



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Armistice Day, 1925.

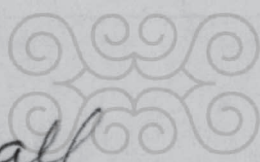
1. Gratefully we recall to day that on this day 7 years ago the greatest war of mankind came to an end and the universal tragedy was brought to a close — Gratefully we recall that on this day 7 years ago, our men returned from the fields of carnage — to resume the sacred tasks of peace, having needed in sacr. loyalty their country in its hour of need. — In grateful remembrance too, we hold to-day the beloved ones the faithful who did not return, but who sealed in ^{their} death their covenant with immortality. —

2. We are chastened and humbled in the memories of those terrible years crowded in upon us — ~~memories which~~ ^{as we have often deplored the ignorance of} ~~we can forget and few would wish to return~~ and we often ask ourselves — Have the gains been commensurate with the sacrifices, has proper atonement been made for the precious blood of the world's youth poured out upon the ground — have human life been enriched, has what they suffered, with greater nobility, freedom and integrity?

3. We pray that this may be so. We are as yet too near the confused details of that catastrophe and of its aftermath rightly to discern its large contours and ^{large implications} ~~appearances~~ ^{with their implications} ~~there must be~~ ^{but} Some blessing mankind must wrest from this dark angel of death with whom it ~~for~~ wrestled during the long night of war, or else life would be unutterably sad and hopelessly beyond redemption — The submerged and denied peoples of Europe have found a greater freedom and the universal peace has been brought a little nearer to the goal of consummation by the precious gifts of their martyred dead.

4. No war builds. It destroys. But of better things it destroys those things which should be destroyed. It ^{then} clears the jungle, and prepares the way! The slow, patient, heart-breathing work of building ~~before the~~ must come after the war — and must be ~~as profound~~ ^{as profound} by those who remain loyal to the faith, those who know the higher courage

WRHS



1. gratefully we recall
2. Chained & humbled - ask
3. We pray that it may
- The Submerged -
4. War never builds.
5. Ann. Day is challenge
- Organized Rel -
6. Peace will come

of daily ~~consecration~~ carrying their daily life, & doing heroically
the unheroic things, by those who carry the torch ~~down~~ through
the unperfected years & years which they who died put into
their hands, in the following years, was. —

5. May Armistice Day always challenge us to ~~ensure~~ safeguard the
high sacrifices, the way to see that among those high hopes for
greater justice and peace among nations for which they gave & then the
red sweat more & more is dissipated. ^{TP} And Armistice Day is
an especial challenge to Org. rel. for whom justice & peace are
the supreme & eternal problems of social life — The church must
assume leadership in Estab. Union. It must create
a temperament for peace. For such, given with a crusading
zeal for peace — It must focus the attention & men upon the
machinery for effecting peace, however, provisional & undemanding
it may at first be — It must free itself from the old
traditional ~~allignment~~ ^{allignment} with the State, which carries with it
the full endorsement of the State's pol. purpose & programs.
It must rise above the State — It must regain its own
prophetic voice & men will listen.

6. Peace will come, if it come at all, not as a cadaver,
maiden leaving gift — war, plagues, spot upon and
mutilated. The only great ideal plan must first travel
the thorny road of frustration, defeat & sorrow as it can
reach the goal of ~~cessation~~ ^{cessation} & triumph. Herein is the
challenge to ~~become~~ the Church. Herein lie the real
meaning & of rel. in the world today.