

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 B: Sermons, 1950-1989, undated.

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The Heart, the Head, the Hands: A Look at our Future - High School Graduation, 1971.

The Heart, The Head, The Hands - A Look At Our Future Daniel Jeremy Silver April 24, 1971

I'd like to talk this morning about the time, our teachers. I'd like to talk this morning of an image, an image that we carry about which has to do with the antimony between young and old, the new and the traditional. As many of us here can attest it's not easy to be an older Jew today. The emphasis is all on the new. We want to break tradition which we feel there is something instinctively valuable and valid in breaking out of the past. Mention the word past and someone will ask add lyranny The past is somehow seen as a shackle, something which restricts us cure mic of. We want to put the past behind and begin only with today. Today is somehow new and different and exciting. I know of no other dimension of human thought in which the exchange of values has been as dramatic. For long centuries of history the emphasis was on age and reverence for the past and reverence for the wisdom one gets as one grows in years. The Torah tells us that we must stand before the aged and we must give honor to those who are of age. Wisdom lies with age. Wisdom lies with experience. Ancient societies, medieval societies were organized in such a way that the youth were automatically conditioned to have reverence for their elders. Judaism rarely went that far. The deference one was expected to pay to the aged was to pay to their quality, not simply to their chronology. The Talmud tells us that an ignorant man as he grows older only becomes more ignorant and yet the whole burden of the society was one of respect for the past, for all that the past positions had to teach. Anyone who does not read history is bound to relive it.

Now I want to put those remarks in context with one of the papers which this high school graduation class submitted for this graduation. It's a particularly sensitive paper and one which was full of very appealing images. In it Judaism was

likened to a wizardous old man dressed in black, bent over, walking through a narrow alley, his hands laden with books and the question was asked: Is there no joy in Judaism, Is there no ecstasy of knowledge that this is the day, no recognition of sunshine and flowers and smiles and of skipping, of laughter and of flowing water. Is there no joy in Judaism? I was first tempted to respond: Of course, there is. There is the joy of the Hasidim with their arms thrown around each other's shoulders as they sing and dance their word praises of God. There's the joy that each of us has felt around the Sabbath table, the candles and lighted, the silver sparkling, the Challah cut, the family well and warm. There is the joy of the singing and dancing the Horah. There are many joys in Judaism. Yet, the more I thought of this complaint the more I recognized that this was true and it was by design that it was so. Judaism is not a gospel. It's not the promise that the Kingdom of God is at hand, that this is a new age, that somehow disconnected from all that was before, that we have only to awake the minute, the hour for the sunshine or Messiah, laughter of gladness, of the ends of the births of the tragedies of the past, the dawn of the new age. Judaism to history is is a cyclical kind of thing because man because does not basically change. We cannot expect the golden age until the far off end of time when God in his own way, will bring it-into time as we know it and bring the Messianic age. But until then life is a narrow alley, that it is not an awful bridge to think of man as old, dressed in a black coat, all that he could carry with him is his courage to push along, burdened by books which are not his burden but his blessing because they contain the wisdom, the meager wisdom perhaps, but such wisdom as we possess thewideon of livery. nonetheless, Would it that it were different. Would that I could say to you here is

the sunshine, here are the stidings, man is different, man is no longer cruel and veral and ugly and vicious as well as civilized and decent. Can I say that to you in consideration of Vietnam, of napalm, of Watts, of Hough, Hiroshima, of Nagasaki, of Auschwitz, of Dachau? Can I say to you man is different, the golden age is here? Can we put the times behind us simply by some will of faith. I wonder.

My mind goes back to others who were filled with the ecstasy of knowing that the Kingdom of God was at hand, that this was the day and they went out into the wilderness and they put behind them the business of living the responsibilities, of family, and they had faith. But the day did not come. The Messiah did not come and that faith which was so filled with joy and expectation, but the thing that taught men that life on this earth was only a veil of tears, a ward of sighing and bitterness that the only but man could expect, the only real joy lay in Paradise in the Kingdom of Heaven. So now if we expect at too much we become bitterly disappointed because our minds vault ahead of us and we assume that a progress, a change of human nature has taken place which in fact has not taken place and we go out burning with great expectations we are burdened by the certainty that we will be frustrated and become embittered.

Judaism has had joy within it. The old black suited man, walking through the narrow walls of his ghetto, had joy in his life. He had the joy of community, the joy of love. He had the joy of family, the joy of love and the joy of friendship. He had the joy of his books, the joy of learning. He had the joy of the service of God. Now his joy was not a formal joy, it was not an innocent joy, it was not a pagan joy, a joy of the endless sunshine which is never endless. It was such joy as could come to man in this life, the kind of life which, unfortunately, we are burdened to live. We are a people who have found the joy in the everyday because we have not

expected each day to be a new day, new in kind, different than has been before. There is much in our society. There is much in our world which tells us here is the Evangelist, here is the Gospel, here are the good tidings. This is a new generation, a different world. Put the past behind you. Forget about it. Beauty can be burdened with Hitler, and Auschwitz and Dachau and Hiroshima and Nagasaki and with Vietnam, these are the sins of the elders. Yours is a new world, a new generation, a new kind of being. Unfortunately, you are not. You are us and we are you. Perhaps you will find accomplishment which others have not found, but you will find among you and among those of your age and your generation and those who are power mad and those who are venal and those who are sadistic and those who are cruel.

