



## 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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62

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Yom Kippur, 1956.

1. "We spend our years as a tale that is told."

It is a beautiful and deeply moving smile.

It is equally beautiful and moving when we translate  
"as a tale that is told" - but as a sigh. "Our years come to  
an end like a sigh". - (Revised Standard Version)

Both ~~suff~~ ideas suggest the swift passage, the brief duration, a few days upon earth.

2/ the that often occurs to me when I hear that verse "We spend our years ... what kind of tale?"

our years... What kind / or take -  
It may be an <sup>altogether</sup> meaningless tale! If so, its brevity is  
of little <sup>importance</sup> ~~significance~~. If very long - it may prove to be just <sup>long words</sup> ~~one~~  
protracted and tedious bore down. Rich and noble. So... enterprising

And if it is an exciting tale of <sup>high and noble</sup> adventure, and fine, enterprising  
heroic deeds - then its brevity ~~does~~ <sup>will</sup> not defeat the tale  
if its ~~appealing~~ <sup>enduring</sup> quality. Men will wish to read and  
re-read it like some immortal, golden story, whose  
author may have died long, long ago - and like those  
deathless tales of the past - which generations  
have cherished and treasure still - and which are  
treasured to this day. ~~for~~ that is told may live to

measured to this day. fate that is told may prove to  
a life which is as a good fate that is told may prove to  
be an independent life - Its influence will abide and  
~~children and grand children~~ will recall it, will recall it, <sup>to their children</sup>  
with pride and loyalty.

3/ Coal and oil which are so vital to our economy and  
which we use so constantly for light, heat and power -  
are nothing but ~~stored~~ sunlight, stored <sup>away</sup> thousands  
centuries ago - A great book, a great example, to  
life, healthy and nobly lived is just such stored sunlight -



4/ Let no one worry that his life is spent as a tale that is told. (2)  
Let him <sup>1st</sup> worry about the <sup>as content</sup> nature, that tale, the plot, that  
story - its meaning, its message.

For the story of our life - is basically autobiography. We  
write it ourselves. Other ~~hand~~ people play ~~parts~~ in it,  
of course. External factors, ~~and~~ events and opportunities are  
not without their ~~own~~ role in the unfolding drama of our lives.

But the moral content and summary of it - the ~~theme~~ <sup>summary</sup>  
and appraisal of it - are an our ~~own~~ <sup>personal</sup> ~~view~~ <sup>view</sup>.  
F.D. - p. 106 1112 1113

The tale of our life that is so quickly told - is our tale -  
we are its author.

And we should not be ~~concerned~~ but it be brief - ~~and~~  
~~even in complete~~ but that ~~of every stage of the~~  
long a short, it ~~is~~ <sup>should</sup> well written.

The value of a masterpiece - in prose, poetry, painting, music or  
statue, is not ~~dependent~~ <sup>on</sup> its size, length or bulk.

5/ We should not worry about the ~~incomplete~~ <sup>so-called</sup> life. No life  
is quite complete or incomplete. ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~does~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>is</sup> -

R. Johnson, visited R. E. Egan b. Robert Egan at. Found him  
weeping. - Why? Is it because I as have not fully mastered  
the ~~2) ix.~~ - (for it will be taught us -  
"It matters not whether much or little - of only the man's  
heart is directed towards Heaven."

6/ The same sage who declared ~~John~~ <sup>John</sup> ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> said.  
~~John~~ <sup>John</sup> ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> said.



3

Moral History

Wester

Samuel B A

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f. A. 12

היום קיבלתי (במ/י) 2 מיליון



1) Our Tradition - Tables, Law - inscribed 10 - 10<sup>th</sup> Title - the day (12)  
Second Set - for the first - broken - when sinners - punished - repented  
- permitted - Sign of Forgiveness - Took place on Y.K.  
x12222 x12222 / 12222 - x12222 / 12222 . At the time of the giving

"The Lord said unto Moses: Write these words, for in accordance  
with them, I have made a Covenant with you and with Israel"

2) Concept of Cov. dominates - Defines a unique, mystic relationship -

Our religion begins with a Covenant.

"The Lord appeared to Abraham - and said unto him: 'I will make  
my Covenant between you and me.'"

Throughout its history, Israel was reminded that this Cov.  
Abraham - Moses - stood at Mt Sinai - but with all members -

"You stand this day - heads of your tribes - elders - of your  
tribes - Nor is it with you only that I make this sworn  
Cov. - but with him also who is not here with us this  
day."

