

הַדְּלָקַת הַנֵּרוֹת לַשַּׁבָּת

Kindling the Sabbath Lights

We would assemble in the darkness. To light a candle there, or even a match, would have brought immediate disaster upon us. We spoke about matters of the spirit and eternal questions, about God, about Jews around the world, about the eternity of Israel. In the midst of the darkness I sensed light in the unlit room: the light of Torah.

Leo Baeck

The New Colossus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glowes world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Emma Lazarus, 1883

In the winter the trees are like silent soldiers,
a vigil of woods, their hidden feelings
scrawled and become scores of black vines,
barbed wire sharp against the ice-white sky.
Who could believe then
in the grin, glittering vividness of full-leafed summer?
Who will be able to believe now, when winter again begins
after the autumn burns down again, and the day is ashen,
and all returns to winter and winter's ashes,
wet, white, ice, wooden, dulled and dead, brittle and frozen -
who will believe and feel in mind and heart
the reality of spring and rebirth,
in the warm opulence of summer,
and the inexhaustible vitality and immortality of the earth?

Delmore Schwartz, CCAR, Mishkan T'filah

We have the Mitzvah always believing
that justice will somehow prevail.
This is the burden and this is the promise
and this is why we will not fail!

Chorus

Words and Music: Peter Yarrow

Not By Might לא בְּחַיִּיל

2x:

Not by might and not by power,
But by spirit alone, shall we all live in peace.

The children sing, the children dream,
And their tears may fall, but we'll hear them call,
And another song will rise,
Another song will rise,
Another song will rise!

Not by might, not by power, Shalom.

Words and Music: Debbie Friedman, based on Zechariah 4:6

מְזֻמּוֹר שִׁיר לְיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת

A Psalm for the Sabbath

from Psalm 92

תהילים ק"ז

מְזֻמּוֹר, מְזֻמּוֹר שִׁיר, שִׁיר לְיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת.

Miz-mor, miz-mor shir, shir l'yom ha-Sha-bat.
The whole world is waiting to sing a song of Shabbat.

Sabbath Prayer

May the One protect and defend you,
May God always shield you from pain,
May you come to be
In Yisrael a shining name.

May you be like Ruth and like Boaz,
May you be deserving of praise,
Strengthen us, O God,
And keep us from unholy ways.

May God bless you, and grant you long life:
 May the One fulfill our Sabbath Prayer for you.
May God make you hard workers and wise:
 May God bless your loved ones who will care for you.

May the One protect and defend you,
May God always shield you from pain,
Favor us, O God, with happiness and peace,
O hear our Sabbath Prayer: Amen.

Words: Sheldon Harnick; Music: Jerry Bock; Adapted: AF

Light These Lights

2x:

O hear my prayer I sing to You,
Be gracious to the ones I love,
And bless them with goodness and mercy and peace,
O hear my prayer to You.

Let us light these lights
To shine on me and you . . . and let us say: Amen.
Let us light these lights
And see the world anew . . . and let us say: Amen.

Words and Music: Debbie Friedman; Adapted AF

Rock of Ages מעוז צור

מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי, לְךָ נֶאֱחָה לְשִׁבְחָה.
תְּכוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי, וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח.
לְעֵת תְּכִיץ מִטְּבַחַי, מִצָּר הַמְּנַבֵּחַ.
אֶז אֶגְמֹר, בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר, חֲנֻכַּת הַמְּזוּבָּח.

Ma-oz Tzur Y'shu-a-ti, l'cha na-eh l'sha-bei-ah.
Ti-kon beit ti-fi-la-ti, v'sham to-da n'za-bei-ah.
L'eit ta-chin mat-bei-ah, mi-tzar ham-na-bei-ah.
Az eg-mor b'shir miz-mor, Ha-nu-kat ha-miz-bei-ah! (2x)

Light One Candle

Light one candle for the Maccabee children
with thanks that their light didn't die.
And light one candle for the pain they endured when
their right to exist was denied.

Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice
justice and freedom demand.
And light one candle for the wisdom to know when
the peacemaker's time is at hand.

Chorus

Don't let the light go out
It's lasted for so many years!
Don't let the light go out
Let it shine through our love and our tears!

Light one candle for the strength that we need
to never become our own foe.
And light one candle for those who are suffering
the pain we learned so long ago!

