

## Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

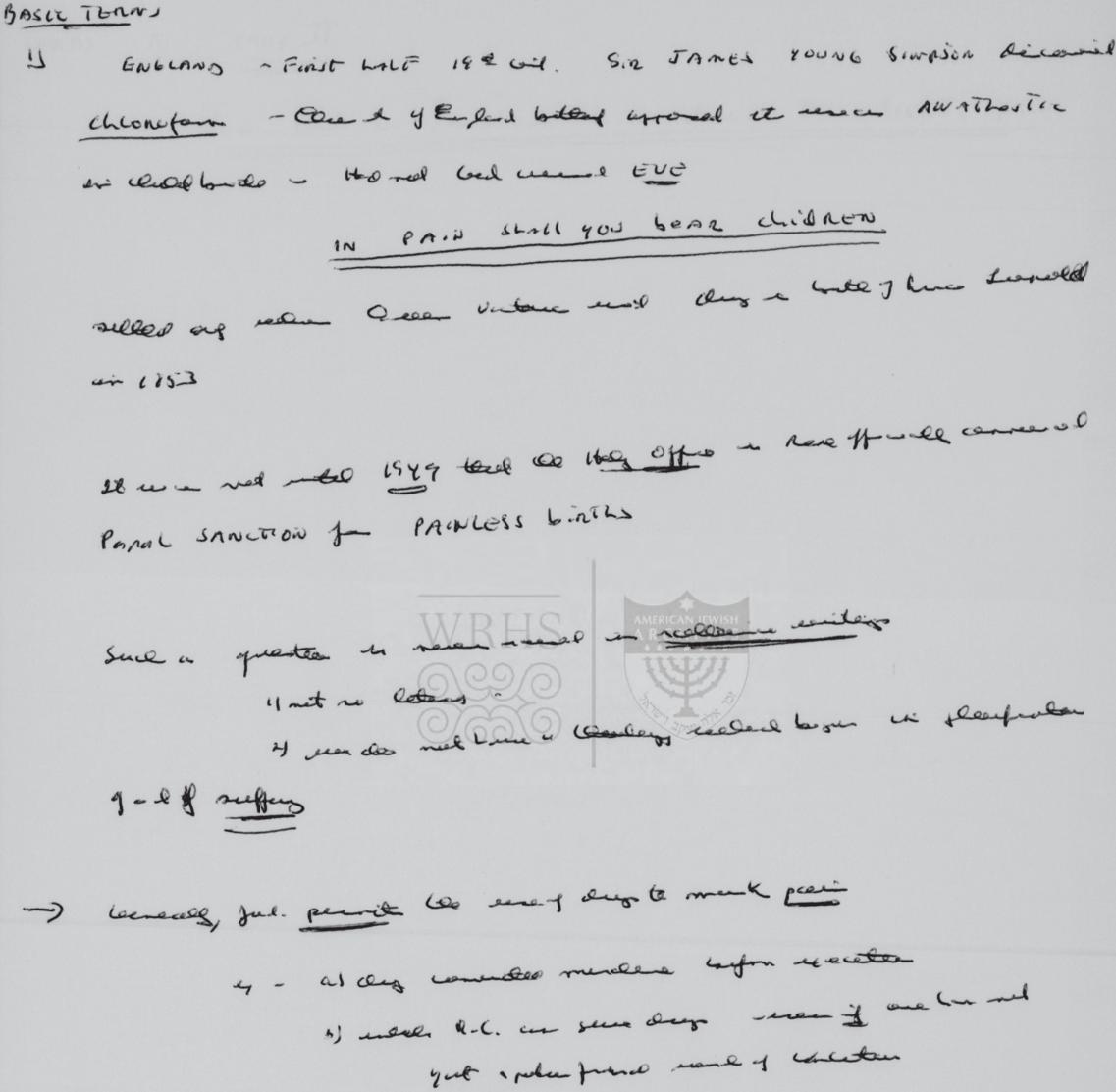
Series III: The Temple Tifereth-Israel, 1946-1993, undated. Sub-series A: Events and Activities, 1946-1993, undated.

