



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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The good way, 1950.

The Hard Way -

- 1/ Solomon - Temple - "Lead them the good way wherein they should walk."
- 2/ Psalmist - "Lead me ^{to know} the way wherein I should walk."
- 3/ "How can a young man keep his way pure?"

4/ Great emphasis - Lead us the way -
I do not know how it is with other faiths - Judaism - ~~aimed~~,
manifestly, to achieve in history a way, like a man + society
which would be acceptable to God.

- my religion is based on Torah - and so on the rest of Jews -
it is a compendium of moral instructions - a rule of life -
a pattern of behavior - a "way" revealed through prophets and
exp. - which, if faithfully carried out, would build the good society
on earth -

"And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,
This is the way, walk in it."

3/ There isn't much that one can know about God - "Then

(He - Hidden God) (branch) - Moses -

All speculative ways of knowing God, lead from darkness

to darkness. "A man when he has made an end (of
probing into the mysteries of God) has hardly begun, and
when he ceases, abides in deep confusion" (Eccles.).

~~God can be an insight into the reality~~ God can
be grasped through our moral aspirations."

"He judged the poor and needy, then it was well."

the words, the ~~idea~~ - the Law & the Prophet. I believe in the

6/ Any institution which builds character - guides youth -
- gives men a spiritually stimulating environment -
enriches our common life - makes a vital contribution
to the one unitary community in which we all, Jews, Catholics
and Protestants, white or negro, rich, and in which we
all share a common destiny. We all breathe the same
air. We all are enslaved in the same moral
climate - We begin ourselves ~~of~~ with vain delusions
of we entertain the idea that in a great metropolitan
center, like Cleveland, men & women live or can live
compartmentally, or it were, - guaranteed or isolated or
separately protected from influences which infect
us or others -

Such segregation, even if desirable, is possible only for a very
brief spell. The powerful influences in a community
(of good or of evil, liberty, in the long run, no barriers

7/ ~~What~~ What J.C.A. is doing in our community
and plans to do - is of direct interest to Jews or well
or to Christians. - for Jews & Christians are interested in
a clean and morally healthy community.

The J.C.A. long ago recognized the non-sectarian
nature of the social tasks involved in building the good
community, and it widely opened its doors to men of all
faiths - without standing to our history character and