3) Whenever - "Everlasting", "holy" an invitation of Majestic Democracy,  
as no speaks of something sacred and inviolable - as something  
that is evaded - refuted with impunity

4) Now What is a Covenant? A solemn compact <sup>not always equal positive</sup> bet. parties  
by which they bind each - to certain definite promises  
and undertakings.

and if for political-political purposes  
under the terms of this compact - God promised to  
guard and shelter Israel amidst all conditions  
and circumstances = for God wanted Israel to be - as was -  
the first people -



If Israel forsake the Covenant - it would be promised to (3)  
cause it to repent - but God would not permit its  
total ~~utter~~ destruction.

"Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies,  
I will not spurn them, nor will I abhor them so as  
to destroy them utterly, and break my Covenant with them,  
for I am the Lord their God"

God will always watch over Israel. There will always  
be left a remnant in Israel ~~which will do no wrong,~~  
~~and~~ which will carry on. God never forsakes the Covenant!

5/ And Israel, under the terms of the Covenant, promised to  
~~remain~~ faithful always to the One God and to His moral  
law - not to return to the worship of the idols of  
the heathen, and to their <sup>unholy</sup> ~~abominable~~ ways. "All that the  
Lord has spoken, we will observe and do."

6/ In a sense, ~~it~~ it is a startling paradox, to speak of  
a compact or a covenant bet. men entered into  
bet man, mortal, finite man, <sup>between</sup> a people, and the ~~eternal~~ =  
omnipotent, invisible and eternal God.

And if taken literally, ~~and theologically~~, it makes no  
sense, ~~of all~~. But ~~we are~~ <sup>convinced</sup> we are to employ  
quite inadequate human categories and figures, ~~which~~ when  
we try to express profound spiritual <sup>truths</sup> ~~affirmations~~ and  
insights. John 1:12-13.

This John 1:12 was never regarded by any people



as a legal contract - a formal agreement such as  
trades-people enter into - a quid pro quo

כי מאג פערט וואס אנדאס אלס בור, ליטא, טאק'ס,  
לוי אלס אנדאס זקייטס - וואס! זיך אנטהאלטן

It is an affirmation of the human spirit.

- It is a public avowal of a deep truth - and a public self-dedication to a way of life and a mission

- In Judaism, the spirit of man seeking to orientate itself in a bewildering universe - ~~comes~~<sup>came</sup> to assert dogmatically that Universe is not Chaos. God does not act arbitrarily or capriciously. (Heaven)

- welsh, eratic, animal

- helpful, brave, amoral
- not bound by a moral obligation to mankind

- Did - pleased - whatever - pride, jealousy, lust, impulse

- no correspondence - main deserts - fat

- Given no moral security - counted for nothing

7/ Jud. rejected this moral anarchy in the Drown

Proclaimed - that God - not only Creator, physical

- author, that law - obligated



" Shall not the judge, all the earth do justice? - remembered (3)  
Abraham with God as he pleaded for the sinners of  
Sodom. - 12/1/15.

I know God is all-powerful but He judges the world  
with mercy. This is His covenant with mankind, with  
Israel. - 12/1/15 - 7 weeks + 7 days -

~~God by this great act has shown~~ ~~that He is~~ ~~self-compassionate~~  
~~the Holy God of Israel shows Himself holy in His covenant~~  
8. This is the meaning, the covenant idea when applied made by  
God with man.

- God will deal justly with man - and also lovingly and com-  
passionately. - for the highest justice is merciful justice. also Father  
- Shepherd

- God will not willfully or needlessly afflict His children.  
- Man can trust Him. Man can confidently proceed to  
build his home on earth - confident that God will help  
him - 12/2/15/16 = 12/2/15/16

- God wants man to live and prosper - and enjoy life on earth

- When man discovers the moral law of God - He will be  
punished - but not without mercy - as without the  
possibility of repentance and forgiveness.

9. There are the divine commitments, as I were.  
And man, assumes responsibilities, under this covenant.

- to practice in his life and his relationships this principle  
the same principles which he would ask of God. - 12/2/15/16

10. And then this covenant God is broken and man  
is removed.



The Covenant idea bestows Status upon Man.  
Covenants are not made with slaves who have no will <sup>if they are</sup>  
or authority, their own - but with free men - who can  
~~exercise choice and make decisions~~  
There are theologians who maintain that Man is sinful  
and / or is all -  
Such theologians must reject the idea / Covenant but  
God and Man.  
~~John~~ J. insists on the idea / Covenant - it insists on  
the dignity and freedom / man - and his significant  
role in Creation. It suggests a <sup>best friend</sup> ~~relationship~~ <sup>between</sup> God and man.  
It is an heroic concept which marks man heroic!

