



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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Job, undated.

1) Placid, untroubled ref. confidence at all times - Black doubt
rebellion - Questioned & Argued with God - Bible - Ab. Mos. Sa

2) Job - great Sp. Ordeal - Drama - Pious, saintly man -
suddenly overwhelmed by disaster - loss - death - fatal disease -
Questions which torture his mind - Why? God-hungry, just
why has God... Is there Justice? Is there justice in the world

3) Yet another problem - Correlated - Disconcerting picky?
Can a man be God seeing... without expecting reward.

4) Problem, Evil does not exist for atheists - only Reality
If no one is responsible - no sense to complain -
But - "si deus bonum est - unde malum?"

Possible answers:

- ① God is not good - Existence itself is Evil - Madness
goes wrong
- ② God is not omnipotent - Diaboli - evil forces
Ormazd - Cherimans - Matter eternal - Jesus
- ③ Human inability - And at time of Job - Immutability

4) But Judaism - neither answers - Why evil?

There are various answers - more completely satisfactory -
What seems evil to under - may be universally good -
" " " at the moment - larger view - "Bridge"
To despatch us - We grow by overcoming Evil -
God wanted us as people - I was perfect world -
Good is inseparable with evil - "Coin"
Essentially insoluble - Job prepared
to receive evil - even as

5) Evil as punishment for Sin
necessary correlation bet. Phys. Evil & Moral Evil

Friends, Job - ^{Human self. punishment for his} ~~refers~~ ^{refers} of older orthodoxy - ~~rebuttal~~ ^{rebuttal} of
for overturning the justice, God

Denounce him as gross sinner - must have merited
only way they could square belief in a just God. end.

6). That Job will not justify God by condemning himself.
To keep God's record straight.

Prepared to bring his case against God to judgment
if he is to be accused of having merited God's chastity.

7). That + ~~friends~~ ^{friends} letters rage the debate - but. for a while
Job, & def. his innocence, & 3 Friends defending old
conception, God & his Rehabilitation further.

3 rounds of dialogues bet. Job & his friends.

Eliphaz - Bildad - Zophar

Job answers each one in turn.

Arguments summarized.

① God is just - ② If you are suffering search
frankly your own life & see whether you have not
deserved punishment ③ No man is perfect. ④
Repent & God will prosper & heal you ⑤ If the wicked
prosper - do not be misled - only for a moment

⑥ Even if you are a righteous man - your duty
to be humble - God does not need you. You need
God.

8/ Job suffers - Call upon God knowing & vindicate him as against his friends. ^{God does!}
There is ~~retribution~~ but - ^{outer} ~~retribution~~ ^{experience} ~~God's faith endures!~~
9/ As to the answer re God's story -

Man cannot reach into the heart, ^{phys} broken - even
man no - sp. world - majesty & Creation

Then man God - he would understand.

God gives no accounting - Job 38.
42. 1-6

"But the outer edges of this story

'Only a whisper, then do we catch.

'But the thunder, this omnipotence - who can prevail?'

10/ Job's faith endures!

WRHS



Job. 1 - problems

- 3.11-26 - complaint.

~~chap. 29~~ 1.20 || 30.16-31

- ch. 21.7-16

- 14.1-12

- { 7.11-21,
9.14-35

He had been up there

Why do we call people
righteous suffer.

For mortals

- challenges God:

- calls to judgement

11/ Friends

4.1-9.

5.17-27

Chap. 8.

Chap. 15.1-16.

20.4-20

12/ 50b. = Will not deliver himself 27.1-6
calls upon God. , 42.7-8
unshaken faith 13.13.18 . N/C, 11

