



## 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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Reel  
180

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67

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629

Prayers, war, 1943.



O Thou who dost guide the destinies of men and nations, we approach Thee in humble gratitude on this solemn day. We thank Thee that the power of tyranny has been broken, that the pride of the oppressor has fallen into the dust. We solemnly recognize Thee as the true and holy King, before whom all must bow, and whose law all must obey. In love we acclaim Thee as the Father of all, whose will it is that we deal with all Thy children as our brothers. As we behold with awe the downfall of those who have flouted Thy will, we pray Thee -- gird us with inner strength that we may ever hold fast to Thy law and do what is good and pleasing in Thy sight.

We thank Thee for all the wise, the strong, the brave, and the self-less, whose<sup>58</sup>~~ese~~ tireless labors and endless sacrifices have made this victory possible. Keep us ever mindful of all that has been done to hold us and our children secure in our heritage. Rouse us to such deeds of service as shall show our appreciation and make us in some degree worthy of the benefits we have received. Let us never forget the price at which our victory has been won, that we may do our full duty to the injured and the sick, the impoverished and the weary, the suffering and the sorrow-laden.

And as we thank Thee for Thy help in days past, so do we implore Thy guidance and Thy help in the battles yet to come, that we may worthily complete the tasks that have been brought thus far. Grant wisdom and vision to our leaders, courage and strength to our fighting men, perseverance and determination to all our people. Hasten the day when all our dear ones, their duty well done, may be restored to us. May the forces of liberty soon triumph everywhere, and the dominion of arrogance pass away from the earth.

Sustain with Thy mercy all those who have been the helpless victims of this catastrophe, scattered, homeless, hungry and sick. Grant that the day may speedily dawn when relief and salvation may come to them all, rouse us to work and to strive for a world in which justice, freedom and truth shall prevail. Make us champions



and heralds of Thy kingdom, Thy kingdom of brotherhood and peace, wherein every man shall sit under his vine and under his figtree, and none shall make them afraid.

Amen.





9/10/40  
A PRAYER FOR 1944

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

As we enter the year 1944 -- the fateful year, the year of crisis and decision -- our hearts turn in prayer to the Father of all nations asking for His light and His truth to guide us.

We pray silently and deeply in our hearts for our men who are fighting today all over the world, on land and sea and in the air, whose high courage and

sacrificial loyalty are sheltering us, the things we hold dear, and the threatened sanctuaries of mankind.

*May they be guided with strength and in their saving shield, and the refuge in the day of danger.*

We pray that we who remain behind may find a devotion and a patriotism to match their selfless bravery and the courage to bear without murmur the burdens which this grave hour may place upon our shoulders. May we learn to accept

suffering, and be braced for the losses of the perilous battles to come, knowing that they are <sup>thy</sup> testing and discipline.

*We know that*  
*us all.*  
summons young and old alike to greatness, to renunciation and to sacrifice. In

this tragic hour, when the precious blood of our youth is being poured out without stint or measure, all greed and selfishness, all lust for gain and profit, *should be accounted*

*a* defilement and a desecration, unworthy of us and of <sup>the</sup> our great ~~american~~ tradition. *of our*

We pray that our hearts may be washed clean of all <sup>hatred and strife</sup> class ~~hatred~~, of racial and religious prejudice, of bitter political partisanship which have disfigured the lives of so many nations in our time, undermined their solidarity and spiritual strength, and hurled them into the disasters of <sup>this</sup> ~~a second~~ world war. Of what

avail will be the multitudinous sacrifices of our best and bravest, and the outpouring of our wealth and substance upon a hundred battlefields of the world, if we take not brotherhood and peace to our hearts, if we do not strive earnestly to eschew those passions and intolerances, both individual and collective, which have marked our age among the most distraught and sorrowful in the annals of

mankind? Help us to fashion anew the broken covenant of man -- O, how who art the Father of us all.