And you will find that there are the shadows as well as the sunshine. There is the storm as well as the sunshine.

We have presented to you history. It is not simply to present to you a sad procession of indignity, of persecution, but it is to present to you an image, an image of moral heroism, an image of men and women who were clear-eyed, who knew that life would not suddenly open up for them, who present to you an image, an image of moral heroism, an image of men and women who were clear-eyed, who knew that life would not suddenly open up for them, who present to you an image, an image of moral heroism, an image of men and women who were clear-eyed, who knew that life would not suddenly open up for them, who present to you an image, an image of moral heroism, an image of moral heroism, and image, an image of moral heroism, the ties to you an image, an image of moral heroism, that it is not substitute to you an image, an image of moral heroism, that it is not substituted to you an image, an image of moral heroism, that it is not substituted to you an image, an image of moral heroism, but it is not knew that the way is not image, an image of moral heroism, that it is not you and image, an image of moral heroism, that it is not you and image, an image of moral heroism, that it is not would will be as full of problems which you have completed your strength as it is today, but can we not share the responsibility to the every day, knowing that darkness which surrounds us that almost the way is now, that

we cannot spend our time in song and dance, can we not nevertheless find satisfaction in life, a mission, a goal, significant purpose? Our people have found such significance and such goals. I pray that we shall together.



Today, in the American Jewish Community, a unique crisis exists. Unlike Jewish crisisfof the past, this one is not a question of external persecution or forced migration. Rather, it is an internal crisis: that of the assimilating Jewish intellectuals who have become alienated from both their Judaic religion and heritage.

Judaism is a rational faith. The intellectual has drifted from his rational religion, although he was extremely fortunate to have been born into it.

For him, Judaism as a religion, has little or no significance. Religion, for him, mainly involves devotion or fidelity, with a sense of consciousness. It is possible that the intellectual Jew finds little meaning in organized religion, or, his Jewish identity may cause him to have unacceptable feelings towards his faith, which cause him to slowly assimilate. This may be an unconscious reaction, but he has purposely done so. As a substitute for traditional religion, the intellectual turns to science, such as technology and psychiatry, in order to maintain a state of religions satisfaction.

In order to interest the intellectual in the Jewish community, one should communicate in language the intellectual appreciates: such as the works of men like Whitehead, Garnett, and Buber. But, never-the-less, this will not bring him back. We must show the intellectual Jew exactly what Judaism has to offer, either traditionally or otherwise.

That which the assimilated intellectual Jew finds satisfying in Science also exists in Judaism, only in a different form. The intellectual thirsts for knowledge in areas of his existence, his creation, and his purpose. Instead of casting off religion, the key to the answers of his questions, he should delve into Judaism, and study it. And, if he does not satisfy his hunger, or if he even enlargers it, he will have filled those needs which he attemped to satisfy with Science.

If the intellectual Jew can be made interested in the history of his people, or in the concepts of Judaism, he will surely accept his religion, and join his collegues in studying it. In this way, learning will again be a method of integration, instead of an escape from Judaism, for the intellectual. Therfore, through culture, a tie with the intellectual Jew can be established. But what of

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the political and social connections? They must not be ignored. The Jewish intellectual must be won back to both traditional and organized Judaism..

Since many of the intellectuals will have studied Marxian theories, the capitalism involved in the Jewish religious institution will motivate the intellectual to have a sense of dismay or fear towars the system itself. If this causes him to reject Judaism, it should be pointed out that such a system closely guarantees survival as well as the expansion of Judaism. As his Jewish awareness grows, it would be wrong for him to want to contain that which is feeding him. This should also apply to his desire for an a-political system, another resultant of Marxian study. Once the intellectual Jew views Judaism as to the full learning potential, he should not want to limit his source.

When confronting the assimilated Jewish Intellectual, a reason must be presented for the Intellectual's return to the Jewish community, or the
arguement will be frivolous. First, though, he
must be made aware that his science is only a substitute for that which he lacks? religion, in a deeper
sense: Religion as the service and adoration of God

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as expressed in forms of worship. He must also be shown pride in the fact of his Jewishmess, in order to lessen his desire for assimilation. In other words, the intellectual Jew must be made aware that an acceptance and faith in Judaism and his God will allow him to be a man and serve ne others. And, as a Jew, he can progress, as does his sense of religion, while he participates in the Jewish community, in order to find himself and God.