Light one candle for all we believe in,
let anger not tear us apart.
And light one candle to bind us together
with peace as the song in our heart.

Chorus

What is the memory that's valued so highly
that we keep alive in that flame?
What's the commitment to those who have died
when we cry out "They've not died in vain"?

A Meditation

Some historians have claimed Hanukah is just another ancient celebration of the winter solstice. Winter's solstice, however, can coincide with a full moon. Hanukah is a bit different. It too occurs near the solstice, when nights are longest. But Hanukah always begins on the 25th of Kislev, toward the end of the lunar month, when the moon becomes just a sliver of light. With each candle, the days wane and the nights grow dimmer. And on each successive night, we light one more candle against the growing darkness.

Rabbi Richard Jacobs, slightly adapted

Hasmonean Silver and Hanukah Gelt

Gathered by the light of the Hanukah candles, uplifted by their glow, we celebrate the miraculous longevity of the Jewish people.

When the Maccabees rededicated the ancient Temple in 168 BCE, the prosperous Hasmonean dynasty minted their acclaimed silver coins, unearthed in untold numbers throughout Israel. Radiant as the Menorah with the light of Torah, those coins are a symbol of the endurance and prosperity of our people.

Centuries later, our Hanukah "gelt" - eight nights of shiny gifts - becomes our symbol of prosperity. A symbol of our endurance too, as the custom of giving Hanukah coins has lasted two millennia.

Before we pull the ribbons, open the cards, and tear the wrapping paper, lets pause a moment in gratitude. For our lives and for being alive. For having nearly everything we need. For our prosperity. And especially for those Maccabees and the countless other heroes - and martyrs too - who preserved Torah and the magnificent Jewish tradition that is our inheritance.

And so again, we celebrate the miracles, the wonders, and acts of deliverance, just as our mothers and fathers did in days of yore.

ArFridkis

Rock of Ages, let our song, praise Thy saving power.
Thou amidst the raging foes, wast our sheltering tower.
Furious they assailed us, but Thine Arm availed us.
And Thy Word broke their sword,
when our own strength failed us. (2x)

Children of the Maccabees, forever free to prosper:
Hark the echoes of the songs, where ye may be harbored.
Yours the message cheering, that the time is nearing:
Which will see, spirits free, tyrants disappearing. (2x)

Hebrew: by a figure named Mordecai, century unknown
English: Marcus Jastrow and Gustav Gotthiel, adapted: AF
An adaptation of the the German lyrics: Leopold Stein, 19th c
Music: borrowed from the Operatist Bendetto Marcello, Italy, 18th c
Transcription: Cantor Birnbaum, Israelitische Wochenschrift, Königsberg, 19th c

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam,
a-sheer ki-d'sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav v'tzi-va-nu l'had-lik ner
shel Shabbat.

Praised be Adonai, our Highest, Majestic One of All the Universe, who makes us holy with the *mitzvot*, and inspires us to find warmth in the lights of Shabbat.

May the Radiance of the Divine be a beacon before us, showing us the good we must do and the world we must create. May our eyes shine with the splendor of Torah – the light of love, wisdom and understanding – so that all who look upon us will call us truly blessed!

Blessed is the Holy One of Light and Life.

הַדְּלָקַת הַנֵּרוֹת לְחֲנוּכָה

Kindling the Hanukah Lights

Blessed Is The Match אֲשֶׁרִי הַגִּפְרוֹר

Blessed is the match kindled to ignite the fires of hope.
 Blessed is the fire that burns in the secret places of the heart.
 Blessed is the heart with the strength to stop beating for honor's
 sacrifice.

Words: Hannah Senesh; Translation: AF

From Generation to Generation

In a house which becomes a home,
 One hands down and another takes up
 the heritage of mind and heart,
 laughter and tears, musings and deeds.
 Love, like a carefully loaded ship,
 crosses the gulf between the generations.

So we must not neglect the ceremonies
 of our passage: when we celebrate a holiday,
 when we wed, when we die,
 and when we are blessed with a child.