Reel	Box	Folder
43	13	656

# Women's Association, Lecture Series 1972, notes for "Drugs", 1972.

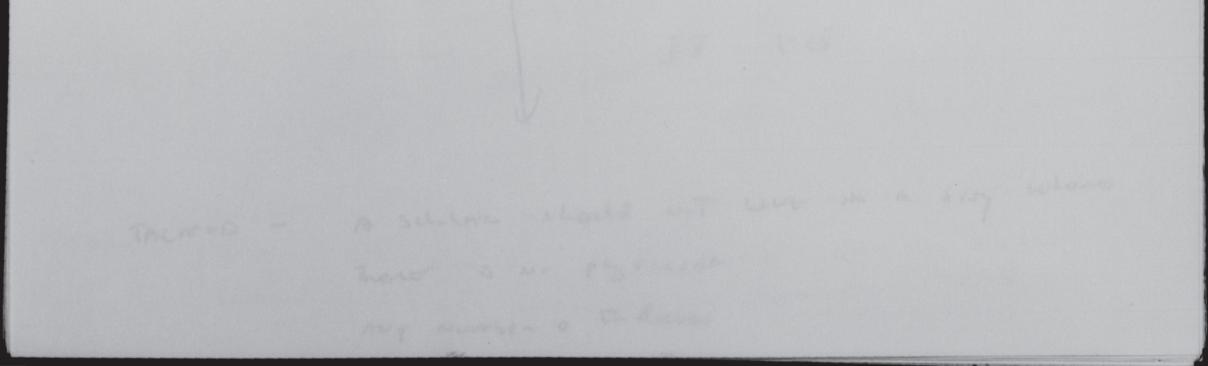
Western Reserve Historical Society 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106 (216) 721-5722 wrhs.org

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### THE MIGRATION OF ABRAHAM, 31-35

interference of art by contrivance of Nature there come forth all things in one outburst charged with benefit for all. And the harvest of spon- 32 taneous good things is called "Release," <sup>a</sup> inasmuch as the Mind is released from the working out of its own projects, and is, we may say, emancipated from self-chosen tasks, by reason of the abundance of the rain and ceaseless shower of blessings. And these 33 are of a most marvellous nature and passing fair. For the offspring of the soul's own travail are for the most part poor abortions, things untimely born ; but those which God waters with the snows of heaven come to the birth perfect, complete and peerless.

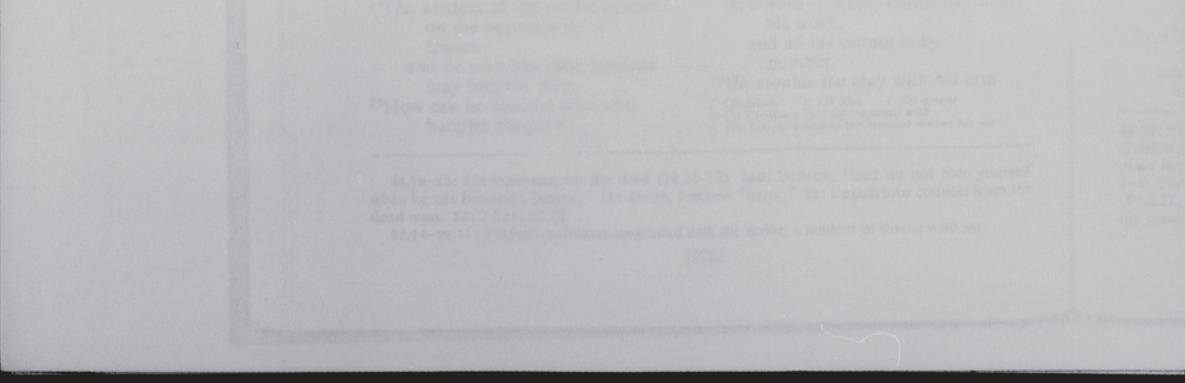
I feel no shame in recording my own 34 experience, a thing I know from its having happened to me a thousand times. On some occasions, after making up my mind to follow the usual course of writing on philosophical tenets, and knowing definitely the substance of what I was to set down, I have found my understanding incapable of giving birth to a single idea, and have given it up without accomplishing anything, reviling my understanding for its self-conceit, and filled with amazement at the might of Him that is to Whom is due the opening and closing of the soul-wombs. On other 35 occasions, I have approached my work empty and suddenly become full, the ideas falling in a shower from above and being sown invisibly, so that under the influence of the Divine possession I have been filled with corybantic frenzy and been unconscious of anything, place, persons present, myself, words spoken, lines written. For I obtained language, ideas, an enjoyment of light, keenest vision, pellucid dis-

• See App. p. 561.