Humbly do we pray, on the threshold of the new year, that it may see the end of war and the beginning of a healing peace for <sup>our tired world</sup> ~~ankind~~. We earnestly supplicate <sup>the</sup> the divine Ruler of the universe to bestow wisdom and counsel upon the leaders of the United Nations, and to grant them both vision and statesmanship <sup>to lay the strong and sure foundations and</sup> to build ~~new~~ justly and wisely the world of tomorrow, so that the children of each succeeding generation may not be broken upon the wheel of war, and man's wrought handiwork and the patient product of his long labor and upbuilding, may not be laid in ruin and ashes time and again.

<sup>our might and power, our wealth and substance</sup>  
We know now that <sup>our</sup> our scientific and intellectual progress alone have not been adequate to the emergencies of our day. They have thrown our world into one tragic, ruinous tangle. They will not be adequate for the hard tasks of reconstruction which <sup>they cannot bring us salvation or deliverance.</sup> are to follow this war. Only our moral regeneration can save us. Only a spiritual <sup>enable us to move forward to new frontiers of hope and promise and will.</sup> conversion will achieve for us that freedom, justice, ~~dignity~~ and brotherhood that we so ardently long for. Only a great measure of self-denial, renunciation and earnest resolve to share in the enormous burdens and responsibilities of a new world order will make possible <sup>(</sup> for us to move forward to new frontiers of hope and promise <sup>)</sup> and achieve a secure and noble age for us and mankind.



## A PRAYER FOR 1944

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

As we enter the year 1944 -- the fateful year, the year of crisis and decision -- our hearts turn in prayer to the Father of all nations asking for His light and His truth to guide us.

We pray silently and deeply in our hearts for our men who are fighting today all over the world, on land and sea and in the air, whose high courage and sacrificial loyalty are sheltering us, the things we hold dear, and the threatened sanctuaries of mankind.

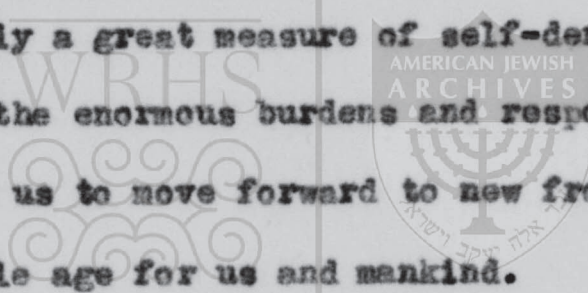
We pray that we who remain behind may find a devotion and a patriotism to match their selfless bravery and the courage to bear without murmur the burdens which this grave hour may place upon our shoulders. May we learn to accept suffering, and be braced for the losses of the perilous battles to come, knowing that they are God's testing and discipline. This hour, so fraught with destiny, summons young and old alike to greatness, to renunciation and to sacrifice. In this tragic hour, when the precious blood of our youth is being poured out without stint or measure, all greed and selfishness, all lust for gain and profit, are a defilement and a desecration, unworthy of us and of our great American tradition.

We pray that our hearts may be washed clean of all class hatred, of racial and religious prejudice, of bitter political partisanship which have disfigured the lives of so many nations in our time, undermined their solidarity and spiritual strength, and hurled them into the disasters of a second world war. Of what avail will be the multitudinous sacrifices of our best and bravest, and the outpouring of our wealth and substance upon a hundred battlefields of the world, if we take not brotherhood and peace to our hearts, if we do not strive earnestly to eschew those passions and intolerances, both individual and collective, which have marked our age among the most distraught and sorrowful in the annals of mankind?



Humbly do we pray, on the threshold of the new year, that it may see the end of war and the beginning of a healing peace for mankind. We earnestly supplicate the divine Ruler of the universe to bestow wisdom and counsel upon the leaders of the United Nations, and to grant them both vision and statesmanship to build more justly and wisely the world of tomorrow, so that the children of each succeeding generation may not be broken upon the wheel of war, and man's wrought handiwork and the patient product of his long labor and upbuilding, may not be laid in ruin and ashes time and again.

