

חנוכה

CHANUKAH

Tradition is a path to God which merits attention,
because it has succeeded for thousands of years.
But tradition is not God itself. When I take my
leap of faith, I learn that only God is God.
— Matt Eisenfeld

ה ד ל ק ת נ ר ו ת C A N D L E L I G H T I N G

Although a minor holiday in the rabbinic calendar, Chanukah is a joyous winter festival in our culture. Beginning with one candle (plus the 'shamash') on the first night, and culminating with eight candles on the final night, the Chanukah lights are a visible reminder of ancient miracles and the presence of Divine light in our lives today. Unlike the Shabbat candles, the Chanukiah is lit after the blessings are recited.

<p>בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.</p>	<p>Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel chanukah.</p>
---	---

<p>בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.</p>	<p>Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, she'asah nisim l'avoteinu bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.</p>
---	--

On the first night, add:

<p>בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֲחַיֵּנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.</p>	<p>Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, she'hecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.</p>
--	---

Blessed are You, God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us through Your commandments, and commanded us to light the Chanukah candles.

Blessed are You, God, Ruler of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors, in their days, at this time.

Blessed are You, God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us life, and sustained us, and brought us to this day.

הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מִדְּלִיקִים	Hanerot halalu anachnu madlikim
עַל הַנְּסִים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת	Al hanisim v'al haniflaot,
וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַמִּלְחָמוֹת,	v'al hatshu'ot v'al hamilchamot,
שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבְוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם	she'asita la'avoreinu bayamim hahem
בַּזְּמַן הַזֶּה, עַל יְדֵי כֹהֲנֵיךְ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים.	bazman hazeh, al yedei kohanecha hakedoshim.
וְכָל שְׂמוֹנַת יָמֵי חֲנֻכַּה הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ	V'chol shmonat yemei chanukah, hanerot halalu
קֹדֶשׁ הֵם, וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוֹת	kodesh hem, v'ein lanu r'shot
לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֱלֹא לְרְאוֹתָם בְּלִבָּד,	l'hishtamesh bahem, elah lirotam bilvad,
כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל	k'dei l'hodot, u'l'hallel l'shimcha hagadol
עַל נִסְיֶיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתֶךָ.	al nisecha v'al niflotecha v'al y'shu'atecha.

These candles we light to the miracles and wonders;
 To the triumphs and wars you waged for our ancestors,
 In their days, at this time, through your holy kohanim.
 For all eight days of Chanukah, these candles are holy;
 We have no right to use them—only to behold,
 And to thank, and to praise your great name
 For your miracles, your wonders, and your deliverance.

מִי יִמְלֵל גְּבוּרוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל אוֹתָם מִי יִמְנָה	Mi yemalel gvurot Yisrael, otan mi yimneh
הֵן בְּכֹל דּוֹר יָקוּם הַגִּבּוֹר גּוֹאֵל הָעָם	Hen b'chol dor yakum hagibor, goel ha'am.
שְׁמַע, בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְּמַן הַזֶּה	Shma, bayamim hahem bazman hazeh,
מִכַּבְּי מוֹשִׁיעַ וּפּוֹדֶה	Maccabi moshia u'fodeh.
וּבַיָּמֵינוּ כָּל עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל	Uv'yameinu kol am Yisrael
יִתְאַחַד יָקוּם לְהַגָּאֵל	Yitached yakum l'higael.

Who can retell the things that befell us?
 Who can count them?
 In every age, a hero or sage came to our aid.
 Now, years ago in this season of light
 The Maccabees restored freedom and right.
 In our days may Israel be as one,
 May we rise, and merit redemption.

מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי לָךְ נֶאֱדָה לְשַׁבַּח
 תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח,
 לַעֲת תִּכְיִן מַטְבַּח מִצַּר הַמִּנְבַּח
 אֶז אֶגְמוֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.

Maoz Tzur y'shuati, lecha na'eh l'shabé'ach
 Tikon beit tefilati, v'sham todah n'zabe'ach
 Let tachin matbeach, mitzar hamnabe'ach
 Az egmor, b'shir mizmor, chanukat hamizbe'ach.

רְעוֹת שָׁבָעָה נִפְשֵׁי בְּיָגוֹן כּוֹחֵי כֹלָה
 חַיֵּי מָרְרוּ בְּקוֹשֵׁי בְּשַׁעְבוֹד מַלְכוּת עֲגָלָה
 וּבְיָדוֹ הַגְּדוֹלָה הוֹצִיא אֶת הַסְּגָלָה
 חֵל פָּרְעָה וְכָל יָרְעוּ יָרְדוּ בְּאֶבֶן בְּמִצּוּלָה.

Raot savah nafshi b'yagon kochi kilah
 Chayai meir'ru b'koshi b'shi'bud malchut eglah.
 Uv'yado hagdolah, hotzi et hasegulah
 Chel par'o v'chol zar'o, yardu che'ven bim'tzulah.

דְּבִיר קוֹדְשׁוֹ הֵבִיאֵנִי וְגַם שָׁם לֹא שָׁקַטְתִּי
 וּבֵא נוֹגֵשׁ וְהִגְלֵנִי כִּי יָרִים עֲבָדְתִּי,
 וַיַּיֵּן רַעַל מְסַחֲתִי כְּמַעֲט שְׁעָבְרֵתִי
 קֶצַע בָּבֶל, וְרֶבְבֶל, לְקֶצַע שְׁבָעִים נוֹשְׁעָתִי.

