

Chanukah Blessings & Songs

BLESSINGS OVER THE MENORAH

1. Ba-**ruch** A-**tah** A-do-**nai** E-lo-**hei**-nu **Me**-lech ha-o-**lam** a-**sher** ki-de-**sha**-nu be-mitz-vo-**tav** ve-tzi-**va**-nu le-had-**lik** ner shel Cha-nu-kah.

2. Ba-**ruch** A-**tah** A-do-**nai** E-lo-**hei**-nu **Me**-lech ha-o-**lam** she-a-**sa** ni-**sim** la-avo-**tei**-nu ba-ya-**mim** ha-**heim** ba-**zman** ha-**zeh**.

(First night only: 3. Ba-**ruch** A-**tah** A-do-**nai** E-lo-**hei**-nu **Me**-lech ha-o-**lam** she-he-che-**ya**-nu ve-ki-**yi**-**ma**-nu ve-higi-**a**-nu la-**zman** ha-**zeh**.)

Translation:

1. Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

2. Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time.

3. Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

Some add:

Ha-nei-**rot** ha-**la**-lu a-**nu** mad-li-**kin**, **al** ha-te-shu-**ot** ve-**al** ha-ni-**sim** ve-**al** ha-nif-la-**ot**, she-a-**si**-ta la-a-vo-**tei**-nu ba-ya-**mim** ha-**heim** ba-**zman** ha-**zeh**, **al** ye-**dei** ko-ha-**ne**-cha ha-k'do-**shim**, ve-**chol** shmo-**nat** ye-**mei** cha-nu-**kah** ha-nei-**rot** ha-**la**-lu **ko**-desh **hem**, ve-**ein** la-nu re-**shut** le-hish-ta-**meish** ba-**hen**, **e**-lo lir-o-**tan** bil-**vad**, ke-**dei** le-ho-**dot** u-le-ha-**leil** le-shim-**cha** ha-ga-**dol** **al** ni-**se**-cha ve-**al** nif-lo-**te**-cha ve-**al** ye-shu-o-**te**-cha.

Translation: We kindle these lights [to commemorate] the saving acts, miracles and wonders which You have performed for our forefathers, in those days at this time, through Your holy priests. Throughout the eight days of Chanukah, these lights are sacred, and we are not permitted to make use of them, but only to look at them, in order to offer thanks and praise to Your great Name for Your miracles, for Your wonders and for Your salvations.

MA'OZ TZUR*

Ma-oz **tzur** y'**shu**-a-ti / Le-**cha** na-**eh** l'sha-**bei**-ach
Ti-kon **beit** te-**fi**-la-ti / V'**sham** to-**dah** n'za-**bei**-ach
L'**eit** ta-**chin** mat-**bei**-ach / **Mi**-tzar ha-m'na-**bei**-ach
(2x) **Az** eg-**mor** b'**shir** miz-**mor** / **Cha**-nu-**kat** ha-miz-**bei**-ach.

Ye-**van**-im **nik**-be-**tzu** a-**lai** / A-**zay** b'y-**mei** Chash-**man**-im
U-**far**-tzu **cho**-mot **mig**-dal-**ai** / V-**tim**-u **kol** ha-**shman**-im
U-**mi**-no-**tar** kan-**ka**-nim / **Na**'a-sah **nes** la-**sho**-sha-**nim**
(2x) **Bnei** vi-**na** ye-**mei** shmo-**nah** / **Kav**-u **shir** u-re-**na**-nim.

Rock of ages, let our song / Praise Thy saving power;
Thou, amidst the raging foes, / Were our sheltering tower.
Furious they assailed us, / But Thine arm availed us,
(2x) And Thy word broke their sword,
When our own strength failed us.

**note: "Deck the Halls" may be sung in counterpoint:*

Deck the halls with boughs of holly... / 'Tis the season to be jolly...
Don we now our gay apparel... / Troll the ancient Yuletide carol...

