



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, 1951.

YK-51
1) Fascinated - Travelled - Zimbabwe - Majestic ruins (
origins - builders - Deeply moved. towering walls,
built - strong sentries - guardians stood desolate,
① Travelled far - bridges - all times - across thames
their structure - designs - intrigued me! (Sp. Import)
Walls & bridges have much to say - the silent
among the most challenging symbols - is that & speaks 7th

2/ Walls have their def. value & Purpose in the life of man
- gives shelter, security, privacy -
- Protect him against Power - Prize - Enemy
- They came out - inclose him in many, all world
- Submit to his needs - serve householders, masterly,
confidants which are good for him

② Serve good purpose in helping to define - provided
not looked as spite-walls - Fences bristling with
Robert Frost. "Good fences make good neighbors"

"Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out
And to whom I was like to give"

3/ But there are other walls which - no such good purpose -
harmful - Against such walls - spent 7 g. K.

4/ Walls - set up - God + Job. -

→ Materialism is such a wall. False philosophies - matter is sole constituent of Universe. Mind & consciousness but a mode, matter. All sp. processes reducible to Phys. From these premises - ~~which cannot be demonstrated by Sc.~~ agnosticism - a ther. turn

These are walls - They debar - backed up by Sc. - Sc. offers no propos to alter them. - no arguments for materialism

- Why, then, should men build ^{such} walls -

- God is ~~there~~ ^{there and God is} near unto -

- As soon as man opens his mind & heart - God enters in
It is Pride & ignorance - indifference - keep the doors locked
of such Jeremiah } "They have eyes but see not"
"They have ears but hear not."
"They have a revolting & rebellious heart"

5/ Sin is a wall which -

- This is the essence of Sin - Separation!

"Your iniquities have separated bet. you & your God"

~~the way of faith seeks the nearness of God~~

Sin is exile from God's presence - Barrenment from world

when men are at one and at peace with their Creator.

It is also barrenment from world - at peace with God

- Sin is Partition within man's mind - a grievous disharmony

a wall of inner contradiction - Robertus restores
- rage

(3)

6/ Walls - bet. Eos and their Fellow men

Wall of Selfishness - barricades himself behind a high
fortifying W. - Insipidous - Fondly believes - in
greater strength + security - Is sure himself of
exploited + imposed upon.

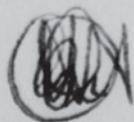
Isolates shuts him off in loneliness - great sex appeal
These walls - his Tomb - where in he dies "unwept,
unhounded and unused."

John Ford - "Unselfishness delivers"

7/ Prejudice, Intolerance, - show many - how towering!!
John Hershey - wrote - "The Wall" - this wall, behind
symbols - all over the world - to divide

Nazis - barriers / Race hate - Superior - Phumped
destroyed millions - (6 M) - laid waste - filled with
with horror, death + desolation

(a) Not yet run their race - these builders, hate walls
One finds them everywhere - in our country too
Wherever there is discontent - breeders - foundations
swarm out, then dart holes + sweep us



- (b) But even good + respectable citizens - build w - whole block (4)
good-will + mutual understanding -
- Social exclusiveness + snobishness
- Fence goes off in own private moral corner - unlike
do not belong to same perpetual state - wealth of family
- Segregate goes in own illusory enclosure - Hug
delusion - better >
- The more insecure - long for ^{some} evidence of status -
some social identification to reassure ers.
- (c) These are walls - interfere - free flow - contact cooperation
- Y.K. - common origin - ancestry - humanity - destiny
- In sight of God - no blue bloods - just families
no Brahmins - no Untouchables
- only children, the dust - who ^{may become} careers - if they
cultivate - + helps on another in godless slave
- this is to earn distinction, honor, security
Pravus - "I hate Pind + Amozanes" - Nil that shd.
| It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the humble
than to divide the spoils with the Pind."
- one has - who pursues good which can be
the most puffed of numeral of all is the zero

- 8). Our world is divided to day by pol. walls & iron curtains (10)
- East against West; - Dem. against ^{Comm.} Socialism; - Amer. against Soviet Union
- There are those who would build W still higher - persuaded
permanent & insurmountable - suspect & resent
- There are the wall-building doctrinaires - both sides - exploiters
of the irreconcilable - In all ages - categories of
"either-or" - no meeting ground - united road
wholly comm. or wholly non-comm. - where they must
be destroyed

- This is the fateful road to war & where ^{only need to} erect new walls
on the ruined foundations of the old.

- Our Y.K. comes to us with message - One World - united
in spite of its differ. & conflicting interests

One God - One Human Family

- 9). Nations who put their trust & security - strong walls
in impregnable Magadon - Chinese walls - 1500 as long
- But the mighty walls of Sericho fell - and the Broad walls of
Babylon were utterly overthrown!

