



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Beth Elohim Temple anniversary, undated.

1/ Worst Way - 317N - 2 masses - Cannot Evaluate - 1/24/11

2/ Happy - such occasions - → local seizing - Whenever
celebrates to-day - testimony - undeported Lebes -
most every thing - transpiring - dark negation of soul lives
moving into increasing murder & chaos -
entirely not propitious for moral idealism - Optimistic
mid-way 20c - so brilliant - on verge -
2 world wars - Talk 3rd - A to A Berlin - Old war -
Spread of Dictatorships - Black mood of Despair

3 - Whisper - Synagogue - Church - Refutes all such pessimism
It says in so many words - Human Ideals are never
synagogue, especially - 2600 yrs - Look at Me! - I have
seen - experienced much - many sought to destroy

"The terror of death accompanied me" - But, behold!

I have, time & again, been delivered from snare

Even then the desperate eyes unschooled

My voice still rings clear - challenge -

"Because I have made the steers of old - my refuge -

4/ Pessimism - a form of atheism! - Saves God out of
human calculations

2231 x261 - 2122 1221

God's eternal plans are not affected by the shifting
tides & fortunes of men and nations

Portals, surface ladders - do not reflect - deep channels

Share your burden with God! - Continue to hold on
ruins

5/ We cannot see clearly beyond horizon of our times -
Neither could primitive man.

In his dark, unperfected mind - unperfected - unperfected
could not see it - refuse to believe it

Continued as in a seed - as the Passover - Passover
could not penetrate curtain - total presence in

Far more > us - long record - Past - Road

6/ Synagogue - bids us - not to deprecate our times - we deprecate, Luke
our times

"Say not: How was it that the former days were
better than these; it is not out of us that these
thearise thus"

Each age - record of triumph & failure

No age is idyllic - inclined to vital Past

Each age adds something to human progress
most persecuted - most helpful

7/ Great Age!

8/ Great future - for American Judaism - find ourselves for
that days ahead

Reform - Conservative - Orthodox -

Innovation, Reconstruction, Reconstruction - Reconstruction

no longer a question of more or less ritual - overestimated

less ritual - no more devout - always hope that

now has scored great victories

9/ no longer issue / Zeal in to divide - whip
up partnerships - divide household plans

Life has settled that issue -

10/ What remains - basic Judaism - an distinctive heritage
inherited by patriarch etc.

Covenant - mission - / part -

Our distinctive way of life - family - community - sac. responsibility
brotherhood - peace

11/ Reform? Worth preserving? Advancing?

12/ Yes an advancing - Yes! - not an easy task

Rel. not covered - with light & easy tasks - great demands

- renunciation - sacrifices - compensation - freedom etc

- harmony with life

(a) Study - Teaching - Learning - (b) Worship - (c) Social Ideals
person x/y/z 5/20 - 20/2

1. Joy - ^{Dr. Emil Leipziger} Plague ^{Leo} Bergman Look back ^{Son} ^{Beth Elshim} ^{Confident} ^{several}
(7x5) ^{1940 1941} - Reward? ^{for 15/11/11}

2. Dark negation of all rel. hopes - menace + char.
why speak of building - 3rd War - Cold War - Atomic
Despair. (Read).

~~Was~~ - imminent danger - 20 c. - way will be found
- depend upon American leadership - Religion

3. Your celebration refutes Pessimism - Synagogue

Look at week - seen so much - deep waters -
destroy - Come thru the Ages unscathed -
Have seen restless eddies - deep channels
Build on Ruins - Hopeless - Dawn always comes

4. (Jude) - An Eng. philosopher - p/18 38 p/18 11

Primitive man - refused to believe - could not
penetrate curtain - already contained as in a seed
- justified in Total Pessimism - far more

5. Judaism - most persecuted - most dph. mystic
for people - most driven - most hopeful
ממדת חסד - human love

After 6 M. - Jewish State! - greatest

6. Amer. Jud. - gird itself for days ahead - (Not before)
- innovation - reconstruction - Reconversion - Reconversion

15 / What is needed not innovation, renovation, reconstruction⁽²⁾
but recommitment ; faith to the faith - recommitment
to his rel. obligations.

No longer a function of more or less initial - conflict
clashes, orthodoxy, conservatism open - new, this
second - setting up dykes

16 / No longer the issue Primum - to what of partisan

loyalties - divided humble -

he has settled that issue - Then is the State's task

(a) Then remain basic Judaism - as distinctive heritage -
united - Covenant - mission - Amazing viability -

produced distinctive culture & literature - way / of

(family, charity, social rep. - brotherhood - new)

(b) Has that herit. faith still mean - relevance

Is it worth preserving - advising?

(c) Yes an answer - yes! Remember - not an

easy task -

Rhymen not concerned with by lit and easy tasks -

great deeds - make great demands - surrender -

renunciation - sacrifice -

offered great compensations - freedom - dignity - harmony

- Answer

1) There is more, local signif. - and there is much to
celebrate - zoops - loyalty, ^{good-will} peace, contributions -

2) ^{of 2 especially} Whenever and wherever a rel. institution celebrates today an
anniversary - it is welcome testimony to the undimmed hopes
of men in a ~~far~~ better future for south - and in the ultimate
regeneration and redemption of mankind.

^{High} Everything that is transpiring in our world to-day seems to
be a dark negation of such hopes.

We seem to be moving into increasing menace & chaos.
Mid-way in the 20c - we find ourselves in a world which is
sc. brilliant, econ. dynamic, culturally rich, physically un-
whipped and polit. disastrous -

Our times are certainly not propitious for optimism or
moral idealism. A word of despair is swelling on our
lips, esp. on young lips - the word of "O, what the use?"