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#### SIRACH 38

# may he fall into the care<sup>1</sup> of a physician.

<sup>16</sup>My son, let your tears fall for the dead. and as one who is suffering grievously begin the lament. Lay out his body with the honor due him. and do not neglect his burial. <sup>17</sup>Let your weeping be bitter and your wailing fervent; observe the mourning according to his merit. for one day, or two, to avoid criticism: then be comforted for your sorrow. <sup>18</sup>For sorrow results in death, and sorrow of heart saps one's strength. <sup>19</sup>In calamity sorrow continues, and the life of the poor man weighs down his heart. <sup>20</sup>Do not give your heart to sorrow; drive it away, remembering the end of life. <sup>21</sup>Do not forget, there is no coming back; you do the dead<sup>k</sup> no good, and you injure yourself. 22"Remember my doom, for yours is like it: yesterday it was mine, and today it is yours." <sup>23</sup>When the dead is at rest, let his remembrance cease, and be comforted for him when his spirit has departed. <sup>24</sup>The wisdom of the scribe depends on the opportunity of leisure:

and he who has little business may become wise.

<sup>25</sup>How can he become wise who handles the plow,

#### Craftsmen and workmen

and who glories in the shaft of
a goad, who drives oxen and is occupied
with their work,
and whose talk is about' bulls?
<sup>26</sup> He sets his heart on plowing
furrows,
and he is careful about fodder
for the heifers.
<sup>27</sup> So too is every craftsman and
master workman
who labors by night as well as
by day;
those who cut the signets of
seals,
each is diligent in making a
great variety;
he sets his heart on painting a
lifelike image,
and he is careful to finish his
work.
<sup>28</sup> So too is the smith sitting by the
anvil,
intent upon his handiwork in
iron;
the breath of the fire melts his
flesh,
and he wastes away in <sup>m</sup> the heat
of the furnace;
he inclines his ear to the sound of
the hammer,"
and his eyes are on the pattern
of the object.
He sets his heart on finishing his handiwork,
and he is careful to complete its
decoration.
<sup>29</sup> So too is the potter sitting at his
work
and turning the wheel with his
feet;
he is always deeply concerned over
his work,
and all his output is by
number.
<sup>30</sup> He moulds the clay with his arm
I Gk hands k Gk him I Or among
m Cn Compare Syr: Gk contends with n Cn: Gk the sound of the hammer renews his ear
R

**38.16-23:** On mourning for the dead (22.11-12). 16d: Hebrew, "and do not hide yourself when he has become a corpse." 18: Death, Hebrew "harm." 22: Lugubrious counsel from the dead man. 23: 2 Sam.12.20.

38.24-39.11: Various craftsmen contrasted with the scribe, a student of divine wisdom.

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#### "Honor the physicians"

#### SIRACH 38

- and all who see him will call him happy.
- <sup>25</sup>The life of a man is numbered by days,
  - but the days of Israel are without number.
- <sup>26</sup>He who is wise among his people will inherit confidence,<sup>b</sup>
  - and his name will live for ever.
- <sup>27</sup>My son, test your soul while you live:
  - see what is bad for it and do not give it that.
- <sup>28</sup>For not everything is good for every one,
  - and not every person enjoys everything.
- <sup>29</sup>Do not have an insatiable appetite for any luxury,
  - and do not give yourself up to food;
- <sup>30</sup>for overeating brings sickness, and gluttony leads to nausea.
- <sup>31</sup>Many have died of gluttony, but he who is careful to avoid it prolongs his life.
- 88 Honor the physician with the honor due him,<sup>c</sup> according to your need of him, for the Lord created him;
- <sup>2</sup>for healing comes from the Most High.
  - and he will receive a gift from the king.
- <sup>3</sup>The skill of the physician lifts up his head,
  - and in the presence of great men he is admired.
- <sup>4</sup>The Lord created medicines from the earth.

and a sensible man will not despise them.

