

Dear Parents and Worthy Congregation,

Today I take my place in the presence of this holy congregation as a child on whom the responsibilities of Jewish life have fallen. From today on it is my duty to observe the practices of Judaism, to cultivate the ideals of our ancestors, to lead a life inspired by the word of God, which was given to Israel in our holy Torah.

In the Sidra which is read from the Torah today, we catch a glimpse of the personality of our forefather, Abraham, when he was already advanced in age. He commanded the respect and the reverence of all the people in the midst of whom he dwelt. *וְאַתָּה אֵלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֵלֵינוּ* "You are a prince of God in our midst," they said to him when he asked them for a burial place in their land after Sarah died. The sincere devotion to God which Abraham had, the perfect religious life which he led refined his character and ennobled his personality to such an extent that none could help but admire and revere him.

Throughout the history of our people, the men and women who are faithful to the principles of Judaism commanded the respect of ~~all~~ ^{all} Jews *had made them better men, for Judaism is a religion* and non-Jews, because their ~~religions~~ ^{religion} that ~~trains~~ ^{trains} us in morality, and that fills our minds with a longing for the noblest ideals. In the literature of our sages we read, Rabbi Simon the Just said: Three things hold up the world; the Torah, or the pursuit of knowledge, the service of God, or the faithfulness to religion, and the performance of kind acts, or righteousness toward our fellow-men. Three other pillars of the world are enumerated: the truth, justice, and peace.

With such an understanding of what my religion will be for me, with such a conception of the beauty of Jewish life, of an illustrious example of a noble ancestry, I today assume the obligations of a responsible Jew, and I take my place in the congregation of Israel. I shall endeavor to continue to study our Torah, the ethics of our prophets and sages; I shall endeavor to follow the path of truth, of Justice, and of loyalty, and to seek the welfare of my brethren, the people of Israel. I am deeply *grateful* ~~greatful~~ to you, my ^{dear} parents, for the training in Judaism which you have

given me, and I pray to God the Almighty that ~~me~~ to make your life happy and blessed. May my growth to manhood satisfy all the hopes and the dreams that you had of me.

Amen

הפסוק אבר-אצול

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