"The Lord God hath a day.. upon every lofty tower and upon
every fortified wall"

- A nation must not - put its trust - armament - at once
- most powerful nations - overthrown -
their very strength - over-confident, over-bearing, persecutors
- drain their strength - Domestic econ. breaks down - Unrest

A nation should put its trust - Strength & Moral and - (6)
intell life - justice & fairness, its laws & institutions
well-being & contentment, it abyzes - Moral Training &
Youth - Stability & to know

" Some trust in chariots - horses - but no SS

10/ Our Pol. urges us to build Bridges > walls.

(a) Bet. "I" and "you" - not same or identical - no two alike -
no two - without conflict -

Incomplete - without bridge - no plc plc

(b) A B. connects opposite shores - carries you over - beyond
yourself into a fuller life:

- Permits uninterrupted traffic of ideas, inspiration, assistance

- Soc. abounds in chasms and gorges - separating men,
deep, ~~dark~~ rivers and their swift, ^{dark} currents

- We must learn to build B. - more difficult > walls,

(c) Charity, Compassion, Sympathy, Magnanimity, Greatness,
are such B. - So is Humility / So is Friendship
So are Tolerance and Brotherhood.

(d) x 25/11 - that is perhaps one of the greatest most enduring
- even devised by Heart & Mind thinking

(e) "with Malice" - that was a B. which a gentleman
- built across River, Blood & frat. stuff

(f) Prayer is a Kn to God - "More things are wrought by Prayer than thou wilt ~~think~~ dreams?"

(g) Memory is a Kn - across the physically impassable gulf of death to our dear departed.

As long as there is remembrance there is no separation.

(h) Every earnest effort at intimat. understanding & cooperation is a Kn - leading to Kingdom.

~~League~~ Nations was such a Kn - collapsed - Kn frequently do - must be rebuilt

V.N. is such a Kn - It is in danger, collapse. war is ^{no Kn} only a "Kn lights" leading men down to death.

11). Let us harken - Voice - Budge-Builders.

(a) Your dear ones? - Family - never permit any wall to separate you - no misunderstanding - no selfishness - no faithlessness - Draw them close to you - very close - with a ~~network~~ Network of kindness & love - & Brsg reconciliation.

(b) Your Neighbor? Knock at his door! and open your heart to friendliness - good neighbors

(c) The Poor - Weak - Stranger - Sinner? Build a B. & Go to him!
- We are all poor &...

(d) Your Enemy? It is hard to bend a B. of forgiveness. - (8)
That is it not for forgiveness that we pray as of IC?

נחמנו לך אלהי נחמנו ונחמנו
} "Man should be as pliant as a reed, not hard as a cedar"

} ואלהיך יסור לך - "Thou shalt not take revenge
nor bear any grudge against the children, thy people."

WRHS

(e) Build Th.! All life is a B. - from birth to death -

from past to future -
Death, too, may be but another B. - ~~which~~ ^{sentences} ~~from~~
~~across~~ with want the right to another dawn!



Walls ~~do not~~ have their definite value and purpose. They ~~close us~~ give us shelter and security and privacy. They ~~protect us against the enemy. They~~ ^{came out from} a small area of unhindered space which is too vast for us to ~~dominate~~ ^{control} and in which we are ~~that~~ a manageable little world which we can submit to all needs and demands. This gave us a sense of ^{home-} mastery and ~~psychological~~ confidence which is good for us.

Walls and fences often serve a good purpose in defining beyond the peradventure of doubt and dispute what is mine and what is yours - providing they are not ^{erected as} ~~erected as~~ walls ~~and~~ fences breeding with hostility. It was the Am. poet Robert Frost who sang "Good fences make good neighbors" but he ~~was~~ ^{wasn't} ~~right~~ ^{quite}!

"Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give of fence"

To the building of such walls for protection, privacy and armishing there can be no objection. They are part of the necessary routine of civilized life.

2. But there are other walls which have even ^{high} physical and spiritual which serve no such valid purposes but, on the contrary are harmful to the best interests of society. And it is against such walls that the great Jew Holy Day cautions us.

They have a restless and a rebellious heart"

4/ Sin is a wall which men set up between themselves
and God - This is the very essence, Sin - Separation!