- <sup>5</sup>Was not water made sweet with a tree
  - in order that hisd power might be known?
- <sup>6</sup>And he gave skill to men
- that he<sup>e</sup> might be glorified in his marvelous works.
- <sup>7</sup>By them he heals and takes away pain:
- the pharmacist makes of them a compound.
- His works will never be finished; and from him health' is upon the face of the earth.
- <sup>9</sup>My son, when you are sick do not be negligent,
  - but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you.
- <sup>10</sup>Give up your faults and direct your hands aright,
  - and cleanse your heart from all sin.
- <sup>11</sup>Offer a sweet-smelling sacrifice, and a memorial portion of fine flour.
  - and pour oil on your offering, as much as you can afford.<sup>g</sup>
- <sup>12</sup>And give the physician his place, for the Lord created him;
  - let him not leave you, for there is need of him.
- <sup>13</sup>There is a time when success lies in the hands of physicians,<sup>h</sup>
- 14 for they too will pray to the Lord that he should grant them success in diagnosis<sup>i</sup>
  - and in healing, for the sake of preserving life.
- <sup>15</sup>He who sins before his Maker.

- b Other authorities read honor c Other authorities omit with the honor due him d Or its e Or they f Or peace g Heb: Vulgate omits as much as you can afford; Greek
- is obscure h Gk in their hands

i Heb: Gk rest

25: Is numbered by days, i.e. is of limited duration, contrasted with the nation of Israel (39.9; 44.13-14; 2 Macc. 14.15).

37.27-31: Temperance (31.16-22).

38.1-15: Concerning physicians. 1: Created him, i.e. established his profession. 5: Ex.15.23-25. 8: His works, God's works. 9-14: In sickness turn first to God, by prayer, repentance, and sacrifice (contrast 2 Chr. 16.12); then call the physician. 12: Created, see v. 1 n. 15: Severe illness, according to Jewish ideas, is divine judgment for sin (Job 5.17-18; 1 Cor.11.30). The Hebrew text, however, reads, "He who sins before his Maker will behave himself proudly before the physician." Into Primario

#### THE MIGRATION OF ABRAHAM, 35-39

tinctness of objects, such as might be received through the eyes as the result of clearest shewing.<sup>a</sup>

VIII. Now the thing shewn is the thing worthy to 36 be seen, contemplated, loved, the perfect good, whose nature it is to change all that is bitter in the soul and make it sweet, fairest seasoning of all spices, turning into salutary nourishment even foods that do not nourish. So we read "The Lord shewed him a tree. and he cast it into the water " (Ex. xv. 25), that is into the flabby, flaccid mind teeming with bitterness. that its savagery might be sweetened away. This 37 tree offers not nourishment only but immortality also. for we are told that the Tree of Life has been planted in the midst of the Garden (Gen. ii. 9), even Goodness with the particular virtues and the doings which accord with them to be its bodyguard. For it is Virtue that has obtained as its own the central and most honourable place in the soul. Such 38 is that which is shewn, and he that sees it is the wise man, for fools are blind or dim-sighted. That is why in former times they called the prophets seers (1 Sam. ix. 9); and the Trainer of self was eager to exchange ears for eyes, and to see what before he heard, and, going beyond the inheritance which has hearing as its source, he obtains that of which sight is the ruling principle. For the current coin of learning and teach- 39 ing from which Jacob took his title is reminted into the seeing Israel. Hereby comes to pass even the seeing of the Divine light, identical with knowledge, which opens wide the soul's eye, and leads it to apprehensions distinct and brilliant beyond those " The concluding word "shewing " serves to bridge over transition from this meditation on the Spontaneous Blessings to the discussion of the First Gift to Abraham, i.e. "the land which I will show thee."

