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The massage 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.

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 plumbed its very depth.



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

M E N U



Celery	Fruit Cocktail	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.

2. Not alone did L. believe in democracy. He was
democratic. His life is democ. triumphant.

Washington, and Adams, and Jefferson and Hamilton
were not. They were rebellious children from
an ancient civilization. It was an intellectual
corruption. They reared themselves into it
aided by the liberal that of 18th. France. But
L. was born, it true - of the very soil of America.

1. From the great heart of the Indian world
West - from the rude freedom of pioneer
life - from the coarseness of the backwoodsman,
from the poverty, from ignorance, from
superstitions - he rose - a rough-hewn,
giant, unlearned and unpolished,
looming champion of crushed, full-orbed
life - to the sublime heights, the
unlike poster + emancipator.

2. Life has a tendency to smooth the rough
angularity of facts. I never recall merci-
fully much that is hard but true.

True the meeting years and advancing
reverence - we think of L. only as the
compassionate, wise, patient, experienced
a magnificently rich and generously, effective
leader of men. He was all that. But
he had also the stamp of the fighter's
life - there was much that was harsh and
chambers, of millenar + phalanxes, of
the warlike center + execution of the
imperious + command in early years -

3. But he paid his way thru the struggle of poverty, repression, & both cross man's courtesies, & early standers, political morality to the free & open space of moral freedom and of resplendent values and idealism.

4. He was never perfect. None a saint. thru out his life the shroud, every cantankerous politician did not desert him. "He was a common man expanded into giant proportions"

5. And by his life he vindicated our faith in democracy. Not that every man born in a democracy is a T., but that some one may become a T. — America does not, itself make for mediocrity — It is not the enemy of genius. Lincoln's life reveals the uncounted truths that there is a precious ore which he hid from the common humanity —

3. ~~This faith in the democratic institutions, and in the~~ Lincoln was a product of America and its prophet. He ~~believed in~~ ^{loved} 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 lusty} ~~recommenced~~ from the basic ideals of the republic, he summoned them to return. Just

- ② He warns his fellow men. p. 99. Int.
 you cannot trample on rights of other men
 and expect your own to be safeguarded.
 you cannot remain free, while others are
 slaves -
- ③ Warned them against slow encroachment
 of tyranny. Int.
- ④ Spirit of "Know-Nothing" abroad in our
 land to-day - They do wish to write
 into our constitution "all Protestant
 men - Country is losing its
 sanity. Immigration Saw 7 to. Unkindly
 Jew - Negro - K. K. K. - (Wordsworth
 Wordsworth)
- ⑤ They do not hurt the people they attack.
 Surely not Jews. Western America.
 and Murderers saw this. "You raise
 a demon (if you let loose into brains)
 that will turn and rend you!" -
 Read p. 103. (1859)

- ⑥ Murderers attitude to Immigrants
 opposition to German & Irish. p. 93.
- ① America a spiritual unity -
- ⑦ We need that spirit - Return to funda-
 mentals - p. 101

1. Gorty.

2. Not Eulogize.

3. Analyze personality, - action - attributes - but influence -
① in terms of life's message: what he meant to and.

4. What he was and what he preached.

1. Lincoln was a democrat. - He was democr.

1- Washington - 2. From great heart of West - 3. Age has tendency

4. Very human - every politician - "A common
man expanded to giant proportions"

2. Herein lies triumph of democracy - Mediocrity

3. His life is inspiration to idealists - to all men.
God that dwells in man
Moses -

5. What he preached.

1. Believed in democracy - he grumbled. 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 rob others
you rob yourselves

4. - Shows how democ. is destroyed Just

6. Point this exactly that is happening today
1. Immigration 2. Ward's -

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 ~~proof~~ proof-positive that democracy has within it the power and potency to inspire ~~the~~ ^{humblest} ~~very common~~ ^{men} ~~clay~~ ^{and} to ~~thrust~~ ^{drive them} ~~it~~ to the heights of genuine sublimity, and Lincoln is evidence of that almost unlimited and

inexhaustible store of ~~gold and precious metal~~ ^{precious words} which is hidden in the bosom

of the ~~masses~~ ^{masses} of humanity, which ~~gold and which precious stone~~ ^{can} be mined by ~~the agency of opportunity~~ ^{the agency of opportunity} ~~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~~ ^{is} ~~divinity, spirituality, the divine in~~ ^D ~~man, the unconquerable spirit within~~ ^{him} ~~man, the spirit that overcomes all~~

~~obstacles, the spirit that brooks no definite or fatal delay, the spirit that~~ ^{every} ~~tears thru~~ ^{confining} ~~irrepressible impulse, every wall that life may put around it,~~ ^{and breaks through} ~~the spirit which is like unto~~ ^{the} ~~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 ~~with~~ ^{by} an impediment in speech and the other by his uncouthness and unattractiveness. Both were types ~~of men~~ 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~~ ^{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~~ ^{he writes} in the Garden of Gethsemane and my cup of bitterness is full and overflowing." And I think of the other great emancipator ^{crying in despair} ~~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 ~~the~~ ^{the}

7. What Lincoln said of imperialism, (p. 93)
1- America - a spiritual unity.

8. These movements - Lowell - K. K. K - hurt
less people aimed at - as America,
p. (103)

9. Need of Returning to fundamentals (p. 101)
Christian: no dogma.

Cong. planning - before Legisl. of Conn.



"If the Almighty ^{legislator} 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

~~good 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 as states are equal' nor yet that 'all citizens as citizens are equal'; but to renew the broader, better declaration, including both there 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