

**KIDDUSH: OR,
SABBATH SENTIMENT
IN THE HOME**

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Kiddush: Or, Sabbath Sentiment in the Home by Henry Berkowitz

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HENRY BERKOWITZ

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USHERING IN THE SABBATH.

KIDDUSH
OR
Sabbath Sentiment

IN THE HOME.

By HENRY BERKOWITZ, D. D.,
Rabbi Cong. ROSEPH SHALOM, Philadelphia, Pa.

WITH SPECIAL ILLUSTRATIONS BY
KATHERINE M. COHEN.

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

"The Sabbath is the hub of the Jew's universe; to protract
it is a virtue; to love it a liberal education."
—I. ZANGWILL.

PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,
1896.

Second Thousand.

TO THE WOMEN OF ISRAEL,

**In the firm assurance that it lies with
them to awaken the religious
life and enkindle the Jewish
spirit by fostering the
Sabbath Sentiment
within their
hearts and
homes.**

445489

A SUGGESTION.

That was a beautiful custom which our sires observed, but which has fallen sadly into disuse in these modern times. Every Friday evening the Jew would return to his home from the Synagogue, perhaps weary after the week's toil, but with his heart all aglow with love for his dear ones who were eagerly awaiting his coming. From afar he could see the Sabbath light radiating from his home, beckoning him cheerily and lovingly. Upon his arrival at home his wife and children would greet him with beaming faces, and receive his blessing in reverential attitude. Then, after all were seated about the festal board, the husband proceeded to usher in the Sabbath by reading to his wife that gem of Hebrew literature, "Esheth Hayil," The Virtuous Woman. (Proverbs, XXXI, 10-31.)

We can readily understand that the reading of this poem, week after week, on the Sabbath eve, whenever the exercise was not a barren and meaningless formality, would exert an ennobling influence, not alone upon the wife and mother, but upon the husband and children as well. Before the minds of the women in the Jewish

home this poem set up a lofty ideal of wife and motherhood, above all, of womanhood. To her who was conscious of striving after this noble pattern, the reading of it by the husband must have come as a loving recognition of her merits and an encouragement to persist in her endeavor. To the woman, however, who fell short of these attainments, it must have come each week as a new impetus for better effort.

Recognizing these far-reaching effects upon the Jewish home and all its inmates and having drawn so much comfort and inspiration out of these observances in our own home, I was eager to see them spread into all Jewish households that are deprived of this beautiful ceremony. I therefore urged my husband to arrange a simple little home service for the Sabbath eve, which would preserve the spirit of the old "Kiddush" and yet adapt the form to our modern needs.

In compliance with this wish this little book is now sent forth. May it receive a hearty welcome in every Jewish household and help to restore and sustain one of the most simple and effective usages for "carrying on the chain of piety that links the generations to each other."

FLORA BERKOWITZ.

INTRODUCTORY.

What a work of genius is that simple, homely and beautiful creation of the Jewish spirit—the Kiddush! It is the very essence of poetry wrought into an institution of family life. It has cultivated and nourished the idealism of generations. It has proven a factor of incalculable worth in linking loving hearts to home, to kindred, to Israel and to God. It has given a dignity, tenderness, and grace to the Jewish household which has constrained all its influences and memories in an atmosphere of sweet religiousness. This we cannot afford to lose.

In the present era of changes many are eager to sanctify the-home life by simple religious rites, and to find some way of holding fast to or restoring this beautiful custom. They would be grateful for some formula by which to give expression to the Sabbath Sentiment. To them this book is offered. It is written and compiled for their needs and in answer to a laudable "Suggestion."

It gives the formula of the Kiddush for celebrating the advent of the Sabbath eve in the home circle. The matter is the same as of old, modified to conform to the beliefs, the thoughts and tastes of to-day, but retaining the spirit that has hallowed the usage throughout many ages.