



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
181

Box
67

Folder
699

Prayer for V-E Day, 1945.

A Prayer For U-E Day



The Temple
EAST 105th at ANSEL ROAD
CLEVELAND, OHIO

A Prayer For V-E Day

O Lord of Hosts, our Fortress and our Strength, this is the time for which we have hoped, the hour for which we have toiled and waited. Long and bitter have been the years when those of sinful heart planned evil and wrought destruction. We have seen truth mocked, justice perverted, mercy despised and millions of Thy children crushed beneath the yoke of suffering and grief. Many of them were driven to exile. Many were done to death. O Father of mankind, all of us in every land have learned the pain of parting and bereavement, of loneliness and fear. We have been schooled in sorrow and are well acquainted with grief.

O Thou Sun and Shield, we who have walked in darkness now behold the dawning light. The night of oppression at last is ending. The power of the tyrant is broken. His plans are frustrate and void. His armies are scattered and helpless. His air fleets can no longer spread the rain of death over peaceful habitations. We dread no more that terror which flieth by night and the destruction which wasteth at noontime. Thou hast brought us out of the valley of the shadow into the radiant day.

How can we thank Thee, O Lord, for the abundant blessing of this great deliverance? If our lips should overflow with song and our tongues with joyous praise we would still be unable to voice the gratitude which wells up from our hearts. We can but humbly acknowledge our debt to Thee. Not ours, O God, but Thine are the triumph and the glory. Often in the years of danger, when the powers of evil seemed unconquerable, our courage faltered and our

faith was shaken. But Thou didst strengthen our hearts and summon us to renew our confidence that by Thy spirit we would yet prevail.

So teach us Thy way, O God. Guide us in Thy truth. Reveal to us the deep solemnity of this triumphant day. In the hour of our exultation let us not forget the multitudes who have suffered and died, many by the hands of the oppressor and many in the carnage of war. Let not our pride in triumphant navies and victorious armies misguide our thoughts to arrogance and to dreams of world domination; for, not ours, but Thine is the world and all its fullness. We are but Thy servants dedicated to the achievement of the tasks taught us by Thy prophets. May the sacred vision of a peaceful world, so clear to us in the midst of battle, remain unfaded in this hour of victory. The vows we made in the time of trouble let us now fulfill in the day of triumph.

Speed the day, O Father, when our men and women will return home from battlefield and ocean to their dear ones. Send Thy help to the wounded in field and hospital. Shield them from pain, grant them healing and restore them speedily to health. Into Thy hands, O God, we commit the souls of the departed, the helpless victims of the tyrant, and the heroic soldiers who have given their lives that evil may be dethroned; and send Thy consolation to the multitudes of bereaved.

O Lord of Hosts, thou who hast strengthened us in tribulation, guide us now in this hour of triumph. May the knowledge which sorrow has taught us and the strength we have gained in battle now be placed upon Thine altar and dedicated to the task which Thou hast given us to establish a world where men need never learn the arts of war again. Amen.