



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, 1947.

1) Not a National Holiday - Histor. Holiday of Nations. YK-47 11
Holiday of Man - Festival of the Soul - Concerned entirely with Man -
His relation to God - Fellowmen - A Relig. Holiday, per excellence.
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2) Not addressed to one nation, all nations, or Humanity.
But to ind. Man - He is central motif Superb - great exhort.
Man! Every man! Regardless of station or caste, class, merit
Man in the toils of destiny - in his essential humanity, against
the background of Eternity, Man, as God sees him.
More in ritual of any other holiday - idea of Man - people
His origin, mortality, suffering, sins, struggles, hopes -
his life + death, the perishable and imperishable -

3) When, ∴ you add up songs and prayers - even-tide - unifying
and sustaining them - what do you find? What message
does the day convey to Man - on the crest of mighty cadences

- Man has immense significance in God's Universal Plan
- Man is very important to God -
- God desires every man - to look upon his life - actions -
- God has equipt Man to make his life important
- God is at hand to help - man to make
- Sin diminishes a Man's importance to himself - to God
- Sin is a lapse from Man's high estate of significance
into smallness, unworthiness + sp. paltriness
- Y. K. is to recall man to his own importance, dignity
to return - + God is at hand to help him

4) This conception of man's tremendous importance - greatness & glory

There are philosophies & religions - great contempt.

stress man's total depravity - utter insignificance in universe
We have such opinion reflected and refuted in Bible.

(Kohelt) - rings all the changes on man's supreme vanity
Human labor and striving - without purpose.

Wisdom is no better than folly. Rightness - wickedness

"For that which befalls the sons of men befalls beasts; - as
one dies, so dies the other; so that man hath no preeminence
above a beast; for all is vanity"

(Job) "Can a man be profitable unto God? Is it any
advantage to the Almighty that thou art righteous?"

5) The classic answer of our rel. is - Certainly!

Es God would not be at all concerned with man's ethical life
Not have given him a soul - prophets -

God needs man as co-worker - in building His World -

When man sins, God misses a faithful helper. He
wishes him to return. His obligation, not - plus as man
praises

6) There are religions - stress - original sin - Adam - and
therefore moral corruption is inherited by all his descendants
- Cannot, by his own efforts, free himself - sinful inheritance
By his own efforts he cannot attain salvation.
It is God alone who can initiate man's redemption.
And by God's grace alone can man be redeemed

Not so Judas! - Man needs God's grace to help him. ³
~~no original sin~~ ~~low levels~~ -
but he is fully equipped for the struggle - must take
the initiative - ^{just}
He must strike the first part - and set the first coals afire
else the bellows will blow in vain upon the dead coals
on the forge.

God pleads with Men: ^{אין אדם יכול לעצמו} אין אדם יכול לעצמו
^{אין אדם יכול לעצמו} אין אדם יכול לעצמו

7/ In our religion - Man is very important, very exalted, and
of enormous potential strength. - ^{Rabbi Bunam - "When I look}
^{upon man - I see a tree -}

"When a man goes on his way, a troop of angels - precede
him and proclaim - "Make way for the image of God!"

Man ranks above the angels - (if worthy of name of man)
for he was created higher than - Other wise - fly, goat, horse

8/ Our age, which is a university age, makes little of the Lord.
It treats men in the mass. -

It has so condemned + subordinated - State - Ustoj

It is becoming more & more anonymous - ^{in shop - office}
^{union -}
^{creation}

masses of men are shunted about in our days, like
so many herds of cattle.

In ancient Israel, ^{a prophet could challenge a King} a man could challenge his God.
Think of what happens to a man in 1/2 world to-day

- Walt Whitman: "The whole theory, the Universe is
directed unerringly to one single individual - namely You!"
That was the heroic dogma of Democritean - derived inspiration

from our Bible - where every law - and p. sug. -
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That is no longer true in our day - hee. rel. basis
of society has been undermined - + Econ. + Mat. theories
have supplanted the dogma - 111 p311 1121

Liberal and demur. phil. + parties are going under
Men want security and have lost faith that a
free society can give it to them

We may be at the end of the golden age of liberty.

This would be tragic for man; for when there is no liberty
man loses in Dignity, in Status, in importance.

The image of God becomes distorted into the image
of the Robot.

It is well for man to fly a plane across the Atlantic
operated by a Robot Mechanism.

It is fatal for man to be so operated!

9). Our religion has always exalted man. - man counts!
He is potentially great and has great work to do in the world
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man is distinguished - singled out!

The whole world was created for the sake of Abraham -

The 111 by his deeds, proper - can answer

Such is the authority of power of Man, the Creator

10). Then follows from this - that man's life is a grave
responsible enterprise - like governing a country

where every act ~~is~~ must be carefully weighed - for much depends on it. (5)

no one who regards his life as important - squanders it, waste his time, spend his energies on

He will conserve his time, his strength, his energies for those activities which - enhance, express -

He will want his life to be abundant -

(a) He will look upon his work - wherever it is - as too important - to abuse it, to treat it indifferently, in a slipshod manner - or to defile it, by deception, or dishonesty, or exploitation.

He will wish his work to be honorable - To do otherwise is to depreciate himself in his own estimation - and to destroy whatever importance it may have for Soc. or Nat.

Bec. his work is important - perfect - highest craftsmanship

(b) He will see his work as important beyond the utilitarian - the material or the practical.

An opportunity for Sp. fulfillment - taps deep wells

near to the reality of life - creative goodness, truth & beauty

(c) His neighbor! Crucial is that all human life is important - not merely my life!

He who despises others - contempt - intolerant, snobbish - fills his heart & mind not with a sense of importance - false & fatal pride, corroding arrogance - Equivalent to idolatry - his famous idol is the man himself -

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Rabbi Eliezer - about to die -

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(a) Spirit of an age - Nazi Spirit - Superior & Inferior

Not so Judaea: "I call heaven and earth to witness, he
he man is a man... Jew or non-Jew - according to his deeds

11). Will talk something, the sorrow & suffering of all life, of us
Great and mighty men - 11/2 - his humiliations

- Our own life can have no meaning - in a world of unending
moral chaos, wrong & injustice.

- In the unfortunate of our life - we must take part -
[14 121] - our day - more justice - less want - peace

- We cannot live in living death - there is no
unfortunate in seclusion.

- On the battle field - "on the darkling plain, swept
with confused alarms of struggle & flight"

- we must complete our lives in fighting the good fight

life is important & 12/ It is important to live nobly - work nobly - die nobly -

And that is why religion is so important - for it
teaches mankind the importance of all these things.