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We are an eternal people, 1922.



We Are An Eternal People

By Rev. Dr. ABBA HILLEL SILVER



WE are an eternal people! Thus hath it been declared by the prophets and seers of old, and thus hath it been established throughout all the revolving cycles of time. Babylon and the wrath of God, Assyria, and the warriors of Memphis, and Thebes and the flying hosts of the Scythians, and the greaved and armored hoplites of the Greeks, and the iron legions of the Romans were hurled in mighty cohorts against us. They triumphed for a moment and in their triumph perished.

¶ We are an eternal people! The Cross and the Crescent could not prevail against us. The fury of intolerance, the violence of fanaticism, the studied cruelties of fifteen centuries—the rack and the stake and the yellow badge, the Crusades and the mobs and the massacres could not bring us low. For we are an eternal people. Many of us shall fall by the wayside, and many of us shall perish for want of faith; some of us may grow cold, and many shall chase after some will-o-the-wisp and be lost to us, but a remnant shall always remain—the seed of a new resurrection. We are an eternal people!

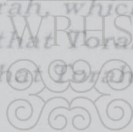
¶ When the first light broke upon struggling mankind we were there, and when the last night shall fall on a dying world in the ultimate cycle of time, we shall be there. We were nomads and slaves and conquerors and princes and outcasts and vagabonds and kings! We are humble servants of the great God. We are an

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eternal people. "For thus saith the Lord, who created thee, O Jacob and the God who fashioned thee, O Israel, fear not, for I am with thee. I have called thee by name. Thou art mine. When thou shalt pass through the waters I shall be with thee. And the rivers shall not overflow thee. When thou walketh through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, and the flames will not be kindled against thee" ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀



¶ *The home, school and synagogue, separately and unitedly, should declare the eternal value of the Torah, as revealed to Moses and transmitted through many generations—that Torah, which is the tree of life to those who lay hold of it; that Torah, the paths of which are ways of pleasantness; that Torah, the paths of which must lead to peace.*



—William Rosenau



❀ *There is pestilence in the city, so do not walk in the middle of the road, for the angel of death walks thereon; there is peace in the city, so do not walk on the edge of the road, for the angel of death walks there.*

—The Talmud (Baba Kama, 60)



(In time of crisis, one must take sides. In time of peace, think twice before breaking it.)