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The message of Abraham Lincoln, 1927.

THE MESSAGE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Abstracts of an Address delivered by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
at the Lincoln Day Celebration of the Veterans of the Civil War
Statler Hotel, Saturday Evening, Feb. 12, 1927.

Abraham Lincoln has a message, a two-fold message, the message of his life, and the message of his political faith.

A great man is one who lives a great idea and his life is but the testimony of the unfoldment of this great idea which he bequeathes to posterity. Every great man writes a Bible, a Book of Revelations, for God reveals himself thru great men. That is why biography is the sacred literature of the world. Abraham Lincoln lived a great idea and his life is an indelibly inscribed record of the successful unfoldment of this idea. This great idea was Democracy.

Lincoln's life was the channel thru which democracy in all its wonderful potency expressed itself. Lincoln's life, I hold, is democracy triumphant. It is the proof, the testimony, the epic of democracy. Lincoln is democracy. Washington was not. Jefferson was not. Both were devoted disciples of democracy but neither was a product of democracy. Both were the rebellious children of an undemocratic civilization. They reasoned themselves into democracy. But Lincoln was "bone of its bone and flesh of its flesh". Lincoln was of the very soil of democracy, of the earth earthly.

Lincoln is not only the supreme achievement of democracy but also its most exalted apostle and witness. For Lincoln is the proof of the truth, of democracy. The American

Lincoln's political faith too has a message for us. Lincoln never compromised on principles. The framers of the Constitution, the fathers of this country compromised. They believed in democracy but they were not ready to accept its ultimate implication and so they limited the conception of democracy. This limitation ultimately cost hundreds of thousands of lives of American citizens. Lincoln, of all men, was the last to compromise. If democracy is true, it is universal. If democracy is true it is applicable to all men. Lincoln said "This country cannot be half free and half slave", Lincoln re-defined the word democracy and plumbbed its very depth.



27-6

THIRD ANNUAL
Lincoln's Birthday Banquet
OF THE
Cuyahoga Council
Sons and Daughters of the Union Veterans
of the Civil War



HOTEL STATLER

Saturday Evening, February 12th, 1927

PROGRAM

March.....	Orchestra
Song, "Star Spangled Banner".....	Orchestra and Audience
Invocation	
Greetings to Guests and Veterans	Hon. John D. Marshall Mayor of Cleveland
Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.....	Commander Talbott, Memorial Post G. A. R.
Selection.....	John Pierce Cleveland Institute of Music
Introductions.....	National and Department Officers
The Proposed Lincoln Memorial.....	Helen Green
Selection	G. Wagner
Address, "Abraham Lincoln".....	Rabbi Silver, A. H.
Song, "My Country Tis of Thee"....	Orchestra and Audience
Trumpeter.....	W. K. Patterson

*Music by Cuyahoga Council Orchestra
Edward Aust, Conductor*

MENU



Celery Olives

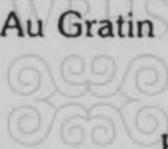
Celery

Frank Sockman

Olives

Roast Chicken

Potatoes Au Gratin



French Peas

Head Lettuce

Thousand Island Dressing

Parfait

Cakes

Coffee

Floral Decorations through courtesy of the J. M. Gasser Co.

of popular part - of the its pronunciation, its medley
to sufficiency of the ease with which it cloaks vast
fallies in ~~attracting~~^{lifelong} gulls - and the ~~of~~ obtuseness with
which it turns ~~in arguments & over~~ ^{sacrifice} traits over ideals and
to our ultimate interests. Sudden from all
~~meets~~ⁱⁿ shakings. He experiences them. It saw
Republ. pledged to the people that all men as
creed equal - legalizing the ~~enslavement~~^{to be} of
millions - nothing determining to end at the
new territories - and dividing the land in
fraternal blood to ~~end~~ rather than permit
this wretched declaration in fact a
reality. He saw corruption and incompentence
in office. He experienced the shifting & vacillating
character, popular opinion, and the instability
of pop. sentiment - ~~and yet~~ he never lost
faith in the folk, the people etc. In fact to
it assumed in his eyes a wretched fraudum.
~~the~~ ^{an} account of a religious dogma.

1. God speaks thus through the Great Tribunal
of the American people. Faulty and im-
perfect it is yet His channel of revelation.

