



## 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 V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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The second restoration has begun, 1926.



THE SECOND RESTORATION HAS BEGUN!

Oct 1926

26-26

Palestine! What memories cling to that name, what ancient glamour and what sanctity!

A small country, and yet from earliest times it has been the keystone in the arch of empire, the link connecting three continents, the highway of international traffic, and the confluence of many cultures.

The one Holy Land of Humanity! It cradled two great historical faiths and is sacred ground to still a third. A marvellous breeding-ground it has been of titanic souls - prophets and sages and dreamers of unforgettable dreams. The noblest literature of mankind was fashioned there.

Through the centuries the East and the West met there and struggled for mastery. The Occident launched eight Crusades to conquer it but the Orient never relinquished it.

For centuries now Palestine has slumbered, together with the whole of the Near East. Silence and death descended upon it. The land that once flowed with milk and honey was barren and desolate. But by one of those strange miracles of history it is now again springing into life - an eager, pulsating, joyous life, and with it the whole of the Near East seems destined to reawaken.

Perhaps it is no more miraculous than the people which is now performing this miracle - Israel. Destroyed politically nineteen hundred years ago, it refused to die. Driven from its land and scattered to the four corners of the earth it never lost its physical and spiritual identity. Worn by wandering and broken by persecution it never surrendered its invincible hope of restoration, and now after passing through the tribulations of the world war in which no people suffered more, Israel astounds the world by its amazing physical and spiritual efforts.



to rehabilitate itself again as a people in its historic home - Palestine. No people has ever defied so magnificently all the laws of history!

And by thousands they are returning!! From the impoverished ghettos of Poland, from the pogrom-ridden lands of Eastern Europe, they come, artisans from Lithuania, farmers from the Ukraine, merchants from Rumania, students from the universities of Vienna and Berlin, a motley host of men and women either driven by economic and political necessity or drawn by a glorious vision of the New Zion. Verily, the Second Restoration has begun!

They return as men return to their old homes - after a long absence. They do not come as Europeans come to oriental lands on business - bent, to exploit them. They come to rebuild Palestine - to make it their home and the home of their children even as it was the home of their sires.

And what a miracle of transformation they are achieving there and how swiftly! New roads everywhere, new towns, new colonies, new industries, new schools... Everywhere enterprise and progress - everywhere the visible effects of the scientific methods of the West applied by men who love and understand the East.

Palestine at the hands of these eager pioneers is indeed becoming a Land of Promise. The soil is being irrigated and reclaimed. Agricultural settlements wherein men are seeking to organize life upon the basis of the prophetic principles of absolute economic and social justice are being everywhere established. A remarkable health program - perhaps the finest in the East - is being carried through. Hospitals and clinics which serve the entire population irrespective of race or creed are being erected. A modern educational system now covers the land.

And within the last two years the Hebrew University - with Albert Einstein as one of its governors - has been founded.



The Hebrew language has been revived. Here again a miracle !  
A language which for centuries has been forgotten, at least as far  
as the spoken word is concerned, is now the language of trade and  
commerce, of the school and the street, and of a rich and vigorous  
literature.

The words of Isaiah come back:

"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace and for  
Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her triumph  
go forth as brightness, and her salvation as a torch  
that burneth".

"And the nations shall see thy triumph, and all kings  
thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name,  
which the mouth of the Lord shall mark out. Thou  
shalt be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and  
a royal diadem in the open hand of thy God".