AL HA-NISIM

Al ha-nis-**im** v'**al** ha-pur-**kan** / V'**al** ha-gvu-**rot** v'**al** ha-t'shu-**ot**
V'**al** ha-ni-fla-**ot** she-a-**si**-ta la'a-vo-**tei**-nu
Ba-ya-**mim** ha-**hem** ba-**zman** ha-**zeh**

MI YIMALEIL

(2x) **Mi** y-ma-**lel** g'vu-**rot** Yis-ra-**el**, o-**tan** mi **yim**-ne
Hen b'khol **dor** ya-**kum** ha-gi-**bor** go-**el** ha-**am**

Sh'ma! **Ba**-ya-**mim** ha-**hem** ba-z'man ha-**zeh**
Ma-ka-bi mo-**shi**-a u-fo-**deh**
U-v'ya-me-nu **kol** am Yis-ra-**el**
Yit-a-ched, ya-**kum** ve-yi-ga-**el**

(2x) 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.

THE DREIDEL SONG

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

OHHHH, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel.
I made it out of clay;
And when it's dry and ready,
Then dreidel I shall play.

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when my dreidel's tired
It drops and then I win! OHHHH...

My dreidel's always playful
It loves to dance and spin

A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin! OHHHH...

BONUS MIT LYRICS (from MIT's Techiya):

I have a little dreidel,
I made it out of plastic;
With latkes, gelt, and presents,
This holiday's fantastic. OHHHH...

I hate my little dreidel,
It never lets me win;
No matter how I spin it,
It always comes down shin. OHHHH...

I lost my little dreidel
'Cause of Heisenberg's limitation:
I know its speed precisely --
No idea of its location. OHHHH...

Oh, Christmas decorations
For us are quite extraneous,
For Christmas isn't Chanukah,
Although they're simultaneous. OHHHH...

Oh, Judas Maccabeus,
He fought against the Greeks;
A drop of oil lasted
For 1.14285714285714285714285714285-- *slap*
... weeks. OHHHH...

OH CHANUKAH

Oh Chanukah, oh 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
(2x) One for each night they shed a sweet light
to remind us of days long ago

Hebrew:

Yi-**mei** Cha-nu-**kah**, Cha-nu-**kat** mik-da-**shey**-nu
Be-**gil** u-vi-**sim**-cha mi-**mal**-im et li-**bey**-nu
Lay-la va-**yom** s'vi-vo-**ne**-nu yi-**sov**
Suf-gan-i-**yot** no-**chal** bam la-**rov**
Ha-**ir**-u, had-**lik**-u
Ne-**rot** Cha-nu-**kah** ra-**bim**
(2x) **Al** ha-ni-**sim** v'**al** ha-ni-fla-**ot**
A-**sher** cho-lel-**lu** ha-Mac-ca-**bim**

Yiddish:

Oy **Chanuke**, oy **Chanuke**, a **yontef** a **sheyner**,
A **lustiger**, a **freylicher**, **nito** noch **azoyn**er,

Ale nacht in **dreydl shpiln mir**

Zudig heyse **latkes esn mir**

Geshvinder tsindt **kinder**

Di **Chanuke lichtelech on**

(2x) **Lomir ale singen und lomir ale shpringen**

Und **lomir ale tantzen in kon.**

variation: MRS. MACCABEUS

lyrics by Ben Aronin

Each Chanukah we glorify brave Judah Maccabeus

Who had the courage to defy Antiochus, and free us,

Yet it is not fair that we should forget

Mrs. Maccabeus, whom we owe a debt.

She mixed it, she fixed it

She poured it into a bowl

(2x) You may **not** guess, but it was the **latkes**

That gave brave Judah a soul.

The Syrians said: "It cannot be that old Mattathias
Whose years are more than 83 will dare to defy us!"

But they didn't know his secret, you see:

Mattathias dined on latkes and tea.

One latke, two latkes

And so on into the night

(2x) You may **not** guess, but it was the **latkes**
that gave him the courage to fight.

Now this is how it came about, this gastronomic wonder
That broke the ranks of Syria like flaming bolts of thunder

Mrs. Maccabeus wrote in the dough

Portions of the Torah then fried them just so.

