



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
173

Box
63

Folder
144

Confirmation message, 1926.

26-21

THE HEBREW STANDARD
Founded 1882

The Jewish Tribune

THE HEBREW STANDARD Combined with THE JEWISH TRIBUNE in 1922

The American Jewish Weekly

THE JEWISH TRIBUNE
Founded 1903

DR. NEHEMIAH MOSESSEHN
Founder-Editor

May 7, 1926—Iyar 23, 5686

HERMAN BERNSTEIN }
DAVID N. MOSESSEHN } *Editors*

"We Hand You the Torch"

*Messages from Four Representative Spiritual Leaders on the Occasion
Of the 1926 Confirmation Week*

*THE following messages from four
representative spiritual leaders of
America were written for the new con-
firmants upon the invitation of THE
JEWISH TRIBUNE.*

WITH confirmation young boys and girls dedicate themselves to a loyalty to the faith of their fathers. Foremost among the duties of this faith is obedience to the moral law, which demands of all men continuous self-renewal and spiritual progress. Daily we must aspire to excell ourselves—to rise to higher levels of thinking, feeling and doing—to seek the new heaven and the new earth.



Rabbi Abba
Hillel Silver

We must not, however, confound the new with the novel and the old with the antiquated. A man putting on a new garment does not by that token become a new man, and an age putting on new manners does not become a new age. Authentic newness in a man or in an age is inward spiritual renewal, new emphasis, new sets of values, higher aspirations and higher interests.

Every age has its novelty seekers and its spasmodic hankering after the bizarre and the flamboyant. Every epoch has its false glitter and its cheap and easy cleverness. The young men and women of almost every age, except the excessively repressed ones, have sought after the sharp relish of the novel and the unconventional, whether in clothes or manners or amusements. Our own age is especially addicted to this idolatry of the novel. Our young people would break with the conventions and restraints of the past and plunge into what they call the New Life. But this new life is, after all, no new life at all, but an acceleration of the old rhythm—a swifter scansion of a hackneyed melody. The wild music and the wilder dances of today are as old as the jungle, and the late hours and loose talk, the irreverences and the irresponsibilities of our days are no whit different from the stale bravadoes of every generation since the beginning of time—the same capers and the same totems. There is nothing new in novelty!

The New Life is not a new excitement, but a new exultation—not a stimulation but a satisfaction. We renew ourselves, not by indulging our appetites, but by improving our tastes. As we acquire keener perceptions, finer discriminations, sounder judgments, newer purposes, deeper loyalties, do we gain in newness and freshness and freedom.

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER.



A MESSAGE TO YOUTH

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Confirmation message
for Jewish Suburbs
May 1926
26-21

With Confirmation young boys and girls dedicate themselves to a life-long loyalty to the faith of their fathers. Foremost among the duties of this faith is obedience to the moral law, which demands of all men continuous self-renewal and spiritual progress. Daily we must aspire to excel ourselves - to rise to higher levels of thinking, feeling and doing - to seek the new heaven and the new earth.

We must not, however, confound the new with the novel and the old with the antiquated. A man putting on a new garment does not by that token become a new man, and an age putting on new manners does not become a new age. Authentic newness in a man or in an age is inward spiritual renewal, new emphases, new sets of values, higher aspirations and higher interests.

Every age has its novelty seekers and its spasmodic hankering after the bizarre and the flamboyant. Every epoch has its false glitter and its cheap and easy cleverness. The young men and women of almost every age, except the excessively repressed ones, have sought after the sharp relish of the novel and the unconventional, whether in clothes or manners or amusements. Our own age is especially addicted to this idolatry of the novel. Our young people would break with the conventions and restraints of the past and plunge into what they call the New Life. But this new life is, after all, no new life at all, but an acceleration of the old rhythm - a swifter scansion of an hackneyed melody. The wild music and the wilder dances of today are as old as the jungle, and the late hours and loose talk, the irreverences and the irresponsibilities of our days are no whit different from the stale bravadoes of every generation since the beginning of time - the same capers and the same totems. There is nothing new in novelty!

The New Life is not a new excitement, but a new exultation - not a stimulation but a satisfaction. We renew ourselves, not by indulging our appetites, but by improving our tastes. As we acquire keener perceptions, finer discriminations, sounder judgments, higher purposes, deeper loyalties, do we gain in newness and freshness and freedom.