We ourselves must transmit the passwords
 from generation to generation.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, adapted

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא, וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה
 וְיִתְהַלָּל, שְׁמֵהּ דְקַדְשָׁא בְרִיךְ הוּא. לְעֵלָא מְכַל בְּרַכְתָּא
 וְשִׁירְתָּא, תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחְמְתָּא, דְאַמִּירָן בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאַמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא, וְחַיִּים עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל,
 וְאַמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵינוּ, וְעַל כָּל
 יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאַמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Yit-ga-dal v'yit-ka-dash sh'mei ra-ba. B'al-ma di-v'ra
 chi-r'u-tei, v'yam-lich mal-chu-tei, b'cha-yei-chon
 u-v'yo-mei-chon u-v'cha-yei d'chol beit Yis-ra-el,
 ba-a-ga-la u-vi-z'man ka-riv, v'i-m'ru: A-men.

Y'hei sh'mei ra-ba m'va-rach l'o-lam u-l'al-mei al-ma-ya.

Yit-ba-rach v'yish-ta-bach, v'yit-pa-ar v'yit-ro-mam
 v'yit-na-sei, v'yit-ha-dar v'yit-a-leh v'yit-ha-lal, sh'mei
 d'ku-d'sha b'rich hu. L'ei-la min kol bir-cha-ta v'shi-ra-ta,
 tush-b'cha-ta v'ne-che-ma-ta, da-a-mi-ran b'al-ma,
 v'i-m'ru: A-men.

Y'hei sh'la-ma ra-ba min sh'ma-ya, v'ha-yim a-lei-nu v'al
 kol Yis-ra-el, v'i-m'ru: A-men.

O-seh sha-lom bim-ro-mav, hu ya-a-seh sha-lom a-lei-nu,
 v'al kol Yis-ra-el, v'i-m'ru: A-men.

Some perished by fire, some by water.
Some crossed the sea, or wandered the desert.
Some starved all week to make a Shabbat feast.
Some were left childless until old age.
Some lifted their chins beneath a father's knife.
Those who came before us gave everything
so that we, generations later, could glorify You.

And despite the dangers, with Your protection,
some did survive, and even flourished,
some reaped in joy, were spared the knife,
were granted children.
We are their inheritors, O God,
and we know how rare is our good fortune
to be born to such hard-won treasures.

*A great responsibility is ours - and Yours as well,
for if You do not sustain us,
as You did Abraham and Sarah,
Rebecca and Isaac, Jacob, Rachel and Leah,
then who will sing Your praises?*

Who will lift their chins, as we do now,
to sanctify Your name?

Sol Adam, CCAR, Mishkan T'filah

Mourner's Kaddish קדיש יתום

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ,
וְיִמְלִיךָ מַלְכוּתָהּ. בְּחַיִּיכוּן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוּן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל,
בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעַלְמֵי וְלְעַלְמֵי עֲלָמֵיָא.

Hanukah Candle Blessings בְּרָכוֹת לְחֲנוּכָה

Placing the candles from right to left, we light them from left to right:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנוּכָה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam,
a-she-ki-d'sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav v'tzi-va-nu l'had-lik ner
shel Hanukah.

Blessed is the Holy One of Light and Life, who is Light and gives
Light, and is All that inspires us to kindle the lights of Hanukah.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נְסִים לְאֲבוֹתֵנוּ,
בְּיָמֵים הַהֵם בְּזִמְן הַזֶּה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam,
she-a-sa ni-sim la-a-vo-tei-nu ba-ya-mim ha-hem
baz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed is the Holy One of Light and Life, who brought miracles
and light to our mothers and fathers in days of yore.

On the 1st night:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ
לְזִמְן הַזֶּה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam,
she-he-hi-a-nu v'ki-y'ma-nu v'hi-gi-a-nu laz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed is the Holy One of Light and Life, for keeping us alive, giving us presence, and enabling us to celebrate this joyous festival.

“Hanukah Blessings”

How lucky are we that we, have lights so that we can see,
although the day is done.
What a miracle that a spark, lifts these candles out of the dark,
every evening, one by one;
until the end of Hanukah, of Hanukah.

With the jingle bells and the toys, and the TV shows and noise,
it's easy to forget.
At the end of the day, our whole family will say,
these words for Hanukah.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, Me-lech Ha-o-lam,
a-sheer ki-d'sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav v'tzi-va-nu,
l'had-lik ner shel Hanukah.
Light the candles for Hanukah, for Hanukah.

