



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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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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Confirmation, 1918.

1. Of this sacred - I recall.
Be then a Blessing

2. You will be prayed not - do
① Loyalty - thing men less
must -
② War -

3. Loyalty to Parents.

- ① Reps at Thrup. Citizen
- ② Impatient - wisdom
- ③ As we grow older - friends.
- ④ Loyalty to Hearts - never
do any thing - shew for

4. Loy. to Friends.

- ① Tenderest Man.
- ② Deserve? Friendship. Selfish.
- ③ You were never here.
help them - life's troubles

5. Loy. to Love -

- ① Love's Love in you.
- ② What then, means -
exhilarating Grand Heal

6. Loy. to your faith - h then
① God faith shall not be lost

1. At this sacred moment gift
of a chest -

2. Loyalty

① Not by what you do - by
what you are - disposition
at the moment

2. The thing that never dies
never is loyalty

3. Americanism is that you are
American

WRHS



3. Loyalty to Parent - I think

① Loyalty begins at home. You
must first be a true citizen
or friend of your country - if you
are not a loyal son today

② Highest name for God is
Father - highest name for
man is his children -

③ You may grow impatient -
consequence -

Remember they have been with
you as - & they have seen
life & general wisdom -

① As we grow older we realize
that they are our true friends.
They stand by us until the end -
They inspire us - & pray for
us - & protect us from
sin - & the world's evils.
They are our last refuge &
home - they understand of us
best.



By acting to the family
hearted - we can do anything
that will walk with them
to the land of their hearts.
Bring joy & peace to them.

3. Friends -

1. The truest man is he who
has no new friends - It is a
life's work to make a friend.

T. Loyalty to your faith
of our people - your Ministry

① - Urban -

② - Let a ~~small~~ ^{small} hit a Tarch

③. Let Jewish lines - clear -
whitewash line - never
really far away - share

④ Learn within your people

⑤ After a ~~small~~ ^{small} name -

⑥ Turn to find in your
need - ~~the~~ ^{the} B. D. D.

Who will give it.



6 - When you will have
lost a lot of such
by art - whatever your
station may be - } it will
find that abundantly blessed

3. - You have made friends here
 - Keep them - cherish them
 4. Try to discuss friendship
 5. - like books are valued
 by a few & loving friends

+ it is ideal

4. Loyalty to this land -

① It has universal in pr-



② By a man - mean

leading upright here -
 integrity, square deal &
 fair play - by himself
 justice

③ Live in the present
 family, another - live
 family happ. at another
 man's door

④ Am. means brotherhood
 fellowship - cooperation for

*Perhaps an excerpt from But you
the One Blessing*

My dear boys and girls:-

Confirmation 918

At this sacred moment of your life, when confirmed in the faith of your fathers and publicly consecrated to its ideals, you are about to set forth upon the Pilgrimage of Life carrying the burden of newly acquired responsibilities, what word of blessing or counsel can I impart to you to speed you on your way! I would not have you begin this wonderful journey which will lead you through the beautiful years of young manhood and womanhood, through the strong and active years of your maturity and, God grant it, on through the calm and peaceful years of old age without giving you not the gift of a thing but the gift of a thought; a thought that would be your faithful companion on the Journey, that would walk at your side on the Great Highway of Life singing in your ears the undying song of glory and hope.

I recall another man who set out upon a great journey and the blessing which was bestowed upon him. When Father Abraham left his home and his native land on his pilgrimage to the land of Canaan, God filled his soul with this beautiful thought "Be Thou a Blessing" and through the long weary days of wandering through desert and wilderness and among hostile peoples this whispered thought--"Be Thou a Blessing" proved a source of comfort and strength to him--a rod and a staff to his wandering feet.

To you, dear boys and girls, about to leave the land where free from great care and responsibility you spent your happy childhood in the sheltering love of your dear parents I would give a similar charge. You are entering the land of Manhood and Womanhood. Great tasks await you and exacting duties and you will be thrown to a very large degree upon your own character and your own resources to perform these tasks and duties. Ofcourse the tender love of your dear parents will never forsake you. It will abide with you forever. Until the last moment of their lives their thought and their cares and their prayers will be for you -- and for you only. But as you grow older and greater independence will be yours--and a greater responsibility. You will begin to fashion your own life and your own destiny and men will judge you for what you yourself are, and for what you yourself do. And as you enter this new world of duty and responsibility I would give you this sacred charge--"Be you a Blessing."

The day which marks your confirmation is a sad day in the history of the world. The world is at war. Sorrow has come to dwell in the hearts of men and women. In thousands of erstwhile happy homes death has taken its place at the family hearth and in thousands of other homes it is knocking at the door. But yesterday mothers and wives and sisters of your own city marched in an almost endless procession each carrying the token of a dear one gone to a service which must mean sacrifice and may mean death. Millions of God's lovely children have already found abiding sorrow or nameless graves. Across the sea boys almost of your own age have been sent forth to battle and girls of your own age have known starvation and terrible suffering. A kind fate has saved you and it has saved you for a great and wonderful task! Yours will be the glorious task of building upon the ruins of the old world a more beautiful and a more perfect world. Your brothers are today in Flanders and in France laying the foundations in blood and in tears of this new world and you as you grow into manhood and womanhood will be given the sacred privilege of building its mighty and enduring walls, and of erecting its crowning dome. The world will need you more than any age has ever before needed its young men and women. It will have need--great need--of honest men and women, strong in faith and courage, men and women who love God and man and are eager to serve both. Therefore, I say, to you, dear boys and girls--prepare yourselves in the days to come that you may be numbered among these chosen builders of to-morrow. Fashion your lives so that you may become helpful servants of Humanity. Therefore, I charge you, Be you a Blessing!

Be a Blessing! What more beautiful words can I extend to you--dear boy and girl? To live your life like a flower shedding the sweet fragrance of blessing all about you; to bring light where there is darkness, comfort where there is sorrow, help where there is need, to leave a memory that will live on like the echo of some beautiful song in the hearts of men--to be a Blessing--that is my hope for you, dear boy or girl, that is my prayer for you.

Your lives, dear boys and girls, are at this hour like exquisite vases filled with the perfume of wonderful promise. Do not, I pray you, dash the beautiful vase of your life's promise foolishly and thoughtlessly to the ground. Do not spoil your

lives! Do not mar them or render them ugly. Let them always remain as clean, as sweet, as charmingly attractive as they are now.

Each one of you has been given a life to make rich and meaningful. You may be called each to a different task, each to a different work in life. Your paths will separate. But wherever you are, whatever your work or position in life may be, remember the words spoken to you on the day of your confirmation by one who loved you all--Be Thou a Blessing!

Be Thou a Blessing as man or woman--and also as Jew or Jewess. "To be a Blessing" was the charge given to your people - and it has remained true to it. It turned its very suffering to a blessing and by its wounds was the world healed. Be you also true to the sacred charge. Be loyal to its great *destiny*. Let your character and conduct bring glory to your people. Never by word or thought or deed sully the bright banner of our people. Be Ye a Blessing and Be Ye Blessed! Amen:-



Confirmation 18-1
Shavout 1918

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~~BE THOU A BLESSING~~

~~On the occasion of Confirmation~~

~~The Temple~~

~~1918~~

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