



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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Leonard Ratner, undated.

1/ When - 1st reaction - Suspicion - Another device of L.R. - to
raise money for his favorite charities.
My 2nd reaction was - Why not? When did L.R. ^{ever} ask anyone
for a contribution to an unworthy cause?

My 3rd reaction was one of great happiness. It was a delight
to know that our community wishes to honor a man
who always asked - but never for himself.

2/ Our world is full of people who are always asking things for us!
Recognition - position - office - privilege - power.
who want to be pushed up the rungs of social status
to reach the top - from which they can then "spare"
Very often we have to attend such functions of
perfunctory indebtedness of men with empty honors
accompanied with much verbal tinsel.

3/ But to-night - we have come together, eagerly and happily,
to do honor to a man who has never asked anything
for himself -
who, I am sure, is greatly embarrassed by all this
public acclaim.

Who would rather be out in the field to-night - soliciting
entreating - persuading - in his own inimitable way -
his prospective victims - and, mind you, not
for himself - not for himself - but for others - for
the needs of men, women & children - for Israel
for humanity

4/ $\text{א} \cdot \text{ב} \cdot \text{ג} - \text{ד} \cdot \text{ה} \cdot \text{ו} \cdot \text{ז} \cdot \text{ח} \cdot \text{ט} \cdot \text{י}$ - "when people give themselves willingly (to serve ~~the~~ ^{other} people) ~~that~~ ⁱⁿ the end. To-night we are gathered to thank the Lord for the gift of L.R. who has found himself so willingly ^{and} ~~as~~ ^{for} so many years to ~~serve~~ ^{be a community} ~~from~~ ^{for} people and all people.

Generous gives are not rare!
5/ Here is a man who is more than a generous giver!
- In our prosperous ~~country~~ ^{land} where forth, there income tax deducting, encourages a manner of ~~giving~~ ^{giving to help} - there are many generous givers.

- Our Rabbis, long ago, recognized various types ~~of givers~~ ^{of giving}. $\text{א} \cdot \text{ב} \cdot \text{ג} \cdot \text{ד} \cdot \text{ה} \cdot \text{ו} \cdot \text{ז} \cdot \text{ח} \cdot \text{ט} \cdot \text{י}$ - There are 4 dispositions among donors... Not all, then praise worthy. (1) There is the man who gives but is not interested ~~to~~ ^{enough} to see that others should also give. (2) There is the man who wants others to give - but not give himself adequately. (3) There is the man who, unwilling to give himself adequately - will see to it that others ^{too} do not. ~~so as not to~~ ^{so as not to} ~~enlarge himself~~ - ~~therefore~~ ^{therefore} who have worked in our various community campaigns - will readily recognize these types of givers.

But there is a 4th type - say the Rabbis - ~~praise worthy~~ ^{praise worthy}!
- "He who gives and induces others to give" - He is a $\text{א} \cdot \text{ב} \cdot \text{ג} \cdot \text{ד} \cdot \text{ה} \cdot \text{ו} \cdot \text{ז} \cdot \text{ח} \cdot \text{ט} \cdot \text{י}$
- $\text{א} \cdot \text{ב} \cdot \text{ג} \cdot \text{ד} \cdot \text{ה} \cdot \text{ו} \cdot \text{ז} \cdot \text{ח} \cdot \text{ט} \cdot \text{י}$ - highest tribute - not a $\text{א} \cdot \text{ב} \cdot \text{ג} \cdot \text{ד} \cdot \text{ה} \cdot \text{ו} \cdot \text{ז} \cdot \text{ח} \cdot \text{ט} \cdot \text{י}$ - but a $\text{א} \cdot \text{ב} \cdot \text{ג} \cdot \text{ד} \cdot \text{ה} \cdot \text{ו} \cdot \text{ז} \cdot \text{ח} \cdot \text{ט} \cdot \text{י}$
- more > a $\text{א} \cdot \text{ב} \cdot \text{ג} \cdot \text{ד} \cdot \text{ה} \cdot \text{ו} \cdot \text{ז} \cdot \text{ח} \cdot \text{ט} \cdot \text{י}$ - "a man, loving kindness"
 $\text{א} \cdot \text{ב} \cdot \text{ג} \cdot \text{ד} \cdot \text{ה} \cdot \text{ו} \cdot \text{ז} \cdot \text{ח} \cdot \text{ט} \cdot \text{י}$ L.R. belongs to this 4th category

- There are rel. Jews - hyks - a body. Law - Apur - confusion - controversy.
8/ They are all fractured Jews - defective Jews - suffering
from a sp. astigmatism - which prevents a proper
focusing of vision - resulting in imperfect
~~distorted~~ images of J. life..

9/ L.R. has endeavored to hold on to the charen vision.

שמר דת - not שמר:

He knows that Judaism is a religion - and he is a
loyal religious Jew - interested in 1900 - in work,
in rel. education - Not interested - with subject.

He knows that the J. people is a historic people -
possessed of a unique experience, downed with a unique
destiny - and he is loyal to that people - and to every
thing that works for its survival - and to its glorious
life, not religion.

He knows that all Jews are responsible one for another
- that they are one people - here, abroad, and everywhere on in Israel.

Bialystok and he does not isolate himself from any of them.

He knows that an old and aged and affairs every
thing the net - the defendant - and he forces out the
and to them.

10/ He is not a one work in him Jew - "One grape
will not make a bunch" - Dr. S. Rabin.

One chance will not save the salvage the exemplary ness
J. life - not contribute to its unity - a survival.

"1. Levi - among an people - pedigree is nobility
and 2nd al - wisdom -
Therapy among vs - you as to be - then a great command
may for bliss for - you beloved by his companion
your children - and their families.

