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New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, 1949.

FROM THE ADDRESS OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
OF THE TEMPLE, CLEVELAND, OHIO
DELIVERED BEFORE THE NEW YORK FEDERATION OF REFORM SYNAGOGUES
THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 19, 1949

The profound meaning of Jewish history lies in Judaism. The destiny of our people is linked with the progressive establishment of the good society on earth, in accordance with the ethical and spiritual principles of our prophetic religion. The historic Jewish community inside and outside of Israel has today, as in the past, the mandate and the privilege of carrying on this work.

The establishment of the State of Israel has in no way diminished this primary and continuing obligation and opportunity of Jewish life. It has contributed a larger measure of security and confidence to Jewish life, and therefore, has brightened the prospects for a spiritual renaissance among our people. What has been tragically abnormal in Jewish experience through the centuries - national homelessness - has now been rectified. Upon surer foundations the world Jewish community of tomorrow will be able to build a more affirmative religious cultural life, and perhaps recapture revolutionary religious leadership in the world which twice in the past remolded civilization.

The establishment of the State of Israel was an act of historic necessity for our people, but it does not represent the consummation of Jewish destiny. Our destiny is linked up with the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. Our ancient prophets preached this during the first and the second commonwealths. Our prophets of tomorrow will preach it during the third commonwealth. Our people were the first in olden days to proclaim the unity of God and the unity of mankind. We, their descendants, must be among the first today in the battle for this spiritual vision of human life. We must inspire our people with the mighty accents of their historic faith to join with all men of good will in the courageous attack upon all that disfigures life today and keeps man from his divine patrimony - upon poverty, upon the economic insecurity of the masses, upon corruption and social privilege, upon the war machine and chauvinism, upon race arrogance and exploitation.

Translated into concrete terms, it means replenishing the spiritual and religious reservoirs of Jewish life - the synagogue, the religious school, the academies, the centers of Jewish learning and scholarship. For years now the Jewish communities of the world, other than those, of course, which were destroyed or ravaged by war and persecution, had to give priority to works of relief, physical rescue and the reconstruction of the State of Israel. Much of this work will have to continue into an unpredictable future. Certainly there still remains the urgent and compelling need for taking care of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who are seeking a home in Israel.

But even while this work is going on, and certainly as the urgency and pressure of that work diminishes, as we hope it will with the years, increasingly our energies and our resources should be poured into the permanent and positive spiritual and cultural institutions and enterprises of Judaism. We must begin to think again in terms of the total picture of Jewish life, both geographically and historically. Millions of Jews will live in Israel in the days to come; millions more will live outside of Israel. It is the religion of Judaism which will unite them, not any political bonds. Judaism kept our people inside and outside of Palestine together as one religious fellowship in the past although they were politically unrelated. For the sake of the Jews the world over, for the enrichment of their own lives, and for their effective contribution to the progress of the countries in which they are citizens, and for hastening the day of the Kingdom, it is imperative that we begin to pour again our creative thinking, our substance and our energies into the institutions of Jewish religious life.

The 5,000,000 Jews of the United States owe it to themselves, to their children and to this great and beloved country of which they are proud and loyal citizens to make Judaism as beautiful, meaningful and dynamic as possible in their lives and in the total life of American democracy.

1) General. Commercial - (Quote) (1)

2) A great hour - (1) Disaster. torments. Cups of
staggering - turned to us - Both as loyal
and as mature people - (2) Israel - Major
contributions - Role of U.S. - Affect history

3) Third Task - Two motifs 2111 - 2211
Nat. Return & Sp. Return - 2112 2118 2121
Paramount interest & contrib. - Relig. as

- Certain specific qualities -
- our needs learning to be proved - 2101 2111
- There is a Technique to the Rel. life - acquired
- Just as - no understood Science -
- 2111 requires a life time study - 2111
- Revenue based on Contemplation - deeper
- The Rel. life, man is stronger - rests on
 - rel. exper. of the long generations - embodiment
in numerous scriptures - and
life. hist. of the people itself - The chronicles
- Great is Faith - NOTE - good deeds - 2111
- Our rel. is ethical & unlit. law - 2111
as interpreted - To know it
- 2112 2123 2131 2141 - occupy -
2111 - Make pleasant

- עצם קולו של ה' (Mystic)

4) Sp. life, man is progressive process -
important - how far - how it was made
- general direction - Study expects to
advance his own path sp. life - help

5) One can really appreciate - pre-eminent
interest - schools - choose - an
astounding interaction

6) And the first - Study for its own sake
על דרך קולו "it clothes him with
merit, reverence, & fits him to become
just, pious & faithful

- Man, sp. cultured man על דרך קולו

- To be a "man" - Annihilation of the self
not for pride etc.

7) These qualities lost -

8) 2 Brothers - Prometheus (for that) Epimetheus
(after that) - strength, swiftness, Fuma, Figma
Wings - (a) Upright (b) Fire - על דרך קולו


Books are excellent guides - abundant to trouble
what a guide - First step - breaking inlets
tearing up roots - forgetting knowledge - על דרך קולו

God, Himself,

וְיִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל

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2/ Believing that sp. life / man is a progressive process
it was important for man to know how ~~far~~ ^{man}
~~has progressed~~ and much progress has already been
made and ~~the~~ how it was made and the general
direction. ~~is which~~ to be pursued. ^{Thus} Study equipt ~~to~~
man to advance his faith as well as his own sp.
life.

3/ Accordingly one can readily appreciate the pre-occupied
interest of our people in schools - students - scholars.
occurrences - in rel. education, I would be always
your patroness if WRITS  to address
proof from our later to strengthen this. An
outstanding later exerts from Bib. times on - the
which stresses this theme.

4/ Another point of the same major quality of J-
is the emphasis on study for its own sake -
It ~~was~~ formed the sp. art and the intellect. Event
of God through the study, the sacred texts for its own sake.

וְיִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל
~~וְיִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל~~

(which word is indicated to him).

Among them - "it clothes him with modesty & reverence
and fits him to become just, pure, upright and faithful -

The mark of a self-cultured man is his ~~desire~~ ^{habit} of setting aside daily a fixed time for the study, & can spend texts - not for reward, or ~~pride~~ ^{pride} or honor, but out of love for it - as part of the art of living. To be a learned ~~man~~ ^{man} is to turn life as a "barn" the amateur of the spirit - never too old, never too poor, never too ~~disappointed~~ ^{disappointed} - that was conceived as the noblest career for man.

5/ We have lost these qualities - I am afraid -
- and our faith and our life have suffered as a result.



So figures - Books are excellent
 guides but it is absurd to double
 not a guide after the goal has
 been reached - The first step (figures)
 is the breaking of codes, pots, & the
 heavy up of links & the beginning
 of knowledge -

but w. J. Weyburn - Pathway
 along words, letters, sayings to most
 minds to wisdom - etc



- x 3 etc

2. brother Promethis (fourth)
 Epistoles after that

save away everything, strength, suffering,
 courage, fear, faith, acids, shells
 & flight - wait to be - Fire

(if) - x 3 etc

more say.

אברהם - אברהם

between + the double

garden is - the first

what is that +

the picture + Sp. + the other

WRHS