"You might have separated between you and your
 son" 20/11/21 2012 151324/10 2011/10 2011/10

The man of faith seeks the presence of God - ^{עוֹלָם וָאֶדָּם}
He wishes to dwell in His presence - and to know that only
only those who walk uprightly, and righteously, ~~and~~
~~truth~~ speaks truth in his heart and does no evil.
to his fellowmen - only those can ~~dwell~~ sojourn in the
Tabernacle - can dwell upon the holy mountain -

Sin is exile from Israel forever - It is
banishment from the world when men so at one
 and at peace with their Creator. It is also
banishment from the world when men so at one
 and at peace with themselves. Sin is partition
within man's soul - a permanence disharmony -
a wall of inner contradiction - which
repentance alone can remove - and thus restore
the lost harmony.

Irreconcilable camps of enemies ~~with~~ ~~math~~ ~~enemies~~ 16
to mutual annihilation. They set up barriers of
~~defenses~~ ~~practical~~ ~~and~~ ~~defenses~~ hate. Eos and
Shen Shu as the superior races and the rest of man-
kind as the inferior races — themselves as by right
and destiny masters of the world the others as their
slaves. They plunged ^{manhood} ~~the world~~ into the ~~second~~
world war — which ~~1000~~ destroyed millions of men —
among them 6 m. of our fellow Jews — laid waste
cities and provinces — and filled the earth with horror,
death and desolation.

They have not yet seen their role - their builders
of hate - and not even in Germany. In fact there
is no content or interest among the people - the breeders of
hate - the forerunners of great autogovernors - their
demagogues of race caste and of rel. bigotry
out of their dark holes and weep over the land.

[illegible]

clustering empires. They like to hang the delusion that
in some way they are better than the common run
of humanity. The new sciences they are so full of
now they lay for ~~such~~ some evidence of status,
some ~~the~~ social identification which will reassure
them.

These are walls which, ^{separately men and what} interfere with the free flow
of human contact and cooperation. Y. K. reminds
us of an common ancestry an common humanity,
an common mortality. In the sight of God there

are no blue bloods, no first families, no social dis-
tinctions, ^(no Brahmins and no Untouchables) only men running
destined to return to the dust and
in life may ~~be~~ ^{as} ~~men~~ ^{men} but whose careers
cultivate their hearts and minds, and keep one
another in ~~love~~ ^{goodness and} love. This is to
earn distinction, ^{show our security}
~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~world~~ ^{world} - we read in the Bible

of words: "I take pride and arrogance" - Pride goes
before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall

"It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the
humble, than to divide the spoil with the proud"

"Before honour is humility" ^{2/15 3/20 not}
As for us we remember to speak of our Y. K. day
(with haughty eyes. x l v p 1572 2nd 1866 1868 1870 1872 1874 1876 1878 1880 1882 1884 1886 1888 1890 1892 1894 1896 1898 1900 1902 1904 1906 1908 1910 1912 1914 1916 1918 1920 1922 1924 1926 1928 1930 1932 1934 1936 1938 1940 1942 1944 1946 1948 1950 1952 1954 1956 1958 1960 1962 1964 1966 1968 1970 1972 1974 1976 1978 1980 1982 1984 1986 1988 1990 1992 1994 1996 1998 2000 2002 2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020 2022 2024 2026 2028 2030 2032 2034 2036 2038 2040 2042 2044 2046 2048 2050 2052 2054 2056 2058 2060 2062 2064 2066 2068 2070 2072 2074 2076 2078 2080 2082 2084 2086 2088 2090 2092 2094 2096 2098 2100 2102 2104 2106 2108 2110 2112 2114 2116 2118 2120 2122 2124 2126 2128 2130 2132 2134 2136 2138 2140 2142 2144 2146 2148 2150 2152 2154 2156 2158 2160 2162 2164 2166 2168 2170 2172 2174 2176 2178 2180 2182 2184 2186 2188 2190 2192 2194 2196 2198 2200 2202 2204 2206 2208 2210 2212 2214 2216 2218 2220 2222 2224 2226 2228 2230 2232 2234 2236 2238 2240 2242 2244 2246 2248 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7/ yes, walls are the sorrows of our life. (8)
Our world today is divided by walls and iron curtains.

- the East against the West; ~~Democracy~~ Dem. ~~vs.~~ vs. Amer. against
the Soviet Union; - the Jan. world of the communist
world.

- There are those who would build the wall still
higher - who are convinced that there are permanent
and unassailable walls - who are superstitious and who
resent those who ^{still believe in the one world} ~~would try~~ to reduce, and level
off these walls.

- There are the wall-building doctrinaires on both
sides, the iron curtain, the W.B.H.S. they are the expert
the inevitable. They have the real expert
the inevitable in all ages - much which
can think only in the categories of "either, or" -
either the whole or nothing! Either we are a free people
or we are not free - no middle road - no
compromise! Our world must be either wholly
communist or wholly non-communist. In either
other world destroyed.

- This is the fateful road to war - and wars
erect new walls on the ruins of the old.