2. Over and over he refers in his speeches
and his writings to "the good old" "central
ideas" of the Republic. He believed in them and in
their ultimate triumph passionately. ~~justly~~

3. Equal, not as to color etc. "in all human rights"

4. And this faith, after ^{after} ~~over~~ the ^{greatest} ~~greatest~~ ^{greatest} ~~greatest~~
and disasters of a Civil War -

2. Not alone did L. believe in democracy. He was democracy. His life is democratic. Triumphant. Washington, and Adams, and Jefferson and Hamilton were not. They were rebellious children from an undemocratic civilization. It was an intellectual correction. They rears us themselves with it aided by the liberal clt of 1863. But L. was born, it born, & the very soil of democracy.

1. From the peat heart of the Kootenay - west - from the rude freedom of pioneer life - from the conveniences of the backwoodsman - from the poverty, from ignorance, from superstitions - he rose - a rough-hewn, bold, austere and unapproachable giant, who had a cultured, full-orbed life - to the sublime heights, the noblest peacock & Empress of all.

2. Age has a tendency to smooth through angularity of parts. To cover up mercifully much that is harsh but fine. True the ~~worst~~ preceding years and achievements. Nevertheless - we think of L. not as the uncompromising, stern, patient, courageous leader of men - ^{feeling probably} he was all that. But he had also ^{with his other like} the stamp of the frontiers' life - there was much that was harsh and clumsy, of vulgarity & shabbiness, of the worldly ^{contempt & derision} ^{complaisance} & ^{contumaciousness} ^{in early years -} impertinence

3. But he put at his way thus the people & poverty ~~tegument~~, & backs ~~cross~~ man's
conscience, & early standenes, political
~~moral~~
~~standenes~~ ~~an~~ ~~&~~ ~~open~~ ~~space~~ ~~of~~
~~sacred~~ ~~values~~ ~~and~~ ~~creations~~.
4. He was never perfect. None a saint.
Then out his life the shroud. ~~Carey~~
cautious politician died and deserted him.
"He was a common man expanded
into giant properties"
5. And by his life he realized our faith
in Democracy. Not that every man
born in a slavocracy, is a L., but that some
one may become a Free. — Humanity does
not, itself wait for mediocrity — It is
not the enemy, I find it. Lincoln's work
reveals the uncounted truths ~~that~~ have all the time,
& freedom are which he hid them in the
common common humanity —

3. His faith in the divine worthiness, and in
the ~~is~~ ~~Lincoln~~ was a product of ~~Men~~ — and ~~its~~
prophet. He ~~believed in~~ ~~democracy~~, practiced it,
died for it — And His Spirit is sorely
needed to-day, and his message!

1. Lincoln saw his countrymen drifting
away — then racial antipathy ^{the last years} ~~reconciles~~
from the basic ideals of the republic. He
urged them to return. — First

(2) He warns his fellow-men. p. 97. Inst.
you cannot trample on rights of other men
and expect your own to be respected.
You cannot remain free, while others are
slaves —

(3) Warned them against slow encroachment
of tyranny. Inst.

(4) Spirit of "Know-Nothings" abroad in our
land to-day — They do wish to write
into our Constitution "all Protestant
men" — Country is losing its
rarity. Immigration Law of 1855. Avidly
few Negroes — K.K.K — ~~Wonders~~
~~World Work~~

(5) They do not hurt the people they attack.
Scarf and Jew. Western America,
and Freudler saw this. "You never
a demon (if you let loose into the world)
that will turn and rend you" —

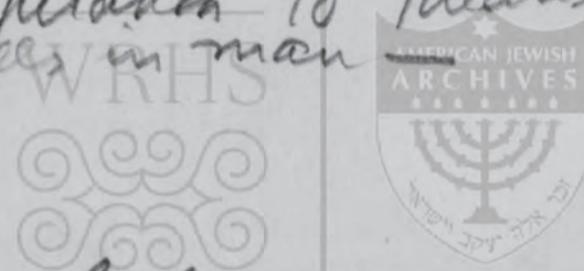
Read p. 103. 1859

(6) Lincoln's attitude to immigrants
opposition to Fremont + Free! p. 93.

