

Hanukah
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Hannukah
Hannuka



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The Basic Story

Nearly 2,200 years ago, the Greek-Syrian ruler Antiochus IV tried to force Greek culture upon peoples in his territory. Jews in Judea—now Israel—were forbidden their most important religious practices as well as study of the Torah. Although vastly outnumbered, religious Jews in the region took up arms to protect their community and their religion. Led by Mattathias the Hasmonean, and later his son Judah the Maccabee, the rebel armies became known as the Maccabees.

After three years of fighting, in the year 3597, or about 165 BCE, the Maccabees victoriously reclaimed the temple on Jerusalem's Mount Moriah. Next they prepared the temple for rededication—in Hebrew, Hanukkah means “dedication.” In the temple they found only enough purified oil to kindle the temple light for a single day. But miraculously, the light continued to burn for eight days.

The first sounds of the festival are the prayers (brachot) that accompany the lighting of the candles. The first two are recited each night, the third is recited only on the first night. We light the candles starting with Shamash (leader) then from left to right. (1st Night - 2 Candles, 2nd Night - 3, 3rd Night - 4, 4th - 5, 5th - 6, 6th - 7, 7th - 8, and 8th Night - 9)

CHANUKAH BLESSINGS

FIRST BLESSING: COMMANDMENT TO KINDLE THE LIGHTS OF CHANUKAH

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

TRANSLITERATION: Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam,
asher kid-shanu b'mitzvo tav v'tizivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.(amein)

TRANSLATION: Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, Sovereign of the Universe, whose mitzvot
add holiness to our life and who gave us the mitzvah to kindle the lights of Chanukah. (amen)

SECOND BLESSING: FOR PERFORMING MIRACLE

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וּבְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

TRANSLITERATION: Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam,
sheh-asah nissim la'avoteinu ba-yamim ha-heym u-vaz'man ha-zeh. (amein)

TRANSLATION: Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, Sovereign of the Universe, who performed
miracles for our ancestors in ancient days, and in our time. (amen)

THIRD BLESSING: ENABLING US TO REACH THIS DAY (FIRST NIGHT ONLY)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

TRANSLITERATION: Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam,
she-hehayanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu laz'man ha-zeh. (amein)

TRANSLATION: Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, Sovereign of the Universe, for granting us life,
for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this day. (amen)

PLAYING DREIDEL

Each player places some object, candies, raisins, or even pennies into the kitty. Each player takes a turn spinning the *dreidel*. When only one object is left in the kitty, each player adds another object into the kitty. When a player has all the objects, (i.e. everyone else is broke), that person wins!

"Nun" means nothing. You win nothing, you lose nothing.

"Gimel" means whole, as in you take the whole thing, everyone else puts in 1 object.

"Hay" means half. You win half of what's in the kitty plus one if there is an odd number.

"Shin" (or in Israel - "Pay") means put in. You lose, and must put one object into the kitty.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Israel, a dreidel has a *pay* (פ) to signify "a great miracle happened here." But, outside of Israel, a dreidel has a *shin* (ש) to signify "a great miracle happened there."

S'vivon

Words: L. Kipnes

S'vivon, sov sov sov!
Chanukah hu chag tov.
Chanukah hu chag tov.
S'vivon sov sov sov!

Chag simcha hu la-am,
Nes, Gadol, Haya, Sham
Nes, Gadol, Haya, Sham,
Chag simcha hu la-am

Al Hanisim

Al hanisim v'al hapurkan
v'al hag'vurot v'al hat-shu-ot
V'al hamilchamot
she-asita lavoteinu
bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.

(We thank You) for the
miraculous deliverance,
for the heroism and the
triumphs in battle,
of our ancestors in ancient
days and in our time.

Ma'oz Tzur

Words by Mordechai
13th century poet

Ma-oz tsur y'shu-ati,
l'cha na-eh l'shabei-ach
Ti-kon beit t'filati
v'sham toda n'zabeiach
L'eit tachin mat-beiach
mi'tzar ham'na-bei-ach
Az egmor b'shir mizmor
Chanukat ha-miz-beiach (2x)

Rock of ages, let our song
praise your saving power.
You amidst the raging foes
were our shelt'ring tower.
Furious they assailed us, but
your arm availed us.
And your word broke their sword
when our own strength failed us
(2x)

O Chanukah O Chanukah

O Chanukah O Chanukah,
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
Dreydels 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
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
to remind us of days long ago



Not by Might, Not by Power

Music by Debbie Friedman

Chorus: 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 (3x).

Chorus

Ocho Kandelikas

Ladino - by Flory Jagoda

1/ Chanukah linda sta aki,
ocho kandelas para mi (2x)

Chorus:

O ---
una kandelika,
dos kandelikas,
tres kandelikas,
kuatro kandelikas
sintyu kandelikas,
sej kandelikas,
siete kandelikas,
ocho kandelas para mi!

2/ Muchas fiestas vo fazer,
kon alegriyas y plazer (2x)

Chorus

3/ Los pastelikos vo kumer,
kon almendrikas y la myel (2x)

Chorus

I am a Latke

Debbie Friedman

1/ 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:

I am a latke,
I am a latke,
And I am waiting for Chanukah to come

2/ 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.
Matza and charoset are for Pesach,
Chopped liver and challah for Shabbat
Blintzes on Shavuot are delicious,
And gefilte fish no holiday's without.

Chorus

3/ 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.

Mi Y'Maleil? Who Can Retell?

Music by M. Ravina; English lyrics by B. M. Edidin,
J. K. Eisensetin and others

Mi y'maleil g'vurot Yisraeil?
Otan mi yimneh?
Hein b'chol dor yakum hagibor go-eil ha-am

Sh'ma!
Bayamim ha-heim bazman hazeh
Makabi moshia ufodeh Uv-yaminu kol am Yisraeil,
yit-acheid yakum l'hi-ga-eil.

Translation:
Who can retell the things that befell us?
Who can count them?
In every age a hero or sage came to our aid.

Hark!
In days of yore in Israel's ancient land
Brave Maccabeus led the faithful band.
But now all Israel must as one arise.
Redeem itself through deed and sacrifice!

I Have a Little Dreidel

Words: S. S. Grossman, Music: S.E. Goldfarb

1/ I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I shall play.

Chorus:

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I will play.

2/ It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when it gets all tired
It drops and I will win.

Chorus

3/ My dreidel is so playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin.

Chorus