Kaddish

Friday (pril 23)

RALPH E. STEIN

Those who passed away this week

SADYE DEGNER ROSE D. KOHN HERBERT A. ROSENTHAL

Yahrzeits

HETTIE AKERS MARIE MERTZEL ASCHERMAN HENRIETTA WEIZENHOF AUGUSTA F. BERLAND HERMAN GOTTLIEB SAM WOLFF ABE GOLDBERG PAULINA ADELSON IDA ROSENTHAL HARVEY SIMON HARRY GERSHEN JOHN ANISFIELD RUTH M. COHEN GORDON A. HERSTAM ISADORE J. SALZER MONROE A. ULLMAN JACOB KRONHE IM FAN B. ULMER EMIL H. GOTTFRIED MAX S. FRIED JENNIE M. LITTMAN

LOUIS S. BING, SR. CHARLES ALLEN HUEBSCHMAN JANET HOFFMAN WARNER EDWARD I. MINTZ Honor Awards - Sophomore and Juniors

The Flora Rohrheimer Awards

Presented to second year students for excellence in scholarship and participation in High School activitées.

Barbara Ruth Cohn Deborah Lynn Kulber

Amy Carrol Reich Laurence Irwin Sugarman

Presented to first year students for excellence in scholarship and participation in High School activities

Mark Harlan Chaplin Richard Evan Gans Louis Alan Isakoff Barbaza Lynn Malevan



LIST FOR DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS

PAULA SUE KLAUSNER

ROBYN LEE FRIEDMAN

DEVORAH RUTH SMITH

DIANE CECILE ROLF

CAROLE ANN ROTH

DEBRA HACHEN

DIANE LEE KRASNER

JOANNE BARBARA SAKS

NANCY PRISCILLA ALBERT

KENNETH ENGLANDER

BRUCE DAVID WEILL

DAVID JOEL HELLERSTEIN

STEVEN ROGER SAKS

DAVID ANDREW BERGER

LOREN SAMUEL KENDIS

ALAN EFRAM NESS

STEPHEN ALLEN MENDEL

HOWARD GREGG EPSTEIN

PAUL HARLAN ZIPP

JEFFREY NEIL YOUNG



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form it Hould not survive and probably will not.

Bitten I year I'm bitten: Is there so troy in Judaism that God in here? Why is it that when I enter the walking trough a narrow that when I enter the walking trough a narrow that alley his arms loaded unlight and flowers smiles and skipping haughter and I feel Joy I don't feel Jarish ing.

Think about if eel pain I feel Jarish ing.

Think about if eel pain I feel Jarish ing. Pelicans crunch appless my shores heave appless in laughing sighs A seahouse cavorts among maider starfiel... And you ask Why does he get sick by the sea?

A fable won't suffice,

so liture leave in go from the wet lett-blanket ... (you can see the coolness-in a murror) so the inner is less True than the real, no matter if it tries and grunt to me monkey, grun tax molani. a laual

Honor Awards

SCHOLARSHIP

For outstanding academic and general achievement throughout the three years in The Temple High School Department. Awarded by the Scholarship Fund of The Temple Women's Association and The Temple Men's Club.

David Andrew Berger

Diane Lee Krasner

THE CORA LEDERER MEMORIAL AWARD

Presented to students of the graduating class who have compiled distinguished records in scholarship, attendance, and participation in High School activities.

Lee Howard Levey

Stephen Allen Mendel

Alan Efram Ness

THE RICHARD ALAN FISHEL HONOR KEYS

For distinguished participation in the Extra-Curricular program of The Temple High School Department.

Debra Hachen

Steven Roger Saks

THE FLORA ROHRHEIMER AWARDS

Presented to second year students for excellence in scholarship and participation in High School activities.

Barbara Ruth Cohn Deborah Lynn Kulber

Amy Carrol Reich Laurence Irwin Sugarman

Presented to first year students for excellence in scholarship and participation in High School activities.

Mark Harlan Chaplin

Louis Alan Isakoff

Richard Evan Gans Barbara Lynn Malevan

THESIS AWARD

Presented to students who in the opinion of the faculty have submitted superior theses in fulfillment of the requirements for graduation.

Nancy Priscilla Albert

Diane Lee Krasner

Paula Sue Klausner

Diane Cecile Rolf

Graduation Exercises The Temple High School

Sunday, April 25, 1971 Ten-thirty o'clock



The Temple

The Rabbis

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

MAX ROTH

STUART GELLER

Order of Worship

THE SANCTUARY

Processional	The Class
Opening Prayer	Joanne Barbara Saks
Service (Union Prayer Book). Pages 312-326	
Reading from Scripture (Job 28, V 1-28)	
Valedictorian Address	Oavid Andrew Berger Diane Lee Krasner
AddressR	abbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
Alenu-Kaddish	
Presentation of Diplomas	\ Mr. Max Eisner \ Rabbi Max Roth
Closing Prayer	Diane Cecile Rolf

Graduating Class

Nancy Priscilla Albert

David Andrew Berger

Kenneth Englander

Howard Gregg Epstein

Robyn Lee Friedman

Debra Hachen

David Joel Hellerstein

Loren Samuel Kendis

Paula Sue Klausner

Diane Lee Krasner

Lee Howard Levey

Stephen Allen Mendel

Alan Efram Ness

Diane Cecile Rolf

Carole Ann Roth

Joanne Barbara Saks

Steven Roger Saks

Devorah Ruth Smith

Bruce David Weill

Jeffrey Neil Young

Paul Harlan Zipp

FACULTY

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Mr. Ronald Kulberg

Mr. Morton Krasner

Miss Paula Kronfeld

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Mr. Michael Woldman