



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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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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Prayers and invocations, 1960.

"The Lord is nigh unto all who call upon Him - unto all who call upon Him in truth".

Earnestly do we seek Thee, O, our God - and pray for Thy guidance in our daily lives; - So much is unclear to us - so many tasks appear to be beyond our strength to encompass them - so much bafflement and confusion and at times so much sorrow.

"Send forth Thy light and Thy truths that they may lead us".

For where Thou art there is neither ~~distress~~ ^{darkness} nor fear - nor defeat - but hope and a lifting ^dspirit.

We invoke Thy blessing upon our beloved land, O, Father of Nations - May Thy blessing rest upon our free institutions that this land may forever remain the home of liberty. Grant that they whom the people have placed in authority may be filled with Thy Spirit - the Spirit of wisdom and understanding. May they lead ~~us~~ ^{our nation} humbly in the ways of righteousness and peace. May they ~~at all times~~ ^{ever} remember that it is not by might nor by military power, but by Thy Spirit that nations prevail and that without vision a people perishes.

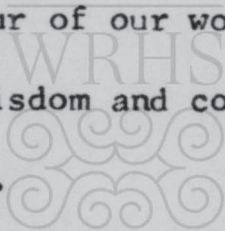
Be Thou with us now and forever. Help Thou us in all our ways.

Amen.

Our Heavenly Father - Better is a day in
Thy courts than a thousand elsewhere.

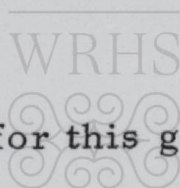
Through the mouths of Thy seers and prophets
Thou ~~dest~~^{didst} instruct us as to the nature of the worship
which is acceptable to Thee. It is not to throng Thy
courts with symbols and with rites which do not create
in us the clean heart and the steadfast spirit. But
through prayer and soul-searching to attune our lives
to ~~Thou~~^{Thee} who art a God of justice and love, and to banish
from our hearts every desire and thought of evil.

May this hour of our worship give us this newness of
heart and wisdom and courage for the tasks which lie
ahead of us.



O, Lord our God, Whose majesty is rehearsed
above the heavens:

For the love of truth which Thou has put in our hearts, and
the hunger for righteousness, we thank Thee. In Thy vast and
mysterious universe, Thou hast placed man, and commanded
him to probe its mysteries, to discover the laws which govern
the most distant stars, as well as the smallest particle of
matter. This unending search for truth has given meaning to
our mortal lives and has crowned our fleeting days with glory
and honor.



We thank Thee for this great institution of learning which
conserves, transmits and increases our precious heritage of
truth, and for all the dedicated men who, in their several
fields of research, labor to advance the frontiers of human
knowledge, and to widen man's intellectual domain.

We pray that with greater knowledge there may also
come to us greater wisdom, greater love of ~~God~~ ^{Thee} and our
fellowmen.

May compassion and truth dwell together in our midst
and brotherhood and peace bless our lives.

- We thank Thee for
Amen. *the*
sermons

- cause the light-gracious - lift

WORDS OF PRAYER

Unto our heart's rapt gaze, Lord, Thou hast shown us the vision of ourselves as we ought to be. The lure of Thy righteousness grips our souls. From the urge of our ideals, we cannot flee away. Thee we acknowledge in these stirrings of our hearts; Thee in our longing to be faithful and true, Thee in our passion to be pure, Thee in our zeal to work with thoroughness and skill, Thee in our resolve to be patient and brave. Thee in our upreach after wisdom and beauty, cheerfulness and poise. That radiant image of our glorified self, O how it gleams athwart every cloud of failure and rebuff!

Thee we acknowledge in our craving to forsake envy and anger, hatred and fret, to refrain from speaking ill of others, to forbear passing judgment on others, knowing that we do not know the needs and temptations of others. Yea, Thee we acknowledge in our will to reverence every human soul and loving our neighbor as ourselves, to become ourselves worthy objects of love.

Thou knowest, Father, how in these noble intents the pain of frustration hath often wracked us. How often, in unguarded moments, hath our lower self prevailed! The deceptive words that have escaped us, the foul desires that have besmirched us, the indolence whereby we have shirked our tasks, shifting to others' shoulders our own shoulders' burdens; our ungoverned appetites, our outbursts of petulance, our deeds and designs of revenge; our vain displays of self, losing honor by seeking honor; our injurious pastimes,

our false pretensions, our influencing others and being influenced not for good but for ill; our blindness to the woes of others, our deafness to the cries of others, our coldness to the yearnings of others, our treatment of others not reverently as precious souls but contemptuously as tools for wanton using -- when we remember these things, our hearts are disquieted within us.

Lord, 'tis well that we should be thus disquieted, O suffer us not to be at ease with our shortcomings. Summon us to ideals ever higher and to aspirations ever nobler. Stir us with discontent at all that mars our spirit's beauty. Those forces within us which, turning one way, make for blessing, and the other way, for doom -- O let them find the blessed way. Strengthen us to rear, even though in toil and tears, the tabernacle of a consecrated life. Nerve us to scale those mountain heights, of strength and of holiness where we, even we, can walk, Everlasting One, with Thee. Amen.

