

**LEILA ADA, THE
JEWISH CONVERT, AN
AUTHENTIC MEMOIR**

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Leila Ada, the Jewish Convert, an Authentic Memoir by Osborne W. Trenery Heighway

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OSBORNE W. TRENERY HEIGHWAY

**LEILA ADA, THE
JEWISH CONVERT, AN
AUTHENTIC MEMOIR**



*Jeune in fleur,
Lilja Ada*

LEILA ADA,
THE JEWISH CONVERT.

In Authentic Memoir.

BY

OSBORNE W. TRENERY HEIGHWAY.

שִׁמְעֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל תְּהִיָּה לְשׁוֹבֵעַ כְּלָהּ יְהוּדִים

The blue deep skies
Dissolve in radiance, like a summer cloud;
Pure spirit melodies float past mine ear
From many a stringing harp. Let me too join
The mingling music of their mighty song.

To Thee, Well-spring of love, who gave the Son,
To Thee, the Conqueror, the Victor-King,
To Thee, the Holy One, who sanctified,
And gave my hopes of yon immortal crown,
I come—Receive my winging soul.—LEILA ADA

NEW EDITION.



LONDON:
WILLIAM MACINTOSH, 24, PATERNOSTER-BOW.

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1868.

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TO

SIR CHARLES LEMON, BART.,

CARCLEW, PENRYN,

M.P. FOR WEST CORNWALL,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS, WITH HIS PERMISSION,

RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

Contents.

	Page		Page
Introductory Remarks	v	CHAPTER VIII.	
		Lella's Letter to her Father	61
CHAPTER I.		CHAPTER IX.	
Introduction—Lella's Character and Pursuits—The Mishna— The Talmud	1	Lella's Letter to her Father concluded	72
CHAPTER II.		CHAPTER X.	
Lella accompanies her Father to the Holy Land—Their Journey —Cologne—The Rhine—The Juras—Geneva—Chillon— Lausanne—Gibbon	18	Conversations between Lella and her Father—Lella is sent to her Uncle	82
CHAPTER III.		CHAPTER XI.	
The Journey continued— Bernese Oberland—Stimmthal —Staubbach—Wenger Alp—An Avalanche—The Stimpfen	21	Treatment of Lella by her Uncle —Her Trials—Character of Lella's Cousin	91
CHAPTER IV.		CHAPTER XII.	
The Journey continued—Milan —Verona—Venice—Ferrara— Bologna—The Apennines— Florence—Rome—The Col- iseum—Naples	29	The Final Effort to Reclaim her —Cut off from her Nation— Her acquaintance with Miss H.—Returns to her Father— "How soon we Fade!"	106
CHAPTER V.		CHAPTER XIII.	
The Journey continued—Athens —Mistra—The Morea—Sparta —The Egean Sea—Constanti- nople	39	Evangelisms	119
CHAPTER VI.		CHAPTER XIV.	
The Journey continued— Antioch—Jerusalem—Ac- count of the Holy Land—The Return Home—Alexandria— Malta—A Tempest	47	"We all do Fade as a Leaf"	146
CHAPTER VII.		CHAPTER XV.	
Lella's Conversion	54	Lella's Dying Hours—The Clos- ing Scene	155
		CHAPTER XVI.	
		Rest	159
		CHAPTER XVII.	
		Lella's Poems, &c.	163

Introductory Remarks on the Third Edition.

THE young lady who is the subject of the memoir was, as its title indicates, a Jewess by birth. The majestic beauty of the religion of Jesus has, in all ages, obtained its finest representatives from the house of Israel : and among the many lovely examples of sublime attainment in the Divine life made by Hebrew Christians, Leila Ada is not one of the least conspicuous. What she appears in the record of her, now presented, that she was in real life, a pure, holy, humble Christian—a Christian hallowed, sublimed, etherealized by the influences of the Holy Spirit.

Leila is a character of undoubted loveliness : but she is not in the *very least* degree an ideal. We have been scrupulously exact in our descriptions and comments throughout. We have written from knowledge obtained through personal acquaintance of the dearest kind.

Leila was one of those fair and flower-like natures, which at intervals rise to cheer us along the dusty highways of life ; but she was a plant which flourished in the shade, and her real worth was known to very few. Her natural abilities were of the highest order, and she had cultivated them with the strictest care ; so that had God seen it fitting to spare her life and call her to a more public situation, she would have occupied no humble position among those noble-souled and intellectual women who are an honour to our country. She was one of the loveliest flowers that ever gleamed in the cold atmosphere of a world of sin ; a flower fragile in its pensile form, delicate

in its tender purity, spiritual in its beauty; too frail to live amidst these tempestuous clouds of earth, and only at home in the kindlier soil and among the stormless skies of the "better land."

All Leila's papers are given *verbatim et literatim*. Write incorrectly she could not. A thoughtful, reflective mind she always had. Although her language is in some places diffuse and inartificial, we could not feel at liberty to alter it. We felt (and perhaps our feeling may be smiled at—let it be even so), that Leila would never have consented to any similar mode of procedure whilst she lived; to be truthfully exact was always the rule of her conduct; and that if she were cognisant of our occupations now that she is in the skies, she would regard such disguise with even less allowance still. It is almost unnecessary for us to say that she never expected anything she wrote would be given to the world.

We have written, we trust, with a single heart—with a pure intention that God may be glorified. To Him Leila was indebted for whatever she was. That in every respect she fully realised the picture of her which we have drawn, we are assured. We say this from a calm, unprejudiced deliberative judgment. Were we to speak as we *feel*, we should be at once inclined to say, that her sweet Christianity could be estimated at its proper value only in the hearts of those who knew her while she was upon earth—that any attempt to give in writing an adequate idea of her character must of necessity fall short.

It is very possible that, after all, some right-hearted people may object to the way in which we have written some parts of her memoir. Before they say a single word we would beg them kindly to pause and think *why* they object. Is it because of our references to personal appearance? We are clear in this matter. We believe it to be one of the noblest, and one of the most proper employments of the Christian, to trace out and thankfully admire the beauty of the Creator in all His works. And is the human form—most beautiful of all beauties—to be the thing which must