We remember how Maccabees, fought so all of us could be free
and so we celebrate.
On this festival of the lights, there's a joyful time every night.
But we illuminate
the candles of Hanukah, of Hanukah.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam,
she-a-sa ni-sim la-a-vo-tei-nu, ba-ya-mim, ha-hem
baz-man ha-zeh.
Hanukah, Hanukah!

Words and Music: Steven Page

The Latke Song

I am so mixed up that I cannot tell you,
I'm sitting in this blender turning brown.
I've made friends with the onions and the flour,
and the cook is scouting oil in the town.
I sit here wondering what will come of me,
I can't be eaten looking as I do.
I need someone to take me out and cook me,
Or I'll really end up in a royal stew.

Chorus (4x)

I am a latke, I am a latke and I am waiting for Hanukah to come.

Every holiday has foods so special,
I'd like to have that same attention too.
I do not want to spend life in this blender,
Wondering what I'm supposed to do.
Matzah and Haroset are for Pesah,
Chopped Liver and Challah for Shabbat.
Blintzes on Shavuot are delicious,
and Gefilte Fish no holiday's without.

Chorus (4x)

It's important that I have an understanding
Of what it is that I'm supposed to do.
You see, there are many who are homeless,
With no jobs, no clothes and very little food.
It's so important that we all remember,
That while we have most of the things we need:
We must remember those who have so little,
We must help them, we must be the ones to feed.

Chorus (4x)

Words and music: Debbie Friedman

I Have a Little Dreidel

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I have a little Dreidel | It has a lovely body |
| I made it out of clay | With legs so short and thin |
| And when it's dry & ready | And when my Dreidel's tired |
| Then Dreidel I shall play! | It drops and then I win! |

Chorus

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Oh Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel | My Dreidel's always playful |
| I made it out of clay | It loves to dance and spin |
| And when it's dry and ready | A happy game of Dreidel |
| Then Dreidel I shall play! | Come play now, let's begin! |

A Mischief-Maker's Dreidel

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| I had a little Dreidel | My in-laws had a Dreidel |
| Oh spinning it would go | They made it out of . . . ham? |
| By accident I dropped it | But then my Bubbie told me |
| It fell and broke my toe! | With brisket it's a sham! |

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| My sister had a Dreidel | We had a bunch of Dreidels |
| She made 'f Gefilte Fish | We made them out of fudge |
| And when she wasn't looking | But when we went to eat them |
| Th'cat put it in his dish! | They stained m'Mums new rug! |

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A batch of sirloin dreidels | My Gran'pop's crystal Dreidel! |
| A week's-worth for my pup | On my nose atop a broom |
| Whole lot at once he ate 'em | And when I tried to spin it |
| Right after he threw up! | It smashed all o'er the room! |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| I had a shiny Dreidel | I had a tasty Dreidel |
| It moved so nice and fast | Made with flour into bread |
| B'then I brought to show 'n tell | Marshmallow Fluff n' Jelly |
| I broke it in my - class! | I ate it up instead! |

Ari Fridkis

Ocho Kandelas

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Hanuka linda 'sta aqui | Muchas fiestas vo fazer |
| Ocho kandelas para mi! | Con alegrias y plazer! |
| Hanuka linda 'sta aqui | Muchas fiestas vo fazer |
| Ocho kandelas para mi! | Con alegrias y plazer! |

Chorus

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Una kandelika | Los pastelikos vo kumer |
| Dos kandelikas | Con almendrikas y la miel! |
| Tres kandelikas | Los pastelikos vo kumer |
| Quatro kandelikas | Con almendrikas y la miel! |

Chorus

Ocho kandelas para mi!

Sephardic-Ladino Melody

These Lights הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ

As we kindle and behold the Hanukah lights, we pray for our loved ones and for Tikun Olam: Repairing the World

הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ אֲנֵנוּ מְדַלִּיקִין עַל הַנְּסִים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת וְעַל
הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת, שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בְּיָמֵים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַיּוֹה. וְכָל
שְׂמוֹנֵת יָמֵי הַנִּפְקָה הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם, וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוֹת
לְהַשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֶלָּא לְרְאוֹתָם בְּלִבָּהּ, כִּי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל
לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל, עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתְךָ.