- Our Y.K. came to us again with the message of
the one world - a united world in spite of its
differences, contrasts and conflicting interests.

21/2 pths x 11/11 x 10/11 23/11 ed Hall - May they all
P.T. - form one band - one proposition - to do
they will with a perfect heart. - 21/11/11 x 12 x 12 10

8/ There are nations who put their security ^{and protection, their life, their} in they walls -
- on ^{unfathomable} Megad line - a Chinese wall, 1500 miles long - and
25 feet thick. - But the ^{way} walls, Tenochtitlan - and
the broad wall, Babylon were utterly overthrown.
"The Lord hath a day" upon every lofty tower and upon
every fortified wall."

A nation must not put its ^{sole} trust in its
military power - ^{WRHS} in its armament - ~~in~~ even
in the atomic bomb. ^{AMERICAN ARCHIVES} The most powerful ~~at~~
military nation in the world were finally overthrown.
Frequently their very strength ^{for} the fatal
weakness. They became over-confident, over-bearing, ~~over~~
presumptuous. They train their strength in countless
military adventures. Their domestic economy breaks
down. U. S. and + revolutionaries weaken them from
within and prepare them for ultimate defeat in war.

A nation should put its trust in it in ^{moral} its
life - in the justice and fairness of its ^{unjust} unjust
in the well-being and contentment of its citizens + in the
moral conviction of its youth - in the stability, its honors.

(10)

Some trust in charities, and some in horses
But we will make mention; the name of the Lord our God

9) our Religion urges us to be builders, bridges - rather
than builders, walls.

(a) Between the "I" and the "you" - every man should build
a bridge - It is not that the "I" and the "you" are the same &
identical - It is ^{no two people are exactly the same, having close, intimate} that they remain uncompleted without
a connecting bridge - if not people.

(b) A bridge connects opposite shores. It carries you
over - beyond journey with a fuller life. ^{of peace, safety} It permits
uninterrupted traffic & ^{of assistance, of comfort} ~~ideas~~ of assistance, of comfort.
~~It binds together the~~ ^{It binds together the} ~~human life~~ ^{human life} ~~abounds in~~ ^{abounds in} ~~depths, and fulfills, and deepens~~
furrows and channels - wide rivers separate men and
deep furrows -

(c) We must learn to build bridges - which are more
different to build than walls.

(d) Charity and Compassion, pity and sympathy, magnanimity -
and good-will - are bridges across the deep
river of life. So is humility! So is Friendship!
So is Tolerance and Brotherhood!

(e) "Turn Thy Neighbor a Thief" - that is perhaps the most and most enduring of all bridges that man has ever devised -

(f) Prayer is a bridge to God -

(g) Memory is a bridge to one who has departed. It bridges ^{over} the physically impassable gulf ~~and~~ of death.

As long as there is ~~memory~~ remembrance there is no final separation.

(h) Every effort towards ^{mutual} ~~mutual~~ understanding and cooperation is a bridge ^{leading to the Kingdom of God on} earth. The U.N. is ^{only} a bridge ^{leading to death.}

10) Let us look to the vast, as Babylon which he always admonished men to Bridge-Builders - the poor, the weak, the stranger, the sinner - build a bridge and go to him. Turn enemy - try to turn him and try to build a bridge of understanding even with him. Turn God - He is near - and faith & prayer will build a way to Him.

1. We should build b. to the post. Hest. is a bridge which connects the post with the present.

An ind. ^{who has} lost his memory - is no longer normal.
A soc. which is ignorant or forgotten its past - is past
exp. and its past culture is an abnormal, ~~and~~ insecure
and uncreative society.

and innovative society.
A people needs a great past to fortify a great future.
Sens exp. have used and reason to build bridges
to connect them with their past.

to connect them with their past.
They have such a glorious and inspiring past. —
so rich in experience, in achievement, in culture,
in personalities.

There is so much ~~of~~ work to be done there - so much fund raising and organization for the future.

novel fundables ~~at~~ ~~disposition~~ ~~for~~
 Jews who turn their backs upon ^{younger} ~~disposition~~ ~~for~~
 and intell. & sp. accomplishments - ^{- who will not be found -} as little ^{as} those
 unfortunates who ~~come~~ ^{to} ~~run~~ ^{run} from aphasia.
 They are without memory - ~~and~~ without ^{without} ~~future~~ ^{secret}
 of hope.

as life.
 They might attach themselves to the life of other
 people and appropriate their stock of memories.
 Even such proxy memories do not without value -
 but they are not the same as one's very own which
 is ~~drawn~~ from the deep wells of ~~the autumns~~, and
 one's own people live through the autumn.