Israel a record - of Providence
- Repeatedly the people transgressed - Repeatedly

7). From Humility the theme of the Symphony moves to "Confession"
One must confess - not to Man - Everything
Soul must be purged of all its savagery by Confession
Even High Priest.

8) From Confession - the ritual moves on to Repentance - and the effort must now be made to Return - when to?

- God wants man to return! He meets him on the Returnway Road.⁽³⁾
"His hand is outstretched to receive" -

וְיִשְׁמַח אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּשׁוּבוֹתֵינוּ - וְיִשְׁמַח אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּשׁוּבוֹתֵינוּ
וְיִשְׁמַח אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּשׁוּבוֹתֵינוּ - וְיִשְׁמַח אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּשׁוּבוֹתֵינוּ

- Everyone is invited to repent - excommunicated
- "Jonah" - Nineveh - doomed - Heathers -
- There is Divine favor and grace for all.
- But no return without Effort - Beat down Demons
- It is a Battle - Struggle is within - Enemy is within
- The only victory worth while is the V. within our souls

9). And so having confessed in Humility + repentance -
the music / the day leads us to the Mas' 'Forgiveness'

- In our blindness + ignorance - but sorrow to the heart
of God - וְיִשְׁמַח אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּשׁוּבוֹתֵינוּ - וְיִשְׁמַח אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּשׁוּבוֹתֵינוּ
- God is a God of Forgiveness - But so must Man be a Man
- We must not forever harbor resentment -
- Those who hurt us are as weak as we are -
- Reconciliation through Forgiveness - Horsham - Wicks etc
- Our forefathers are וְיִשְׁמַח אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּשׁוּבוֹתֵינוּ -

10/ We are then led by the haunting music / the great Symphony
to the Land of Memory
Part 1 Liturgy dedicated to Shabbat 5755 -

- One must experience the Tragic Sense of life - the Pains of loss + bereavement. One must come to know the universal lament of death in the heart of the world - to become truly Right-minded about life.
- One must see life against the background of death - properly to appraise it.
- Our ancestors - we want to wear their white funeral shrouds on Y. K. - to bring the thought of death.
- Remembrance of those whom we loved + hints the generations - + projects our hopes beyond the grave.
- It is well for man to pass for a time - first - into Token of Silence - Meditation upon death + oblivion.
- We come forth chastened - a Higher Serenity.

11/ And by the same magic - we are led into the repairs of the Holy Dead - the Martyrs - who died for.

- There are profoundly moving passages which tell - names read
- How thickly populated is that ghostly world.
- וְכָל הָאֶלֶּם הַזֶּה בָּרָא לְפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְלֹא יָשָׁן עוֹלָם - "and I pour out my soul for them" 6 M.

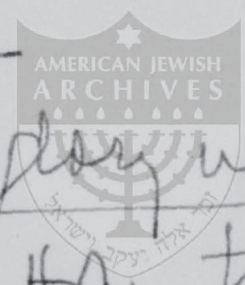
- There is inspiration for men - also also also.
- Mystics declared - וְכָל הָאֶלֶּם הַזֶּה בָּרָא לְפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ - such washletters should have in mind the determinations that should be called upon to suffer martyrdom - submit - hesitancy.

12/. And so purged from the Sense of Guilt by Confession
and Repentance - Humbled in Pride - Reconciled
in Forgiveness - chastened by the threat of Death

- we come at last to the Great Affirmation!

- Affirmation of life in God - Triumph of -
life over Death - Good over Evil - Virtue over Vice
Joy over Sorrow!

- The Spirit is now unburdened! Chains have fallen off!
Man is liberated for a new life in a new year -
The Great Harmony has been restored.
- It is an exultant note of Hope - Confidence - Joy that
our symphony closes -



"And so, O Lord our God, give glory unto Thy people; Praise
unto them that revere Thee; Hope to them that seek Thee;
Confidence to them that wait for Thee; Joy to Thy land
gladness to Thy city ... Then shall the just see and
be glad, the upright shall exult, the pious sing for joy."

13/. And so, with renewed conviction & assurance - Watchwords

2011 - Challenge -

And after the long Fast - there is Repining

וְעַתָּה שִׁבְעָה יָמִים וְעַתָּה חַדְשׁ אֶחָד -

1) Life - Existence.

Those who - Existence - looked upon Death as greatest Tragedy.
Length - real measure

2) Fact that same fate ^{Death} of Death was visited upon just & unjust
made life quite meaningless - estimate
Fact that all life ended in grave - made a mockery of all

3) Kohélet - who holds to that view - הכל הולך אחריו
- They all have their origins in Dust - destination is Dust.

- אין הבדל בין עשיר לעני
- A Physical origin - a Physical destiny (Existence) אין סוף
- The quality of the Life-span in-between is not described
- לדל זמן קצר

4) Animals - אין הבדל בין חיה לבהמה
Therefore - הכל הולך אחריו
② Supreme tragedy - old age + death. Chap. 12, Lament

5) But there who measure Being by not by Existence - החיים
The Point is not that the wise man dies like the Fool - but
that he does not live like the Fool.

The "in-between years" - השנים ביניהם - what
we do with them - הוא העניין - העניין, הערכות

Death is an inescapable Fact - בטחיות to our mortality
It is not fearful - הוא לא מפחיד - Harvest

Is there an Harvest? אם אנחנו רק זורעים את הזרע
to reap the Whirlwind?

2
1) For the purposeful life - Harvest

{ "Then shall come to thy hand in ripe age
"Like as a shock of corn cometh in its season"

2) Death is not ~~the~~ insufferable topic - warring
all of life - erasing all of life's meaning
1.11.11 P.O. 1111

3) "In death all are equal" But not in life -
ment - service - in achievement

In Memory - 22/5/33 225
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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES
p. 106 pl

4) Unafraid! no annihilation! Unsub
remains!

And Lord - "If I make my bed in the hottest world -
behold, Thou art there!"

"We have loved the stars too fondly to be
fearful of the night"