They shimmered, they simmered,

Absorbing the olive oil

(2x) You may **not** guess, but it was the **latkes**
that made the Syrians recoil.

Now these little latkes brown and delicious
must have hit the spot, 'cause with appetites vicious

All the heroes downed them after their toil,

Causing in our Temple a shortage of oil!

One latke, two latkes,

And so on into the night.

(2x) You may **not** guess, but it was the **latkes**
that gave us the Chanukah light.

S'VIVON

S'vimon, sov, sov, sov / Chanukah, hu chag tov
Chanukah, hu chag tov / S'vimon, sov, sov, sov!

Chag simcha hu la-am / Nes gadol haya sham
Nes gadol haya sham / Chag simcha hu la-am.

CHANUKAH, CHANUKAH

Chanukah, Chanukah / **Chag** yafeh kol **kach**

Ohr chaviv, **mi-saviv / Gil** li-yeled **rach.**

Chanukah, Chanukah / **S'vimon, sov, sov;**

Sov, sov, sov! Sov, sov, sov! / Ma nayim va-**tov.**

Hanukkah, Hanukkah, festival of lights

Candles glow in a row, seven days, eight nights

Hanukkah, Hanukkah make your Dreydl spin

Round and round, round and round, everyone join in

Hanukkah, Hanukkah, what a merry time

Cakes to eat, what a treat, see the faces shine

Hanukkah, Hanukkah sing and dance this way.

Round and round, round and round, happy holiday

BANU CHOSHECH

Ba-nu cho-shech le-ga-resh / Be-ya-dei-nu ohr va-**esh**

Kol e-chad hu ohr ka-**tan / V-chu-la-nu ohr** ei-**tan**

(2x) **Su-rah cho-shech hal-ah sh'chor / Su-rah mi-p'nei ha-ohr**

Tzil-tzil-tzil ba-pa'a-mon-im, / mi a-nach-nu? - s'viv-on-im.

La-nu re-gel a-chat, / im ni-pol, gam lo nif-chad.

(2x) **Su-rah cho-shech hal-ah sh'chor / Su-rah mi-p'nei ha-ohr**

A-nu sho-va-vim g'dol-im, / a-li-zim ve-ho-le-lim

ach ne-da ya-feh me-od / le-sa-per, la-shir, lir-kod.

(2x) **Su-rah cho-shech hal-ah sh'chor / Su-rah mi-p'nei ha-ohr**

We are come to banish night / In our hands are fire and light

Everyone is one small light / But together we are bright

(2x) Fly away darkness, get out night / Fly away before the light!

HANUKKAH IN SANTA MONICA

words and music by Tom Lehrer (1990)

I'm spending Hanukkah in Santa Monica

Wearing sandals, lighting candles by the sea

I spent Shavuot in East Saint Louis

A charming spot but clearly not the spot for me...

Those eastern winters, I can't endure 'em

So every year I pack my gear and come out here til Purim

Rosh Hashona I spend in Arizona

And Yom Kippah way down in Mississippi

But in December there's just one place for me

'Mid the California flora I'll be lighting my menorah

Like a baby in its cradle I'll be playing with my draydel

Here's to Judas Maccabeus, Boy if he could only see us

Spending Hanukkah, in Santa Monica, by the sea!

OCHO KANDELIKAS (EIGHT LITTLE CANDLES)

Ladino words and music by Flory Jagoda

(2x) Chanukah **linda** sta **aki, / Ocho** kandelas para **mi.**

chorus:

O—**Una** kandelika, **dos** kandelikas,

tres kandelikas, **kuatro** kandelikas

sintyu kandelikas, **sej** kandelikas,

siete kandelikas... **ocho** kandelas para **mi**

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

(2x) Los pastelikos vo kumer, / Kon almendrikas y la myel.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

words and music by Peter Yarrow

Light one candle for the Maccabee children

Give thanks that their light didn't die

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

But 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,

That anger not tear us apart

And light one candle to bind us together

With peace as the song in our hearts

(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?

We have come this far always believing

That justice would somehow prevail

This is the burden, and this is the promise

And this is why we will not fail!

Chag sameach!