

Chanukah חנוכה

Candle blessings

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

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to light the Chanukah lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַיּוֹם.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, who has done miracles for our ancestors, in those days and today.

The blessing of 'shehecheyanu' is added on the first night:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ
לְזִמְנֵי הַיּוֹם.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us life, and sustained us, and enabled us to reach this time.

Add one candle each night. The candles are placed beginning on the far right side of the Chanukiah, and the newest candle (on the left side) is lit first.

After the candles are lit, it's customary to sing the following

הַנִּירוֹת הַלָּלוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מִדְּלִיקִים עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת וְעַל
הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַמְּלַחְמוֹת, שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי
הַיּוֹם, עַל יְדֵי כַּהֲנֵיךְ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים. וְכָל שְׂמוֹנֵת יָמֵי חֲנֻכָּה הַנִּירוֹת
הַלָּלוּ קִדְּשׁ הֵם, וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֶלָּא לְרְאוֹתָם
בְּלִבָּד, בְּיַד לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל, עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל
נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתֶךָ.

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.

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Maoz Tzur - Rock of Ages

Many families sing the first verse. See how much you can sing together!

מְעוֹז צוֹר יִשׁוּעָתִי לְךָ נָאֵה לְשַׁבַּח.
תְּכוּן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נוֹבַח.
לַעֲת תִּכְיֶן מִטְּבַח מִצַּר הַמִּנְבַּח.
אֵז אֲנִמֵּר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.

רְעוֹת שְׂבָעָה נִפְשֵׁי בְּיַגוֹן פָּחִי כָּלָה.
חַי מֵרָדוּ בְּקִשֵׁי בְּשַׁעְבוֹד מַלְכוּת עֲגָלָה.
וּבְיָדוֹ הַגְּדוּלָּה הוֹצִיא אֶת הַסָּגְלָה.
חַיִל פִּרְעָה וְכָל זִרְעוֹ יָרְדוּ כְּאֶבֶן מִצוּלָה.

דְּבִיר קִדְשׁוֹ הֵבִיאֲנִי וְגַם שָׁם לֹא שָׁקַטְתִּי.
וּבֹא נוֹגֵשׁ וְהִגְלֵנִי כִּי זָרִים עֲבַדְתִּי.
וַיִּזַּן רַעַל מִסְכְּתִי כְּמַעַט שְׁעַבְרְתִּי.
קִץ בְּבַל וְזַרְבָּבֶל לְקִץ שְׂבָעִים נוֹשְׁעָתִי.

כָּלֵת קִזְמַת פְּרוּשׁ בְּקִשׁ אֲנִי בֶן הַמְּדָתָא.
וְנִהְיִתָּה לוֹ לְפַח וּלְמוֹקֵשׁ וְנִאֲוָתוֹ נִשְׁבַּתָּה.
רֹאשׁ יְמִינִי נִשְׂאָתָּ וְאוֹיֵב שָׁמוֹ מְחִיתָּ.
רַב בְּנִי וְקַנְיָנִי עַל הָעֵץ תִּלִּיתָּ.

יְוָנִים נִקְבְּצוּ עָלַי אֲזִי בְיָמֵי חֲשָׁמַנִּים.
וּפְרִצוּ חוֹמוֹת מְגִדְלִי וּטְמְאוּ כָּל הַשְּׂמָנִים.
וּמְנוֹתָר קַנְקָנִים נַעֲשֶׂה גַם לְשׁוֹשָׁנִים.
בְּנֵי בֵינָה יָמֵי שְׂמוֹנָה קָבְעוּ שִׁיר וּרְנָנִים.

חֲשׂוּף זְרוּעַ קִדְשֶׁךָ וְקָרַב קִיץ תִּישׁוּעָה.
נִקָּם נִקְמַת דָּם עֲבָדֶיךָ מֵאִמָּה הִרְשָׁעָה.
כִּי אֲרַכָּה לָנוּ תִישׁוּעָה וְאִין קִיץ לְיָמֵי הִרְעָה.
דִּחָה אֲדַמּוֹן בְּצֵל צִלְמוֹן חֲקָם לָנוּ רוּעִים שְׂבָעָה.