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question of how these drugs affect the gross circuitry of the brain, there remains the question of how they affect the workings of intellect itself. Our experience with alcohol-now of some duration-suggests that one may use it in copious moderation for a lifetime and remain intellectually active and efficient. To put it somewhat differently, although alcohol in moderation is certainly hostile to the intellect, in moderation the hostility appears to be limited to the period when it is physiologically present. The martini is never a ticket for a return trip, but the drugs of true belief are more generous. Robert Coles estimates that perhaps 20 per cent of those who have taken LSD three or more times experience flashbacks, returns of hallucination in the absence of the drug. A smaller proportion experience psychotic episodes, even after what have appeared to be good initial experiences. As Coles says, the evidence is still murky: "One is left in the dark. One is also left to worry, seriously worry about anyone who takes LSD."

While it has become fashionable to claim that psychotic episodes following LSD use occur only in the "pre-psychotic," Coles is rightly dubious as to the value and meaning of such a concept, and points out that it is not of much consolation to an ex-pre-psychotic—made *ex* by LSD— who might otherwise have made it to age ninety-five still pre-psychotic, a condition operationally otherwise the same as non-psychotic. Some people, after all, manage to attain old age grossly overweight.

But these are comparatively rare, comparatively obvious outcomes. There is evidence for the existence of subtler consequences, less easily observed but no less troubling. Coles cites a chilling little tale of some young scientists who experimented with LSD as an aid to abstract thinking. The trips were groovy, but

for seven or eight months afterward, each subject discovered his ability to think creatively at a high level of abstraction and to design complex research experiments was significantly impaired. The scientists were quite able to carry on formal teaching functions and were able to go on about their work without alarming or worrying their colleagues in any way. Still, almost a full year went by before *they* felt they were absolutely back to normal—and they were men *favorably* disposed toward LSD when they expands. The case of the superior student who falls apart in such circumstances is regrettably familiar. And I think I can see less marked effects in those whom I know to have taken up more or less regular use of marijuana." The observation may seem no more verifiable than the drug user's claim of expanded consciousness; the difference is that others may attempt to verify my claim without themselves running the risk of being evidence. Finally, for what it is worth: two of my under-thirty colleagues, both fairly involved in the drug culture as undergraduates, are quite convinced that they suffered very minor but so far permanent intellectual dulling as a result of earlier experimentation. Less dulling, perhaps, than any honest drinker recognizes the morning after; but unlike the effects of the morning after. still evident the day after that, and after. The commonplace that marijuana produces no hangover seems to be true in the familiar physiological sense. If there is a subtler and more enduring hangover, the possibility would outweigh the value of many happy hours at stoned Monopoly. At least, so Norman Mailer appears to believe:

Now, however, that he had again an actively working brain only partially hampered by old bouts of drugs (which revealed their ravages in occasional gaps like the absolutely necessary word for an occasion failing utterly to arrive on time . . . ) yes, Mailer was bitter about drugs. If he still took a toke of marijuana from time to time for Auld Lang Syne, or in recognition of the probability that good sex had to be awfully good before it was better than on pot, yes, still! Mailer was not in approval of any drug, he was virtually conservative about it, having demanded of his eighteen-year-old daughter. a Freshman now at Barnard, that she not take marijuana, and never LSD, until she had completed her education, a mean promise to extract in these apocalyptic times.

It there are such consequences, they will presumably eventually be understood as subtly phyiological in operation. But there is a more purely intellectual consequence entailed in the use of drugs of true belief, one presenting—after alcohol abuse and opiate-stimulant use—what seems to me the gravest part of the drug problem, a soci etal dimension not to be handled simply by the individual's sensible use of marijuana, i.e., by considering it fun but not theomimetic.

Considering how often, and sometimes on what dubious grounds ours is said to be a sick society.

#### took it.

The anecdote is a straw in the wind; one of my scientific colleagues believes it to be supported by his own observations of drugs and scientists. When I look about me, I form impressions admittedly not often much more than impressions—of similar phenomena. The effect is most marked in students embarked on an ambitious program of consciousness expansion: their intellectual behavior suggests very strongly that the consciousness is of finite mass, thinning as it

• Two studies of adolescent marijuana users recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Association would seem to provide some confirmation of these observtions. As reported in the New York Times, April 19, 1971. Drs. Harold Kolansky and William T. Moore found that "normal' youngsters can suffer serious psychological daturbances following regular smoking of marijuana, witheas the use of other drugs" while Dr. Arthur Kornhaber cocluded from his work with teen-agers that marijuana fait be "toxic to the human nervous system during growth and development."