



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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Prayer before the Cleveland City Council, 1954.

September 13, 1954

PRAYER BEFORE CITY COUNCIL OF CLEVELAND

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

Our kind Father in heaven, upon the members of the City Council of Cleveland and upon all those in whose hands is the administration of our beloved city, we invoke Thy blessing. Guide them in their deliberations so that their decisions and actions may redound to the well-being and progress of our community.

We are grateful to Thee, Father of Nations, for the manifold favors which Thou hast bestowed upon our country and for the institutions of freedom and justice which we are privileged to enjoy. Especially at this time are we American citizens of the Jewish faith grateful to Thee as we begin the Tercentenary celebration of the first settlement of the men and women of our faith who came to these shores fleeing from persecution and seeking haven and sanctuary.

Through the years, Thou hast prospered their descendants, who together with men and women who came here from many parts of the earth of many creeds and colors have helped to build here a new life and the noble institutions of our country. Through their many activities in labor, trade and commerce, in the arts and the sciences, they have contributed to the development and the prosperity of our people.

Make us worthy, heavenly Father, of their example and their heritage. May all the citizens of this country in brotherhood, tolerance and good will, help to preserve those ideals for which men have sacrificed in the past and which have enabled America to become a light and a leading to mankind.