① America as a spiritual entity —

(7) We need that spirit. Return to funda-
mentals -- p. 101

1. Gory.
2. Not Eulogize.
3. Analyze personality - action - attributes - but influence -
① in terms of life's message; what he meant to world.
4. What he was and what he preached.
 1. Lincoln was a democrat. - He was democ.
 1. Washington
 2. From great heart of West
 3. Age has tendency
 4. Very human - canny politician - A common man expanded to giant proportions
2. Herein lies triumph of democracy - Moderacy
3. His life is inspiration to idealist - to all men.
God that dwells in man
Moses -
5. What he preached.
 1. Believed in democracy - we grumble. mystic
 1. God speaks - Just
 2. "good old central ideas" - triumph Just
 3. "Equal"
 2. Saw drift away from it. Just
 3. Warns Just You do not act others
You rob your neighbors
 4. Shows how democ. is destroyed Just
6. Point this exactly that is happening today
 1. Immigration
 2. Morals -



that ~~democracy~~ is the enemy of genius and exceptional talent; that ~~democracy~~
 makes for talented average men but not for gifted exceptional men. Lincoln
 is ~~xxxx~~ proof-positive that democracy has within it the power and potency
 to inspire ~~xx~~ the very common clay ~~xx~~ and to ~~will~~ ~~it~~ to the heights of
 genuine sublimity, and Lincoln is evidence of that almost unlimited and
 inexhaustible store of ~~gold and precious metal~~ which is hidden in the bosom
~~mass humanity~~ ~~of the mass of humanity~~, which ~~gold and which precious stone can~~ be mined
~~the agency of opportunity~~
 by ~~****~~ Lincoln is evidence that the promise of democracy is much
 more than a promise, but a realization. That - to my mind - is the first
 message of Abraham Lincoln's ~~of his life~~ - Democracy -- And the second
 message, if you permit me, is this ~~D~~ ~~Divinity, spirituality, the Divine in~~
~~man~~, the unconquerable spirit within ~~man~~, the spirit that overcomes all
 obstacles, the spirit that brooks no definite or fatal delay, the spirit that
 tears thru' ~~irresistible~~ ~~confining~~ ~~and beats through~~, ~~and where~~
~~the spirit which~~ is like unto living fire that cannot be ~~confined nor con-~~
 tained. Whenever I speak of Lincoln, somehow I always think of Moses. Both
 Lincoln and Moses were born in poverty, Both Lincoln and Moses were handicapped
 in life, one ~~by~~ with an impediment in speech and the other by his uncouthness
 and unattractiveness. Both were types ~~of man~~ that are, as a rule, not chosen
 to be leaders of men. Both Lincoln and Moses became the great emancipators
 of humanity, Both Lincoln and Moses suffered. I recall the words of Lincoln
 written to a friend in the year 1860. ~~He writes~~ - "I have read on my knees
 the story of Gethsemane. I have read how the Son of God tried in vain and
 prayed in vain that the cup of bitterness be removed from his lips. I am
 today, ~~he writes~~, in the Garden of Gethsemane and my cup of bitterness is full
 and overflowing." ~~And I think of the~~ other great emancipator ~~saying~~ "How can
 I bear alone your burdens, ~~and~~ your cumbrances, and your trials?" Both men, Lincoln
 and Moses, were slandered, abused, ^{and} maligned by men. You know the story of
 Lincoln during those four tragic years of the great war and you know the story
 of Moses leading ~~the~~ ~~of erstwhile~~ slaves thru the wilderness and in
 121 p. 1331 16k

7. What Lincoln said of immigrants, p. 93
1 - America - a spiritual unity.

8. These movements - Towell - K. K. K - hurt
less people aimed at - as America.
p. 103

9. Need of Returning to fundamentals, p. 101.
Christian: no dogma.
Cong. warning - before Legis. of Conn.



"If the Almighty Ruler of nations, with his eternal truth and justice, be on your side of the North or on yours of the South, that truth and that justice will surely prevail by the judgment of this great tribunal of the American people." — First Inaugural. 1861

~~and old central idea~~
We can do it. The human heart is with us. God is with us. We shall again be able not to declare that "all states are states are equal" nor yet that "all citizens as citizens are equal"; but to renew the broader, better declarations, including both these and much more, that "all men are created equal" — 1856

Wright from Liberty

On the question of liberty as a principle, we are not what we have been. When we were the political slaves of King George, and wanted to be free, we called the maxim that "all men were created equal" a self evident truth; but now when we have grown fat, and have lost all