We kindle these lights for the miracles, wonders and deliverance bequeathed our mothers and fathers in those days long ago.

During these eight days of Hanukah these lights are sacred. They are not to be used as other lights, but solely to behold the Divine Light and meditate on the miracles of Hanukah.

May their light remind us to give thanks for the joy of Hanukah and the wondrous acts of deliverance we witness each and every day.

Adapted from the traditional Hanukah liturgy, AF

Hanukah and Tikun Olam

During Hanukah, the time of year when days are short and nights loom long, Jewish tradition asks of us a very simple, yet profound task: the lighting of candles to shine with warmth and light against the cold and darkness.

Just as the Shamash illumines each candle, we too are bearers of the Divine Spark, bringing light to those whose lives are overcast by violence and hunger, by poverty and despair.

Each of us can bring light to the world. So tonight, as we commemorate the miracles of Hanukah, let us also remember -:

That the work of our hands can bring warmth to those in need.

That the radiance of our heart can bring light to those in dark places both near and far.

That through our sacred service the world will be illuminated.

And that Hanukah's miraculous wonders can be rekindled - and the world repaired - by what we have and what we do.

American Jewish World Service, adapted: AF

יְמֵי הַחֲנוּכָה, חֲנוּכַת מִקְדָּשֵׁנוּ.
בְּגִיל וּבְשִׂמְחָה מִמַּלִּים אֶת לְבָנוּ.
לֵילָה יוֹם סְבִיבוּנֵינוּ נְסוּב,
סוּפְגָנוּיּוֹת נוֹכַל גַּם לְרוּב.

הָאִירוּ! הִדְלִיקוּ!
נֵרוֹת חֲנוּכָה רַבִּים!
עַל הַנְּפִלוֹת וְעַל הַמְּכַבָּוֹת
אֲשֶׁר הִלְלוּ הַמְּכַבָּיִם!

Y'mei Ha-Hanukah, Ha-nu-kat Mik-da-shei-nu.

B'gil u-b'sim-ha m'ma-lim et li-bei-nu.

Lai-la va-yom si-vi-vo-nei-nu ni-sov,

Suf-ga-ni-yot no-chal gam la-rov.

Ha-i-ru, had-li-ku,

Nei-rot Hanukah ra-bim!

Al ha-ni-sim v'al ha-nif-la-ot

A-sheer ha-l'lu ha-ma-ka-bim!

Sivivon סְבִיבוֹן

Si-vi-von, Sov Sov Sov,

Hanukah hu Hag Tov.

Hanukah hu Hag Tov,

Si-vi-von, Sov Sov Sov.

Hag sim-ha hu la-am,

Nes ga-dol ha-ya sham.

Nes ga-dol ha-ya sham.

Hag sim-ha hu la-am

Traditional

Spin the Hanukah Dreidel: for a great miracle happened there!

לילדים ולכולם
Hanukah Favorites

O Hanukah ימי החנוכה

O Hanukah, O Hanukah, come light the Menorah!
Let's have a party, we'll all dance the Hora!
Gather 'round the table, we'll give you a treat -
Sivivon to play with and latkes to eat.

And while we are playing,
The candles are burning low.
One for each night, they shed a sweet light,
To remind us of days long ago!

Oy Cha-nu-kah, Oy Cha-nu-kah, a yon-tif a shey-ner,
A lus-ti-ker, a frey-lekh-er, nisht do nokh a-zey-ner.
A-le nakht in dreyd-lekh shpil'n mir,
Fri-sheh hey-seh lat-kes es'n on a shir!

Gesh-vin-der, tsindt kin-der,
Di Cha-nu-kah likh-lekh on.
Zingt "Al Ha-ni-sim," un dan-ken far di ni-sim
Un kumt gi-kher tan-tsen in kohn!

שמונה ימים
Eight Days

from Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 21b ת"ב שבת כא, ב

מאי חנוכה? דתנו רבנן: בכ"ה בכסליו יומי דחנוכה תמניא
אינון דלא למספד בהון ודלא להתענות בהון. שפשונינסו
יונים להיכל טמאו כל השמנים שפיהיכל. וכשגברה מלכות
בית חשמונאי ונצחום, בדקו ולא מצאו אלא פך אחד של
שמן שהיה מונח בחותמו של כהן גדול, ולא היה בו אלא
להדליק יום אחד. נעשה בו גס והדליקו ממנו שמונה ימים.
לשנה אחרת קבעום ועשאום ימים טובים בהלל והודאה.

