



Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4850: Daniel Jeremy Silver Papers, 1972-1993.

Series II: Subject Files, 1956-1993, undated.

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Silver, Maxwell, correspondence and eulogy, 1966.

EULOGY by Rabbi Edward E. Klein at the funeral service for DR. MAXWELL SILVER,
Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, 30 West 68th Street, New York City, October 11, 1966

I feel as though I should be sitting with you, for I too mourn. Maxwell Silver was my friend, my colleague, a dedicated member of this Congregation. And yet, mourning as I do, considering this life I must paraphrase the words of Milton: "Nothing is here for tears; nothing to mourn or knock the breast; nothing but well and fair and what may comfort us in a death so noble." And, I might add, a life so noble. For this was a full life, a life of service and fulfillment, gladness, and love. To quote the title of Maxwell Silver's recently published drama of the Book of Job, "There was a man!" - a man dedicated, brilliant, eloquent, creative.

Maxwell Silver enjoyed recognition in several careers. He was a fearless rabbi in the prophetic sense of preaching forthrightly, and filled with distinction the pulpit of a daughter congregation of this synagogue, the Flushing Free Synagogue, by appointment of the late Stephen S. Wise. But Maxwell Silver was a rabbi also in the traditional role of teacher, a calling he never left. A profound scholar, learned in the lore of our people and thoroughly at home in secular culture, his books, JUDAISM AND JUSTICE, THE ETHICS OF JUDAISM, and THE WAY TO GOD, have had a germinal influence. And Maxwell Silver was rabbi in the more modern role of leader, for he was prompted by the Ahavat Zion - the love of Zion - which was always a motivating influence of his life, to become a founder of the American Zionist movement.

It was a professor at Swarthmore College who wrote a monograph called, TEACHING ECONOMICS WITH A SENSE OF THE INFINITE. Maxwell Silver practiced economics with a sense of the infinite, for it was his fine appreciation of human values and lofty principles that earned him success and recognition as a banker. When he retired ten years ago he made retirement a career, enjoying every moment of it, as his widely acclaimed book testifies. He continued to lecture, to study, and to write, having just completed a new work, THE PROBLEM OF HAPPINESS - a problem he

Dear Dan -

Thought you might
appreciate the enclosed
eulogy & photo.

all best send love

as ever

Howard

Eulogy - Maxwell Silver
October 11, 1966

solved not merely intellectually and spiritually, but by the quality of his own living.

Of course, no small measure of the fulfillment of this rich life was his family. He was the dear, good husband and loving helpmate of over five decades. What a proud father he was, justly proud of daughter, and son who has served with distinction as a rabbi. Only this past Holyday season he enjoyed hearing Harold officiate in the full flowering of his development. How appropriate that we bid Maxwell Silver farewell here, where he attended Marian's Confirmation ceremony and Harold's Bar Mitzvah ceremony! He was an adoring grandfather who enjoyed the high privilege of participating in the Bar Mitzvah ceremony of a grandson two years ago. He was a proud brother, proud of his sisters and brother, in whose distinguished career he too took pleasure.

In the arithmetic of life this all adds up to a rich life, a full life. He died in sleep painlessly, like Moses - al pi Adonay - by the kiss of God. Our mood should be one of gratitude for the fullness of this life. Our mood should be one of faith that he lives still in the precious work of his hands and in minds and hearts made better by his presence as a loving benediction.

November 9, 1966

Rabbi Harold Silver
Temple Emanuel
1250 Bower Hill Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15216

Dear Harold:

Thank you for sending on Klein's eulogy of Dad and especially for the fine photograph. Klein's is a good statement but it hardly begins to evoke Uncle Max's many qualities. I hope that by now arrangements for Mother have been successfully made and that she is comfortable.

Fortunately, our worries about Del's father proved ungrounded. He had a very bad throat which may give him trouble for some time but it was not a dangerous thing at all. Adele joins me in sending our love,

Sincerely,