



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, 1955.

1/ I want to congratulate - excellent - Mr. Otto Kapp -

2/ I am very sincere for I believe that ^{and proficiency} scholarship - is a noble fine human achievement - and evidence of character.

It is good for the individual. It is good for society.

To succeed to-day in a world which demands more and more expert knowledge and thorough training one has to be educated in the real sense of the word.

Some people are fond of tossing around words: high brow, low brow; egf - bad; intellectual. But there are words

The real question is not whether you are high brow or low brow but whether you know - or don't know. Is your knowledge in whatever field you will find yourself - adequate, exact, defensible. or not.

Will the judgment and decisions which you will be called upon to make whether as doctor or lawyer or ~~engineer or a business man~~ be the result of sound reasoning based on accurate knowledge? If not, you will simply not be in it, when people will want a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, or a business man.

And ~~capacities to think~~ the art of clear thinking is not a gift bestowed - but the result of hard ^{constant} training, just as is the art of playing well a musical instrument - just as is skill in any sport.

And the act of acquiring knowledge is also a
hard, laborious task. (2)

3/. Excellence in scholarship on the part, its citizen is
part for society
Society depends upon it.
Whatever progress society makes in civilization on the
art and the sciences are the result of scholars and
their scholarship - their studies - their research -
Many of these scholars - who are the pioneers and pathfinders
in medicine, physics, chemistry, biology or in the humanities
are well-rounded, many-sided individuals - who are
interested in other things beside their particular
calling.
Others are completely oriented and absorbed in their
particular task and subject. To the scholar
present everywhere else. We call them geeks,
or geeks, book-worms,
It doesn't matter - just so they add new truth,
new ideas, new insights to the store of human
knowledge.
They are the true benefactors of the world - and
the true heroes.

4/. This wonderful new age - the Atomic - has
made possible by scholars, research men,
thinkers and "egg-heads" -

Men, unusual men, I want you who learned early
to think accurately, to think paradoxically to burn the
midnight oil.

5/ And love of learning - ^{the intellectual quest} that is scholarship - is a fine
passion to have for all men - not merely for those
professional.

A scholar knows nothing of boredom! He is always on an
exciting voyage - never
be fatigued.

Leonardo da Vinci - created masterpieces in his old age -

"Learning keeps the soul young and decreases the letters -"
If we're old eyes, youth - mental life.

Learning is the vitalizing of our ~~times~~ ^{mental life}.

For we're youth - restorative than cosmetics.
It smooths out wrinkles a little, the mind - and
gives the soul a new and lasting permanent wave.

6/ Sage - Emperor - Look here - drunk - gotten a big job
with part - a found a treasure -

I assure you - I am a very fun man!

I am learning all the time - new things - and new ways
of doing old things - my days are full, interest -
my life is never dull - I am richly happy!

7/ I have always felt that a good life is built on 4
reverences - Reverent attitudes -
① For human body - Temper - Temperance - Sobriety

- free from all excess and unbalance -
This reverence puts all our agencies & institutions which protect
and safeguard man's physical life. - (4)

② Human intellect - distinguish man from lower animals
- led us from barbarism - enables us to destroy
error, superstition - gives us increased power
Builds our schools - universities - libraries - our arts
and sciences

This is nothing more wonderful & heroic & man's
search for knowledge - and truth.

③ Man as such - dignity of his life - inalienable, his
personality - Every man! I may, God!

To be just in our judgment of man -

To sympathize with human nature & suffering

It is that which gives us our constitutions, law - our
Governments - our ideals of freedom for all - Equality

④ Man's handwork - dignity of work & study - God

Reverence L 21C 12

Reverence for all that the hand & mind create &
beauty - crafts man's life!

Nothing shoddy & inferior - ~~for~~ ~~second-rate~~ cheap

1/ Q BK - fine human achievement - Evidence of

Good - Good for Society

To succeed - expert knowledge then having advice

High Know - more words - Real knowledge - ?

Is your knowledge - field - adequate, not
will the judgment - result of sound reasoning
adequate knowledge - acts -

Can we you shouldn't count

2. Art, Clear thinking - not a gift - result of
hard training - playing with a musical
- skill in any sport

Acquiring knowledge - result

3. Excellence in Sch. - Good for Society - defects on

I - Whatever progress - studies - various
many scholars - persons - medium - well-rounded

Others completely unbalanced - fanatics -

Doesn't matter just so - benefactors

4/ Attainment - made possible - think
reasonably - mid-institution

5/ Love of Learning - good for non-preferred
A scholar knows nothing - Readers - Do know

6/ Safe - Learning keeps safe - deceives - Victims
17/4 Reviewers

✓ Body - structure

2) Industrie - Bank - Bank - Bank

③ Man -
Just -
sympathy -
Love -
fact -
Deem

⑦ Hand inl - 256 10 - 50000

Shuttle - counterfoot - doof