Chanukah חנוכה

Rock of Ages (Maoz Tzur)

Popular Version

Rock of ages, let our song
Praise your saving power
You amid the raging foes
Were our sheltering tower
Furious they assailed us
But your arm availed us
And your word
Broke their sword
When our own strength failed us

Children of the wanderers
Whether free or fettered
Wake the echoes of the songs
Where you may be scattered
Yours the message cheering
That the time is nearing
Which will see all men free
Tyrants disappearing

Maoz Tzur (literal translation)

O mighty stronghold of my salvation,
to praise You is a delight.
Restore my House of Prayer
and there we will bring a thanksgiving offering.
When You will have prepared the slaughter
for the blaspheming foe,
Then I shall complete with a song of hymn
the dedication of the Altar.

My soul had been sated with troubles,
my strength has been consumed with grief.
They had embittered my life with hardship,
with the calf-like kingdom's bondage.

But with His great power
He brought forth the treasured ones,
Pharaoh's army and all his offspring
Went down like a stone into the deep.

To the holy abode of His Word He brought me.
But there, too, I had no rest
And an oppressor came and exiled me.
For I had served aliens,
And had drunk numbing wine.
Scarcely had I departed
At Babylon's end Zerubabel came.
At the end of seventy years I was saved.

To sever the towering cypress
sought the Aggagite, son of Hammedatha,
But it became [a snare and] a stumbling block to him
and his arrogance was stilled.
The head of the Benjaminite You lifted
and the enemy, his name You obliterated
His numerous progeny - his possessions - on the
gallows You hanged.

Greeks gathered against me
then in Hasmonean days.
They breached the walls of my towers
and they defiled all the oils;
And from the one remnant of the flasks
a miracle was wrought for the roses.
Men of insight - eight days
established for song and jubilation

Bare Your holy arm
and hasten the End for salvation -
Avenge the vengeance of Your servants' blood
from the wicked nation.
For the triumph is too long delayed for us,
and there is no end to days of evil,
Repel the Red One in the nethermost shadow
and establish for us the seven shepherds.

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Transliterations

Blessings before lighting the Chanukah menorah

Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu l'hadlik neir shel chanukah.

Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, she-asah nisim la-avoteinu bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.

The blessing of 'shehecheyanu' is added on the first night:

Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higi-anu laz'man hazeh.

Add one candle each night. The candles are placed into the Chanukiah beginning on the far right side of the Chanukiah, and the newest candle (on the left side) is lit first with the shamash, the helper candle.

After the candles are lit, it's customary to sing the following

Haneirot halalu anachnu madlikim al hanisim v'al hanifla-ot v'al hat'shuot v'al hamilchamot, she-asita la-avoteinu bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh, al y'dei kohanecha hak'doshim. V'chol sh'monat y'mei chanukah haneirot halalu kodesh heim, v'ei lanu r'shut l'hishtameish bahem, ela lirotam bilvad, k'dei l'hodot ul'haleil l'shimcha hagadol, al nisecha v'al nifl'otecha v'al y'shuatecha.

Maoz Tzur - Rock of Ages

Ma-oz tzur y'shuati l'cha na-eh l'shabei-ach, tikon beit t'filati v'sham todah n'zabei-ach, l'eit tachin matbei-ach mitzar hamnabei-ach, az egmor b'shir mizmor chanukat hamizbei-ach.

Ra-ot sav'ah nafshi b'yagon kochi cholah, chayai meir'ru b'koshi b'shibud malchut eglah, uv'yado hag'dolah hotzi et has'gulah, cheil parah v'chol zaro yar'du ch'even m'tzulah.

D'vir kod'sho hevi-ani v'gam sham lo shakatti, uva nogeis v'higlani, ki zarim avarti, v'yein ra-al masachti kimat she-avarti, keitz bavel, z'rubavel, l'keitz shivim nosha'ti.

K'rot komat b'rosh bikeish agagi ben ham'data, v'nihy'tah lo l'fach ul'mokeish v'ga-avato nishbatah, rosh y'mini niseita, v'oyeiv sh'mo machita, rov banav v'kinyanav al ha-eitz talita.

Y'vanim nikb'tzu alai azai bimeichashmanim, ufar'tzu chomot migdalai v'tim'u kol hashmanim, uminotar kankanim na-asah neis lashoshanim, b'nei vinah y'mei sh'monah kav'u shir ur'nanim.

Chasof z'roa kod'shecha v'kareiv keitz hayshuah, n'kom nikmat dam avadecha meiumah har'sha-ah, ki ar'chah lanu hayshuah, v'ei keitz limei hara-ah, d'cheih admon b'tzeil tzalmon hakeim lanu ro-im shivah