



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
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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Shaker Heights High School, Ohio, commencement address,
1944.

- 1/ ^{Congratulate Parents - should meet soon} You - one of the most critical weeks in entire history of mankind.
Hardly 48 hours have elapsed -
And upon outcome of it - depends fate of our civilization & of your world.
A great Amer. Army - among whom - brothers together with armies - are fighting their way ~~to~~ for - ~~the~~ criss-crossed with ~~the~~ front
It is an Hour of Great Decision - Danger - Destiny
- 2/ Some of you - soon after your graduation - inducted this great fighting army.
Under the men of my generation - you will not go directly -
Your career will for the duration be deflected into urgent bus. of war
Your country has instant need of you
And you will respond loyally
- 3/ You is a harder lot than was ours - who graduated before 1st world war - drummed up in forgetful upheaval - ours - a secure and stable world - look forward confidently ^{orderly} ~~was~~ interrupted ^{forward} ~~progress~~ progress -
Success waiting upon enterprising capability

Not idyllic - free from dishonouring heritage of
- dread murders of another - free, too, from
much of bitter industrial ^{society} strife - hateful prejudice
with which Nazism - Fasc - defiled our world.
- and disillusionments - 30-35 years

4. A Harder lot, ^{true} ~~undead~~, ~~but~~ not depressing
one - challenging! Sam morning me!

Great changes are coming over the face of the earth and
your lives - far less frivolous

These changes may, if we choose, be changes
for the better - a juster and kinder social
order.

The last 2 world wars are part of the terrible
price of social reconstruction which we
must pay - just as we had - Russ - Guit

Victory in this war - is assured - but by
they will not - desired social order

will be a jungle - Destroy forces of evil

When the jungle is cleared - You and those
privilege + obligation to build -

- will be determined largely -

If you will bring Courage, Vision, Patience
tolerance, Sacrifice - to Solution - Golden

Age -

If hunger, - hardness, heart, letting, Spirit

Fear, hesitation + unwilling orthodoxy -

- preserve by Force - what life has contained
you ~~shall~~ ^{will} obstruct + retard this gord
on-coming Age - to your own heart and

XX
5/

Do not be afraid! Cynicism - Scepticism

- A Better world can be built - Control - System

- It is possible to abolish War - Poverty -

- Reconcile Econ. security - with liberty

- Nations alien with Internationalism

If we can keep alive American Spirit -

Pioneering - Adventuring - ^{"advancing"} Carved all they

Live and let live! Fair Play! Square

Deal! - Generosity & good will! Our hearts
_{deems}

"Men with empires in their purpose"

"And new eras in their brains"

6/ A few things we have already learned - never
forget -

- 7/ ^{stern}Rediscovered obligations; Citizenship in a free society
Eas-going experience - Exact - Gift - land -
Peoples who still have it -
- 8/ Rediscovered our Amer. Faith - Creed - Guarant
Intellectuals - shame - But as Nazi - con/crag
- a new passion - 150 - 10-day Breaks
9 France + Italy - Shame
- 9/ Rediscovered our Confidence - Deed -
Total. order - dynamism - Invisible we
- Defeating it as its own genius.
- Slow to gather - Outright war for war
Dem. out-build out-stay but Strong
Young Free Sons / Amer. - who drove - Nazis
- 10/ If you will remember these lessons -
and remember also that Amer. has the
resources, man-power the Rebuilding skill,
the industrial machinery - look at it to produce -
you will see the executing + crashing
days ahead - unafraid - Put your
hand to the plow - song in your heart

11/ May I recommend a set of attitudes? (5)
Help you to make maximum contribution -

- Parents -
① Reverence for Yourself - God in you! For
the most - best - highest you are capable of -
He who is small - satisfied with smallness -
unclean & body & mind - unfriendly - unloving
does not revere himself.