- Just 5 short yrs ago -

- Defeated our dictatorship -

- Again our lives are being dislocated - draft -

- What has our world experienced since 1914 -

- Twice did our proud sc. age descend ^{for holy} ~~cringing~~ ^{dry-out} ~~Gas-works~~

- We saw, old - eye - less in face. Greatest to grief -
pulling down - that all may push ^{together}

- All about us is talk of war - cold war - ^{atomic}

- Barring our former enemies - mobilizing against

- In arms, desert. - extending aid - notorious dictators

- What helps moral confusion - "cloaca maxima"

- Dragg. shamy mess

- Why spend \$ building a better world - why challenge?

3/ Whenever a sign celebrates an anniversary as you are
to-wisdom it gives the answer to all such doubts. It
refutes all such possibilities. # It says in so many words:
"Look at me!" I have been young, and I am old. I have
seen much and experienced much. Hard has been my way
and dark. Dangers beset me and much persecution. Many
sought to destroy me. ^{The fears, death were often upon me} But behold - I have been delivered
from the snare, the power and from the worst of perils.
I have seen thousands fall at my side and ten thousand at
my right hand. I have come through the open sea, the
storm and undaunted. My voice still rings clearly
through the earth and my faith still challenges mankind.
Because I have as in the eternal for my refuge, and
the most high my habitation.



4/ Perseverance is a principle, altruism. It is the God for it
calculations
God established His world that it should not be moved -
נִסְתָּבָה וְלֹא יִסָּדֵף
God's eternal plans - not affected by shifting tides in
future, men and nations
Rivers surface eddies of history do not deflect the deep
channels beneath
Man shall share his burden with God - and God will
sustain him
He should continue to build upon Rivers - dreams
- build the city, God - "God will be in midst of the
she shall not be moved - God shall keep her at the office, morning

- 5/ None can see beyond the horizon of our own times -
- Neither could previous man -
 - In the dark, imprisoned mind - unfounded - marvellous
- could not see - refuse to believe - inventions etc
 - Contained as in a seed all the blossoming & flowering of the age
 - Could not penetrate curtain - immediately visible (Emphatic)
 - would have been justified in a fatal perspective
for man > he - long Bended Post - Road

6/ The Bygone Admirer as to remember the past - 1/11, 1935
13/1 13/3 13/6 13/9 13/12 - draw inspiration

Not to deprecate our own times -

"Say not thou: How was it that the former days were
better than these, for it is not out of wisdom that thou
sparest this"

- Each age has its seed of its uplift & darkness -
- In every age men are inclined to exalt past -
- No age is idyllic - Each age has its bad - its back
with watch his hour
- But each age adds something to human progress
every time leads -

- 7/ We shall be utterly lost - give way to exhaustion & darkness
- our is not the worst of all ages -
 - In many ways it is a great age - one of great -
 - Mind, man reaching epic achievements - Re admirer
 - Man's spirit is lapping tragic as giant -

14
- Their were darker eyes > ours - awful - bringer of death -
- buried to raise our eyes - (Josh)

8/ Live in Eternity! Why that is exactly what Jesus has sought to teach men thru the ages - live on!
XND DXC / HN - and not be afraid -

"God is our refuge and our strength
He ^{eternally} ~~helps~~ helps in trouble
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change
Though the mountains be moved into the heart of the seas"
- Nations are in tumult - Kingdoms are moved
The Lord, our help is with us
The Lord, Jacob is our help & our strength."

9/ Mass may well be the dark hour before dawn - greater peace
long and cruel centuries - do not come to an end -
Trauma - prolonged & terrible war
A time of upheaval - comproding mankind / div
Foundation / earth tremble - Terror & death stalk
Until all the dirt takes them -

10/ Hearken - Herculean tasks - Oppressed peoples
Working masses - Kumbly - Heal -
Daunt & determined effort - both freedom & security
Nations - both sovereignty & collaboration for peace
Long & hard is the Road - Many are the perils -
But there is a Road - there is a soul - faithful do follow

13/ This is what ~~the~~ ^{the 200th} anniv. celebration / you know - ~~celebrating~~ ^{proclaiming} the ~~message~~ ^{message} re telling the message, the Universal Sympathy - which has spanned many, many centuries and many, many lands is finding its way to our age. It is summing up man's journey to a ^{current} ~~revelation~~ ^{revelation} to the ~~present~~ ^{present} and everlasting ethical and spiritual truths - in the ~~other~~ ^{insights} ~~experiences~~ which have come to them as a result of their experiences - that Science without religion is a menace to man; Deism without religion is ~~barren~~ ^{barren}; Art without religion is corruption; Society without religion is a bloody arena!

149. Both Elsham is oldest Reform Temple in U. S.
To reform and ~~modernize~~ and liberalized our ancient faith
in order to facilitate its sp. functioning in the modern
world was a necess. task of the recent generations. It
is no longer the imperative need of our generation. The
task has been accomplished to a degree undreamt of by
the previous generations. In fact we are coming
to suspect that they had over-estimated the importance
of ritual reform. We know now that people can refrain
from praying from an ~~adv~~ advanced prayer-book in the
vernacular quite as consistently as from an unaltered
prayer book in Hebrew; that a man can fail to observe
a one-day holiday quite as regularly as a two-day
holiday, and that even services of great dignity in a
beautiful temple can fail to attract worshipers - if the
disposition to worship is not there.

17/ And it is of hard tasks that you must speak today 18

(1) Study - Teaching - Learning - $\sim 2 \times 1701$ - to know God
requires our most developed minds - our keenest insight -
our most cultivated spiritual imagination -

(1a) Know God - Jewish history

(2) Worship - Contemplation - ~~by~~ describing the life, devotion

Rel. practice & observance - attuned to the Rel. life

(3) Social idealism

עבודת ה' - $\sim 5128 - \sim 12$

18/ May your father

