



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Ku Klux Klan, article written for Jewish Telegraph Agency, 1924.

We have too many important things in Jewish life today to dissipate our energy in fighting secret organizations which do not like us. You cannot keep a man from hating you and you cannot keep men, who share a common hatred, from organizing. When such hatred encroaches upon our political rights, we can have recourse to government. When it confined itself to social and economic opposition, we can do nothing.

We are abundantly supplied with anti-defamation leagues to counteract false ^{an} propaganda, and we have Anglo-Jewish presses to carry on the true propaganda. We have our multitudinous committees and congresses to voice our vigorous protest on proper occasions, and have free platforms and pulpits from which to proclaim our Americanism to the satisfaction of all Jews. What else is there to do? What else can we do?

Anti-Semitism has always been here. We refused to recognize it. It is here to stay - for a long time to come. Is it not better to adjust ourselves to this fact? It is not an unknown phenomenon in our checkered career. We have met with it before - and survived.

Our fighting should be carried on within - in our own camp. Our enemies are the corrosive influences of wealth and prosperity, which are today destroying our heritage. Our deadliest foes are to be discovered in the weakening of our moral fibre, in the break-up of the Jewish home, in the vast ignorance touching the spiritual values of our life, and in the consequent indifference towards them.

Let the Protestant Christian Clergy look to the tragic bankruptcy of Christianity in the Klan propaganda. Let them fight it. It is their cross. We shall assist them in every dignified effort to disseminate true knowledge concerning the implications of democracy, the rights of minorities and the obligations of majorities.

But the Dark Angel with whom we must wrestle is on this side of the river, - in the Camp of Israel.