



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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Memorial Day, 1927.

A Memorial Day message from Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver to the employes of The Wm. Taylor Son & Co. reprinted from Taylor house organ.

P. D. May 30
1927

Memorial Day---1927

27-18
THIS day has been set aside as a loving tribute to the memory of those men who, in the days of great tribulation, were not found wanting. The American people honors today the last survivors in the thinning ranks of that great host that once heard the call of Father Abraham and answered it.

IT also recalls in reverence and humility, the men who died in the last great World War and who are today asleep in the silent fields of France, far from their native shores.

IT is good to pause in the rush of our daily lives and think, if but for a brief spell of time, of those who loved life so dearly that they sacrificed it in order to make life more worthy. To think of those who died heroically in a great cause is to find ourselves chastened and ennobled. We return from the quiet borderland of memory, refined and elevated, and all life's values resume their true perspectives.

MEMORIAL DAY commemorates not only the deathlessness of the heroes but also the deathlessness of the ideals for which these heroes died. It reminds us that the ideals which drive men to supreme effort and sacrifice are enduring. There is great comfort in the thought that the things for which we live and die are immortal, in spite of our own frail mortality. We may be as the spray upon the restless waves of the ocean, but the things we aspire to do and to achieve are as eternal as God is eternal.

MAY we be worthy of the gifts of the dead. By the manner of their death and by the things for which they died, they taught us how to live. Their bugles call to us across the fields of memory, summoning us to sacrificial loyalty and devotion to the great tasks still before us.

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER.