



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
171

Box
62

Folder
40

Confirmation, 1918.

1. Of this sacred - I recall.
Be thou a blessing

2. You will be plagued not - do
① Loyalty - they men less
most -
② War -

3. Loyalty to Parents.

- ① Begins at Home. Citizen
② Friendship - wisdom
③ As we grow older - friends
④ Loyalty to Heart - never
do any thing - shadow joy.

4. Loy. to Friends.

- ① Consider it man.
② Deserts friendship. Selfishness
③ You need friends her.
Keep them - life's kindly.

5. Loy. to Com -

- ① trusts feel in you.

- ② What Com. means -
efficiency. Practical

6. Loy. to your faith - others
① God taught us to do

1. At the second moment gift
of a child -

2 Loyalty

① Not by what you do - by
what you are - depends
on the world

2. The thing that ever less
west is Loyalty

3. Accustomed to that other

WRHS
Wa 



3 Loyalty to Parent → Family

① Loyalty begins at home, you
will never be a true citizen
or friend a person - if you
are not a loyal son & daughter

② Highest name for God is
Father - Alas! them for
men is his children -

③ It is very few unpatient -
concentrated -

Remember they have been where
you are - & they have seen
life & gained wisdom

① As we pass along we realize
that they are our true friends.
They stand by us - until end -
They comfort us - & pray us
To help us - & when we err
or sin - & though we deserve
they are our last refuge &
bother they understand fully

WRHS



Only a good friend
feels - won't do anything
that will walk with them
& know the hand / their hands
bring joy often with them

3. Friend

1. The teacher may be who
knows you friend - this a
lifes skill to make a friend

5. Loyalty to your faith
+ your people - your Country

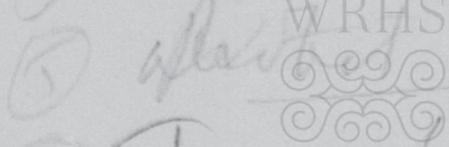
① - Lebanon -

② - Hold a sword with a Torch

③. Wreath lines clear -
Whetstone line - never
nilly fair name & friend

④ Learn when you people

WRHS



⑤ Whetstone man -

⑥ Turn to God in your
need - Ask the R.P.
(Reverent place).

6. When you will have
God of life, you will
see all - whatever you
do there will be - you will
find that abundantly blessed.

- 3- You have won't stand here
 - Keep them out of this
 4 Try to develop friendship
 & acceptance till friendship
 5- life tasks are balanced
 by a few & lovely friends

+ the ideal

4. Legacy to this land -
 ① It has invested in you -



② Your brotherhood - mean
 leading upright lives -
 integrity - square deal of
 family - of business
 with

- ③ live in or the medical
 farm - another - very
 ambapp. at another
 now bear
- ④ Am. mean brother
 fellowship - cooperation with

My dear boys and girls:-

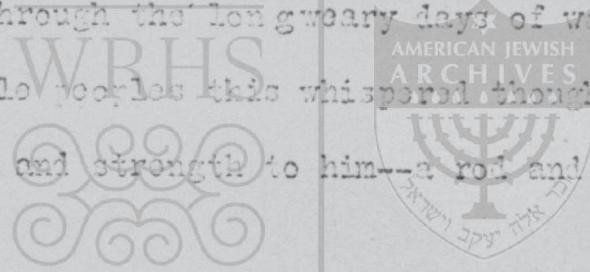
Perhaps we start from But now
The New Blessing

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.

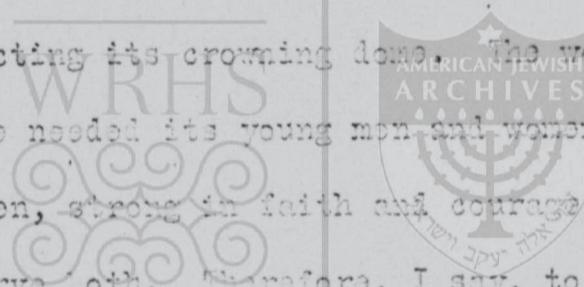
To you, dear boys and girls, about to leave the land where free from great care and responsibility you spent your happy childhood in the sheltering love of your dear parents I would give a similar charge. You are entering the land of Manhood and Womanhood. Great tasks await you and exacting duties and you will be thrown to a very large degree upon your own character and your own resources to perform these tasks and duties. Of course 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 care 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 those 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:-

WRHS
~~~~~



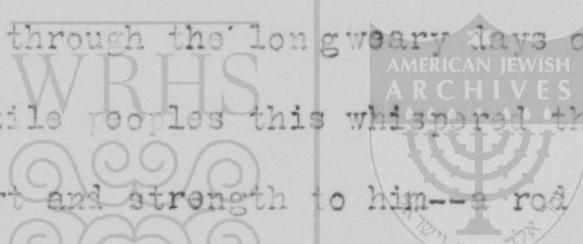
Confirmation 18-1  
Shavout 1918

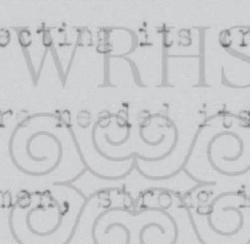
My dear boys and girls:-

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. Of course 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 mighting and enduring walls, and of erecting its crowning   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 meaningfull. You may be called each to a differont 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:-



~~BE THOU A BLESSING~~

~~On the occasion of Confirmation~~

~~In The Temple~~

~~My dear boys and girls:-~~

~~1918~~

~~Confirmation~~

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. Of course 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."