



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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Spiritual elements in marriage, 1940.

1. Courses. (1) Foundations of Mar. (2) Biology Basis of Mar. (3) Fam. Adj. in Marriage
(4) The Wholesome Personality & Marriage.

Rel. "Amor" - Perhaps to recapitulate thru Rel. perspective - all that has been
Nothing New - Dynamic platitudes - for moral life, progress is not
in the "new" - but in "renewal". No discovery - only Dedication
- psps / pps / bsn -

Biol - Phys - Psych - undoubtedly helps in the "Techniques of the Good Life"
(2) Human desk ~~for ways~~ - (1) Help clear the road - Help men sur-
mount obstacles - Truth, even so. Truth makes men free - i.e. more
able - more skilled - to achieve Good life -

Does not provide - motivating power - driving Energy -
that - provided only by morally energized Will -
Environment - Heredit - factors - But not Plastic clay
active - creative Agent - Surmount handicaps - Father's
Fail.

2. Hence - First sp. Note - stated by Rel. - touching this Fund. Human
Relat. is that it is an achievement - not an endowment -
Men & Women - do not derive fullest sp. achievement - & marry
life simply by getting married,
married life is the opportunity for sp. growth - & greater happiness
not the guarantee!

all human values - Freedom - Peace - Justice - are the re-
sults of eternal vigilance - & unremitting effort. They do
not come with inertia - as by-product & fruit
"drifting along" - So, Fund. human relat. like marriage -
provides its greatest satisfactions to those who thrust
married life confronting sp. about to its rich possibilities
for mutual growth & fulfillment & seize every opportunity

To realize them - March on / Cannot stand still! (2)

You can "Fall" in love - but you have to "rise" in "marriage".

The energy which men & women spend in "courtship" and "wooing" - must be conserved and transmuted into things into mutual re-enforcement and strengthening & advancement.

The same zest and eagerness should be conserved, altho differently channeled.

It is bad for men & women, if after marriage, they become emotionally dowdy and uncomfort - something fine and precious got out, then how when marriage becomes a conclusion, instead of an impulse, main spring.

A relaxed - loose string - you can't play on it.

3/ Another Sp. Value - Mutual respect - Reciprocal Reverence

Then must be basis of Sp. Equality bet. Man & Woman.

Each of strengths worth - each bearing gifts -

Only equal can be inter-dependent - not equal in all

things or in all strengths - but in sum total.

But Human Respect cannot be ordained - also Achieved merited -

Most difficult in married life - no possibility of

extended delusion, deception, mask-behind.

Too intimate - too revealing - "Person" - Mask.

"p. 322" - Difficult to get behind mask -

~~Sincerity~~ NOT persons! no masks!

Married life sees into the Real - Solid - Unfeigned - Unvarnished

~~It reveals~~

And it is an loss of real qualities - that honor + respect in
married life ~~are~~ ^{are} earned - Strength, Character -

Loyalty - Fairness - Justice - unselfishness -

And with mutual respect comes Pride - the glow of
the heart - which enables men & women to endure
all - for they possess all !

4) Reciprocal Reverence
~~mutual respect~~ is enhanced if there is Reverence for other
things, for home, children, society, life - God.
God is the basic Reverence - Fountain-Head of all Reverence.
He who says Q 137 - comes to say Holy is Man -
unary, God - Holy is human - Holy is Marriage
- Q 137 -

A marriage unit - ~~in which~~ devoid, the concept of
merit - is devoid / much else !
a Home without Prayer - Pity - Pat. - lacks much else

5) Amor the Value ! "Help-mate" - companionship -

The cure, all is Domination - overt or covert - bold or
subtle -

Resent - same - a devastated life - a drooping spirit

You can read it in eyes, married men & women -

- free, joyous companions - or beaten spirits

Men, women, born with a "Frustrated" complex - unknown
dictate - exact obedience - autocrats

If partner is weak - gets tired - smiles - drunk, inflamed

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compliance - If not storms & tempests
wives - 3 men whose lives are not life - (1) Defendant
on others (2) Pain masters his body (3) wife masters him
Cooperation in Freedom - the decent way -

4. If "Can men see" - "Resurrection" - can be called a life element
of course there are Frustrations - adjustments - worries - Facts
Limitations -

"Never a harsh word" is possible - esp. if one is deaf dumb

But not always good - Children - well-behaved -

Reasonable people exercise skill - smoothing-out

from obligation - crosses chances - mis-forts =
perpetuating wounds

Incompatibility - frail - unwillingness to make heart
effort to adjust - stiff-neckedness to point of stupidity

7/. A certain not-too-common "Can men see" - needed
converts nectar & ambrosia of first love - strong,
wild thrust - into consecrated bread owning &
gentle & enduring human companionship -

→ A Dog - mean well! that will walk with you th
and beauty - also with age - will live in high th
but also grace & tender humors - love - irradiate
on spring - times but also warm on winter - days!