11). Every vital relationship in human life should be viewed as  
a Covenant - implying mutual trust, forfeiture of self-interest

(a) Marriage is <sup>regarded</sup> ~~looked upon~~ as an sacred institution, as  
Covenant - a man's wife is known as his <sup>own</sup> Covenant  
wife, his Covenant - ~~it~~ God bless this <sup>own</sup> Covenant  
with love to the sacred Covenant between man & wife:

"I will betroth you to me for ever;  
I will betroth you to me in righteousness & in justice  
in steadfast love, and in mercy."  
I will betroth you to me in faithfulness."

This is it - the Covenant which by its mutual commitment  
of righteousness, and justice, and steadfast love and mercy  
and faithfulness makes it an everlasting Union -  
- destined to remove all misunderstandings and all shifts  
of heart -



It is this <sup>view of marriage as</sup> ~~idea~~ <sup>view</sup> of a loving Covenant - <sup>wherein men and women are</sup> ~~committed~~ <sup>committed</sup> to the sharing of all burdens - all joy and all sorrows - all trials and tribulations - <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ makes marriage - p. 13p - <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ enables each to this life - and <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ makes this home an enduring refuge and sanctuary.

12/ Friendship - is ~~based on~~ <sup>such</sup> a spiritual Covenant <sup>with God</sup> the love of David and Jonathan is crowned and ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> as a Covenant.

"Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul... The Lord shall be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants for ever."

No lasting friendship is ever built upon self-seeking and exploitation but on <sup>trust and</sup> ~~mutuality~~ - on real brotherhood - on a readiness to sacrifice - "a friend loves at all times". It is at the very core of the Covenant.

13/ Citizenship is a Covenant. It is a solemn compact ~~between~~ <sup>between</sup> free men - to help and protect each other in the building of a just and free society -

We the people of the U.S. in order to form a more perfect Union - establish justice - insure domestic tranquility - provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare - and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity - do ordain and establish this Constitution for the U.S. / America - A Constitution is a solemn compact!



Then follow the undertakings, the covenants, the  
privileges, the responsibilities -

Facts must be just! Citizens must be patriotic!

This is the compact!

- If citizens think only of <sup>themselves and their selfish interests</sup> ~~their rights~~ - how to grow  
rich and powerful - regardless - then anarchy &  
tyranny <sup>must</sup> inevitably result.

14/ So many people go thru life as if they were bound by  
no covenants! - Uncommitted!

- No ideals to compel their loyalties.

- No causes to challenge their ~~service~~ devotion <sup>for the sake</sup> ~~in the name~~

- No burden which they ~~would~~ <sup>would</sup> be willing to assume <sup>in the name</sup>  
of family, a friend, or community, or country or religion

They stand for nothing! They are dedicated to nothing!

They are prepared to defend nothing! They are nothing!

- They have no covenants with life - <sup>their covenants are</sup> ~~with death~~

- Always willing to talk but not to risk or share! - and

When they <sup>do</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>their</sup> ~~is~~ judging - not out of conviction

- as eager participants in a worthy social enterprise -

- but out of fear of public censure.



- (9)
- Always refusing to take a stand - everlastingly, tacking and veering, and shuffling and shuffling.
  - Refusing to champion any cause, <sup>they think to be right</sup> for fear of making enemies and unpopularly.
  - Content to let others do the fighting for them -
  - Never facing up to their responsibilities - in their homes - their communities.





15/ Our journey on Y.K. day - the day, / at's Covenant with Israel (10)

What are your covenants?

What are you prepared to hold on to - 7 principles of  
standards, conduct - in your life - in business life - in your daily  
life?

If you have strong, unbreakable covenants in your life -  
you will go from strength - not possessed by them but strong - and your life  
deepest satisfaction.

16/ You belong to a people that knew the harder and the  
longer an ancient Covenant - For its sake they  
endured obloquy and persecution - the fury of persecutors - the  
torments, Exile - They remained faithful - and the Lord  
was with them.

17/ Our ancestors  
they could appeal to their God on Y.K. - as the strength  
that sustained their fortunes and loyalty - to that Covenant  
faith!

That Covenant that lay over their lives in their darkest  
shelters - and over the tortured and broken highways  
their dispersion and wandering

18/ How we, in all our ways, have been faithful to that Covenant  
Let us the descendants, the noble ancestors who have  
maintained the principles, covenants, loyalty to great ideals  
- not betraying them - nor ourselves - by persecuting  
the ideal, Covenant to drain away from our hearts  
- Call -