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Raising our banners high, 1937.

RAISING OUR BANNERS HIGH
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

It is characteristic of every settled culture that it produces an effective code of morals and conduct for people which they accept as a matter of course. This code becomes the moral atmosphere which they breathe as naturally as the air about them. This code is recognized and defended by public opinion. At times, such a code becomes too constrictive and the freer spirits rebel. For the most part, however, this fixed and settled regimen of moral life is the greatest boon to men for it sustains, shelters and directs them. The lives of most men are held together by social routine. It is that which keeps their lives from falling apart.

Unfortunately for our age, it has no universally recognized code of conduct. All of our moral ideas are in the crucible again. There is hardly a single moral concept in public or in private life which in previous ages was accepted axiomatically which, today, is not the subject of bitter controversy and negation. Governments even more than individuals are today guilty of flagrant and cynical violation of basic moral laws. In fact, organized governments today, through their disregard of the most elementary moral principles, through opportunism, cynicism, broken pledges, terrorism and piracy, are confounding the moral lives of their citizens. This is particularly true of dictatorships where moral anarchy has run riot.

In this age of confusion there comes a particular challenge to the individual. "In the place where there are no men, strive thou to be a man!" The burden of preserving intact for mankind the precious values of civilization - honor, truth, justice, love, peace and brotherhood - now rests squarely on the shoulders of individual men and

women who will not permit themselves to be drawn into the deadly moral maelstrom of our day.

Do that which is nearest to you courageously and faithfully, according to the unyielding rule of the Law of the Spirit, regardless of all the heathen raging about you. You will then help to regenerate the world. Square your own conduct by the gauge of the Higher Law. The world will then have at least one more refuge for its harassed spirit and one more promise for a better day to come. Be ready, when challenged, to break a lance for some dear loyalty. Keep your own inner world inviolate, your own moral code undefiled. Then there is hope that the muddy tides will some day recede again.

There is no peace in the world today except for those who, believing in the spiritual inner structure of all things and in a spiritual design and law of being, are willing resolutely to fashion their lives accordingly.

The Hand of God is shutting the portals of the old year and opening the gates of the new. May it be a year in which we shall be moved to raise our standards high over the confused battlefields of the world, to live courageously and hopefully in the faith that that which is spiritual is indestructible, and that the classic values of mankind, - freedom, tolerance, good-will, justice and peace - will ultimately triumph.

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THE HOT SLUG



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VOL. 7

Quality, Service, and a Square Deal to All

DECEMBER, 1937 No. 8

A Merry Christmas ... A Happy New Year

I N a world of uncertainty, strife and misunderstanding, we come to the season dedicated throughout the centuries to thoughts of Peace on Earth and Good Will to all Men.

We sometimes wonder how the youth of our nation reconcile many present conditions and facts with the teachings of the Scriptures as explained to them from Sunday School Days up and into mature life.

They have heard much of peace on earth but every daily print tells them of nations at war and of other nations striving by all possible means to keep from being entangled in war.

It is difficult for youth to get the meaning of Good Will to all Men while industry is upset by various disturbances and mutual distrust grips many nations.


Perhaps a better understanding of these conflicting and disturbing thoughts will come from a careful reading of the Christmas Messages kindly written for this little sheet by pastors of three religious faiths in our city.

Our most ambitious effort along this line would be weak and faltering compared with the masterly handling of the subject by our three contributors and we bespeak for them a thoughtful reading which we assure you will be well worth while.

We, for our part, offer our most sincere wish to all our readers that the Christmas Season may be a very happy one and that the New Year may bring to all an abundance of good health and well being.

To the youth of our country as well as to their elders, we offer the hope that by patience, tolerance and good nature, they will assist our nation in maintaining its high place in the world and continue to set an example for righteousness, decent living and the pursuit of honest and useful industry.

The Cleveland Steel Tool Company



RAISING OUR BANNERS HIGH

By DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

From REV. M. L. MORIARTY

Director, Catholic Charities Bureau, Cleveland, Ohio

THE Christmas season breathes friendliness and good will which beget generosity. During these days people who are privileged to give and to receive gifts begin to think of friendless and homeless folk, orphaned and dependent children deprived of home life and living in institutions, neighborhood children hungry, badly clothed and sheltered, unfortunate and disabled human beings of all ages. Preparations are made for the distribution of food. Toys are collected and given over to bright-eyed children. To make available food and toys and other Christmas dainties money is given more or less freely. It would seem that at least once in the year happiness to be real must diffuse itself. To be really happy one must be interested in the happiness of others less fortunate. This attitude indicates the common denominator in human nature, the bond which binds mankind in the brotherhood of Christ and joins all to the beneficent fatherhood of the Supreme God.

These days the great soul of the American people asserts itself. Opportunity is sought to bring a Christian spirit—the spirit of Christ—love of neighbor—into the lives of those whose low economic status could make Christmas cheer almost a mockery. This particular year new problems, national and local, set up a shadowy background for Christmas: international relations—questionable neutrality laws—capital and labor strife—taxation burdens on business and real estate—strange and indefensible employment affecting and affected by production, distribution and consumption of goods—obvious attempts to shift individual civic responsibility to political units and sub-divisions of government—all these result in general feelings of insecurity and unrest.

Christmas shopping, however, goes on apace. The stores and markets cater to the rich, the middle-class and the comparatively poor. All classes think kindly and graciously of the destitute and the needy. Would