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All-wise Ruler of the destinies of men and nations?- In the midst of danger and war we turn to Thee. Thou art our never-failing trust and confidence. Our times are in Thy hand and ~~thy~~ mercies are ever near unto us. In the past Thou hast delivered us and our nation from unlooked for calamity. Thy protecting arm was ever about us, and Thou didst not suffer our foot to stumble. Thy sheltering grace and goodness will not fail us now.

Evil men have arisen to destroy ~~us~~ and our cherished liberties. They have wrought desolation in the earth. They have conquered and enslaved many nations and have filled the habitations of Thy children with terror and sorrow. They have riveted chains upon human ~~hearts~~ hearts and minds. Millions have perished innocently because of the violence and cruelty of these arrogant oppressors of mankind. ~~They~~ <sup>who</sup> have opened their mouth wide against Thee, derided Thy holy law and polluted Thy sanctuaries.

We have been forced to take up the sword against these evil men to defend our rights and our liberties. Not to avenge, O Lord- for vengeance and recompense are Thine alone, -but to save ourselves and all the peoples of the earth from the fury and menace of these destroyers of <sup>Thine</sup> ~~the~~ heritage. They have forced war upon us and we are now in the dread testing hour when in battle we must preserve the things dearer to us than life itself. Our armies have invaded the enemy-held strongholds and across fire-raked coastal-lands and <sup>the</sup> beaches, criss-crossed with death, they are now assaulting the might of ~~the~~ relentless foe.

To whom shall we turn at such a time of danger, struggle and anxiety but to Thee, Father, <sup>Source</sup> ~~Source~~ of all comfort, strength and guidance? Thou art ever near the troubled and the heavy-laden and all who call upon Thee in truth. None has sought for Thy sustaining arm in vain. Be with us in these days of grave disquiet and ordeal. Give us courage and trust to face our danger <sup>unflinchingly</sup> and to carry



2  
*uncomplainingly*

our burdens with resignation ~~and without~~ complaint.

Guard and protect our fighting men. Thou art a shield <sup>unto</sup> all them that take refuge in Thee. A king is not saved by the multitude of a host nor is a mighty man delivered by great strength. Thine alone are salvation and deliverance. Make the hearts of our men strong and fearless. Grant victory to <sup>to</sup> thier arms and the arms of their allies, so that the scourge of this war may speedily pass away, and our ravaged and weary earth may be healed again in peace. *Our Soldiers* ~~For-~~ They seek neither conquest nor dominion nor glory. They shall not boast as the heathens do at the fall of their enemies, nor will they rejoice in the empty triumph. *pride of military* When the reign of wickedness shall have been destroyed and <sup>when</sup> freedom shall have been made secure for men, our soldiers will eagerly and <sup>grate</sup> thankfully return to their homes and to the peaceful pursuits of civilian life.

For the wounded in battle, O Lord, we implore Thy succor and healing. For those who fall in battle we beseech Thy peace and the eternal blessedness which abides in Thy presence, where the night shineth as the day and darkness is even as the light. For the bereaved who will know loneliness and grief we pray for strength to bear their burdens, to rise above their trials and to find comfort in the proud remembrance of the heroic sacrifices nobly made by their dear ~~one~~ ones for faith and fatherland.

O God, and God of our fathers! May this dread visitation of war be full atonement for all of our sins and our backslidings. We acknowledge that we are not altogether without blame or ~~guilt~~ guilt for the evils which ~~have~~ come upon the world. As a nation we have not always followed Thy commandments nor pursued the ways of duty and responsibility which alone lead to abiding peace among nations. In humility and contrition we must now search our hearts and examine our conduct lest our sacrifices in this war again prove vain and futile and <sup>lost</sup> the high hopes of mankind will again be dashed to the ground.



O Lord our God: May the redemption of Thy world from war and strife and from hatred and persecution come speedily. May the day of Thy good pleasure soon dawn when liberty will be proclaimed unto all the enslaved, when the imprisoned shall be set free, the exiles shall be return to their homes and men shall rebuild the waste cities and their ruined homes; when men shall not hurt nor destroy in all Thy holy mountain but the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.





Press

## A 1944 Prayer

43-12

By RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

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