Dvir kodsho hevi'ani v'gam sham lo shakar'ti
 U'va noges v'higlani ki zarim avad'ti
 V'yein ra'al masachti kimat she'avarti
 Ketz Bavel, Zerubavel, l'ketz shivim noshati.

Rock of Ages, my salvation, it is good to attest to Your works.
 My house of prayer is renewed, and there we will offer the thanks due.
 At the moment the slaughter was upon us, you saved us from our enemy.
 So I will complete, with a song of praise, the dedication of the sanctuary.

Evil filled my soul, in sorrow my strength was exhausted
 My life was embittered with hardship, enslaved in Egypt.
 But with the great hand you save the virtuous:
 The armies of Pharoah, and all his seed, sank like a stone.

I was returned to the Holy of Holies, and there I was not silent.
 I approached and rejoiced, for the enemy had departed.
 The poison wine I had spilled until I nearly died:
 Seventy years until I was saved from Babylon, Zerubavel.

כַּרְת קוֹמַת בְּרוֹשׁ בְּקֶשׁ אֲגָגִי בֶן הַמְדָּתָא
 וְנִהְיֵתָה לוֹ לְפַח וּלְמוֹקֶשׁ וְגֵאָוָתוֹ נִשְׁבְּתָה
 רֹשׁ יְמִינִי נִשֵּׂיתָ וְאוֹיֵב שְׁמוֹ מַחִיתָ
 רַב בָּנָיו וְקִנְיָנָיו עַל הָעֵץ תִּלִּיתָ.

K'rot komat brosh bikesh aggagi ben hamdata
 V'nihyeta lo lfach ul'mokesh v'ga'avato nishbata
 Rosh yemini niseita v'oyev shmo machita
 Rov banav v'kinyanav al ha'etz talita.

יְוָנִים נִקְבְּצוּ עָלַי אַזַּי בִּימֵי חֲשָׁמָנִים
 וּפְרָצוּ חוֹמוֹת מִגְדָּלַי וְטִמְאוּ כָּל הַשְּׁמָנִים
 וּמְנוֹתָר קַנְקָנִים נִעְשָׂה נֶס לְשׁוֹשָׁנִים
 בְּנֵי וִינָה יְמֵי שְׁמוֹנָה קָבְעוּ שִׁיר וְרַנָּנִים.

Yevanim nikb'tzu alai azai bimei chashmanim
 Ufartzu chomot migdalai v'timu kol hashmanim
 Uminotar kankanim na'asa nes lashoshanim
 B'nei vina y'mei shmonah kavu shir ur'nanim.

חֲשׂוֹף זְרוּעַ קֹדֶשְׁךָ וְקָרַב קִץ הַיְשׁוּעָה
 נִקָּם נִקְמַת דָּם עֲבָדֶיךָ מֵאֵמָה הִרְשָׁעָה
 כִּי אָרְכָה לָנוּ הַיְשׁוּעָה וְאֵין קִץ לִימֵי הָרַעָה
 דְּחֵה אֲדַמּוֹן בְּצַל צַלְמוֹן הַקָּם לָנוּ רוּעִים שְׁבָעָה.

Chasof zro'a kodshecha v'karev ketz hayeshu'a
 N'kom nikmat avadecha me'uma harsha'a
 Ki archa hashaa v'ein ketz liymei haraa
 D'chei admon btzel tzalmon hakem ro'im shiva.

To destroy me from a cypress-height sought the Agagite, son of Hamadetha,
 But his plan became his snare, and his pride was broken.
 You exalted your faithful one, and erased the name of the enemy,
 His great sons and fortune, hanged on the tree.

The Greeks gathered against me, in the days of the Hasmoneans,
 Scattered the stones of my tower, and profaned the holy oil.
 But from one small vessel you created a great miracle,
 And the Great Court declared these eight days of song and joy.

Reveal your holy power, and bring near Judgment Day.
 Avenge your servants against their enemies,
 Because the hour is late, and there is no end to their wickedness.
 Repel their evil to the deepest shadow, and raise the seven shepherds.

אוי חנוכה, אוי חנוכה	Oy Chanike , oy Chanike,
א יום-טוב א שיינער	A yun-tev a sheyner
א לוסטיקער, א פריילעכער	A lustiker, a freylecher
ניטא נאך אזוינער	Nito noch azeyner.
אלע נאכט אין דריידל שפילן מיר	Ale nacht in dreydl shpiln mir
זודיק הייסע לאטקעס עסן מיר	Zudik heyse latkes esn mir
געשווינדער	Geshvinder
צינדט קינדער	Tsint, kinder,
די חנוכה-ליכטעלעך אן	Di chanike-lichtelech on
זאגט על-הנסים	Zogt al-hanisim
לויבט גאט פאר די נסים	Loybit Gott far di nisim
און קומט גיכער טאנצן אין קאן.	Un kumt gicher tantsn in kon.
זאגט על-הנסים	Zogt al-hanisim
לויבט גאט פאר די נסים	Loybit Gott far di nisim
און קומט גיכער טאנצן אין קאן.	Un kumt gicher tantsn in kon.

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:
 S'vivon 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.