A great country is built by great
hearted men & women - pride challenge
Your hands with ideal clapping

③ Reverence for Intellect - Heroic Just

Cross & Crown in morality

Not every man can be great intellect -
Our stupid, total age - enslave
Free & wide, human that

X Burn Brooks

③ Reverence for ^{other} spirit & man

Dignity & worth, integrity & personality

Sanctity & human life - our age Indignities heaped

cheapen - submerged - stat
Humility in presence & human keeping
Do not beat - what - beat

④ Human Society - Total of 7 Groups - ^⑥
We share a common destiny - ^{White-Black}

Not all able - but all children of God
Our Communion of Saints & Sinners

Freely Co-workers in Cinnamon

" Seek Justice - Love Truth, Walk humbly
Be a Servant to Man - Not Exploitation

12/ If you grow into these responsibilities -

you will be worthy of the great
days & great opportunities that lie
ahead of you - & glorious rewards
which are mine

1) 167- Cont. Congress adopted Dec. - Not only
severed - New Type - Proc. new + Pers. I do
"All men" - New Age - Novus Ordo Seclorum - More 1 1/2 C. -
Not easily accepted - Tories - Priv. Cl.
Greatest + Deadliest Offshoot - following
last war - org. effort - Fasc. Naz. - C.
No inalienable rights - to be - to be
New Tyranny - State - Race -
It looked for a Time - vision got faded
But Free Spirit, Man - cannot prevent
To-day - as they fought - 7 long years
vindicta - re-established - "part of the"

✓
2) Where did Founding Fathers ?
Not improvised - thin air -
Great ideas have deep roots!
What were their Roots? The Bible!
Liberty Bell - Lev. 25.10 - "Proclaim"
God wants men to be Free -
Men are Gods children - before City
"For unto me are the children"

First Device for a Seal } U.S.

(2)

Authority for Revolution - sanction
"Resistance to Tyrants is obvious & just"
It was in great Jewish-Chr. Rev. Tradition

3/ Friends, Rev. have forgotten - rel. orig. of
Pop. Freedom - secret & struggle for Rel. Fr.
Mod. Jew. born in struggle for Rel. Freedom
in 16-17c.

Rel. Freedom - Uprising for Rel. Liberty
Emancipation from Tax & System
- A new authority surged back into life
= Revolution - "It was God"
available to all.

- Demand for Sp. Liberty - other from the

- Peasant Revolt soon followed -
10,000 slain.

- Demand Pop. Rights!

- By what authority? In whose name?

- Same as Pop. Rights! God!

- God made all men Equal!

- Demand rights which God!

Seeds - Anabaptist seeds which sprang
up in water, Part. Reformation
Hundreds of years ago, then there
 Believed in ① Abso. moral Freedom
 + Ref. of Ind. ② Inherent R. Sovereignty
 ③ Duty, State was only to protect the good
 and beyond that State itself was Evil.
 ④ State had no right to circumscribe
 freedom, believed. ⑤ Demanded
separation, Church & State
 ⑥ Preached Universal Tolerations &
Freedom of Worship.

4/ These doctrines carried over from
continent to Holland, England - &
then U.S!

- Founding Fathers adopted many
doctrines, these Rel. Zealots

* - Just as Roger Williams had
established the first Free Soc. in New
World in name, Ind, Freedom!

5) The Amer. Revol. knelt its towers at (4)
the flame of a Red. conviction

- struggle to emancipate slaves - abn. res.
turn in 1861 / 2nd - Govt has - decisive
Reb. action - Transp. / Machinery has
profits, but "His truth is marching on"

6/ Why do all present-day mammals parent
Reproduce?

Ref. on death-warrant & Tyranny!

Their water. revolut: - can only be

made seen after unmailed walkers
over ramparts, human bluts - destroyed

A Hack on Ten - attack on Indar's
complexity of the threat ideas - scenarios

" Louis, Jean-Charles. Géologie

Democ. is function. 'Truth' not personal

12y June not only Absence - Work - Family

James - Kings men on spirit-blend

Our 3rd - the the warmth - Our Moral Love

Those who can survive - Cruelly -

- aggression - in a blue, hate swan
- Humility - humane - brotherhood - love peace

7/ Dem. has its roots in Rel. (5)
believes in Progress - then God. rid. + ~~unrep~~
enlighten ~~over~~

Justice then Class - Hurd

Abundance then Confutation

Unity then Blood - Purge of Judgement

Knowledge then Barren of Bulls

Freedom - then Enslavement of the

Peace then Conflict

- Cooperation - ~~Can~~ ~~and~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~

steadily moving forward - avoiding
cruelty

- Unrest - ~~Let us not all be the~~

"Have we not all one Father?"

8/ "Dem. shrivels when its Rel. with. dying"
loses its moral idealism.

We need Religion - not perfect -

Defeat - Progress - Refinement