What is Hanukah? [And why are the Menorah's lights kindled?]

The Sages taught [in Talmud Tractate Megilat Ta'anit]:
On the twenty-fifth of the month of Kislev the eight days of
Hanukah commence. There should be no [public] mourning or
fasting [but only joy]. For when the Greeks entered the Temple
sanctums they defiled all the holy oils there [by touching them]. When
the Hasmonean monarchy overcame them and emerged victorious
over them, they searched and found only one cruse of oil stamped
with the seal of the High Priest. Inside there was sufficient oil to
light the Menorah for but one day. Then a miracle occurred and
they lit the Menorah from it for eight days. The following year
those days were established as a festival, with recitation of the
joyous Psalms of the Hallel Service and special prayers of
thanksgiving.

Happy Joyous Hanukah (and Shabbat!)

How many nights for Hanukah -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.
Nights and days, days and nights -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.

On Shabbat:

T'night is the night of Sabbath peace -
Shabbat Shalom on Hanukah.
L'cha Dodi, Likrat Kalah -
Sabbath's Bride on Hanukah.

Chorus

Eight are the nights of Hanukah,
Happy, joyous Hanukah.
Eight are the days, and eight are the nights,
Happy, joyous Hanukah.

How many candles do I light?
On happy, joyous Hanukah.
Eight are the candles you should light -
For a happy, joyous Hanukah.

Chorus

One for God in Heaven above -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.
Two for Abraham and Sarah's love -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.
Three for the Dreidel's 'sov sov sov' -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.

פְּוֹנוֹת הַלֵּב

Prayers of the Heart

In this moment of silent communication
a still, small voice beckons me:
to pursue my life's work with full attention
though no eye is upon me;
to be gentle in the face of ingratitude,
even when slander distorts my nobler impulses;
to meet the end of the day with the certainty
that I've used my gifts well and with dignity.
Like my ancestors who entered the sea not knowing
let me become even braver,
facing life's trials with distinction.
May I live on in deeds that bless others,
And offer the heritage of a good name.

CCAR, Union Prayer Book

For Healing מי שְׁבִרָךְ

Mi she-bei-rach A-vo-tei-nu, m'kor ha-bra-cha l'i-mo-tei-nu:
May the source of strength, who blessed the ones before us,
help us find the courage, to make our lives a blessing,
and let us say, Amen.

Mi she-bei-rach I-mo-tei-nu, m'kor ha-bra-cha la-Avotainu:
Bless those in need of healing, with r'fuah sh'leimah,
the renewal of body, the renewal of spirit,
and let us say, Amen.

Words and Music: Debbie Friedman

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל

Shema Yisrael

And these words which I command you on this day shall be in your heart.

And you shalt teach them diligently unto your children.
And you shall speak of them when you dwell in your home;
and when you walk along the way; and when you go to sleep;
and when you awaken.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד:
בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלֻכּוֹתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

She-ma Yis-ra-el, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, A-do-nai Eḥad.
Ba-ruch shem k'vod mal-chu-to l'o-lam va-ed.

Hear O Israel: for us There Is One and only One!
Blessed is the Majestic Unity of an Eternal Universe!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!
On those living in the land of the shadows, the light has dawned!

Isaiah 9:2

Four for the times of Mazel Tov -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.

Chorus

Five for the Brothers Maccabee -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.
Six for the days of work for me -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.

Seven for the days of Creation's joy -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.
Eight for my brand new Dreidel toy -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.

Chorus

Nine is the light of God that shines -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.
Round the world the rainbow's sign -
Happy, joyous Hanukah.

Nine is for God's light that shines!
Eight for my brand new Dreidel toy -
Seven for the days of Creation's joy.
Six for the days of work for me -
Five for the brothers Maccabee.
Four for the times of Mazel Tov -
Three for the Dreidel's 'sov sov sov.'
Two for Abraham and Sarah's love -
One for God in Heaven above.

Chorus

*Songwriters: Lorin Sklamberg and Woody Guthrie
Adapted for Shabbat and to include Biblical and Midrashic concepts: AF*