

Hanukka - Menorah Lighting

Each evening, before we light, we say the following two blessings. Someone who cannot read the Hebrew, can say it in English or in any other language that he/she understands:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה:

Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us through His commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukka light.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בְּיָמֵם הָהֵם וּבְזֶמַן הַזֶּה:

Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has done miracles for our forefathers in those days, in this season.

Only on the first evening, we also say:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיָּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה:

Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has given us life and sustained us and brought us to this happy season.

Now we kindle the light(s) (from left to right). After that we say:

הַנִּירוֹת הַלָּלוּ אֲנִי מִדְּלִיקִים. עַל הַנְּסִים. וְעַל הַפְּרָקָן. וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת. וְעַל
הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת. וְעַל הַנְּפֻלָּאוֹת. וְעַל הַנְּחֻמּוֹת. שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בְּיָמֵם הָהֵם
וּבְזֶמַן הַזֶּה. עַל יְדֵי כַּהֲנֵיךְ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים: וְכָל-שְׂמוֹנֵת יָמֵי חֲנֻכָּה הַנִּירוֹת הַלָּלוּ
קִדְּשָׁהּ. וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוֹת לְהַשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם. אֲלֵא לְרֵאוֹתָם בְּלִבְד. כִּדִּי
לְהוֹדוֹת לְשִׁמְךָ. וְעַל נְסִיךָ. וְעַל יְשׁוּעוֹתֶיךָ. וְעַל גְּפֻלְאוֹתֶיךָ:

These lights we kindle are to recognize the miracles, the liberation, the strength, the rescues, the wonders, and the consolations that You performed for our ancestors through Your holy priests, at this season in ancient days. During all eight days of Hanukka, these sacred to us,

and we are not permitted to use them for ourselves but only to look at them, in order to give thanks to You for Your miracles and rescues, and wonders.

After having said this, we immediately light the extra lamp/candle.

Some people light the extra light at the very beginning, even before the blessings. Ashkenazim call this extra light the “Shammash” and use it to light the actual Hanukka light(s).

Then we Sepharadim read Psalm 30:

מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר־חַנּוּכַת הַבַּיִת לְדָוִד:

² אֲרוּמָמְךָ יְהוָה כִּי דָלִיתָנִי וְלֹא־שָׁמַחַת אִיבֵי לִי:

³ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי שְׁנַעַתִּי אֵלַיךָ וַתִּרְפְּאֵנִי:

⁴ יְהוָה הִעֲלִיתָ מִן־שָׂאוֹל נַפְשִׁי חַיִּיתָנִי מִיּוֹרְדֵי־מַיִרְדֵי־בּוֹר:

⁵ וַזְּמַרוּ לַיהוָה חֲסִידָיו וְהוֹדוּ לְזִכַּר קְדוֹשׁוֹ:

⁶ כִּי רָגַעוּ בְּאִפּוֹ חַיִּים בְּרִצּוֹנֹו בָּעָרִב יִלִּין בְּכִי וְלִפְקַר רַגְוָה:

⁷ וְאֲנִי אָמַרְתִּי בְּשִׁלְוִי בַל־אָמוּט לְעוֹלָם:

⁸ יְהוָה בְּרִצּוֹנֶךָ הִעֲמַדְתָּה לְהִרְרִי עַז הַסְתַּרְתָּ פְּנֵיךָ הִנִּיתִי גְבָהֶל:

⁹ אֵלַיךָ יְהוָה אֶקְרָא וְאֶל־אֲדֹנָי אֶתְחַנּוּן:

¹⁰ מִה־בְּצַע בְּדַמִּי בְּרַדְתִּי אֶל־שַׁחַת הַיּוֹדֶךָ עֶפְרַת הַגִּיד אֶמְתָּךְ:

¹¹ שְׁמַע־יְהוָה וַחֲנּוּנֵי יְהוָה הִנֵּה־עֲזָר לִי:

¹² הַפְּכַתָּ מִסְפְּדִי לְמַחֹל לִי פִתַּחְתָּ שִׁקִּי וַתִּאֲזַרְנִי שְׂמֹחָה:

¹³ לְמַעַן יִזְמְרְךָ בְּבוֹד וְלֹא יֵלֵם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי לְעוֹלָם אוֹדְךָ:

A song of David for the dedication of the Temple.

LORD, You lifted me out of my troubles.

You did not give my enemies a reason to laugh, so I will praise you.

² LORD my God, I prayed to you, and You healed me.

³ LORD, You lifted me out of the grave. I was falling into the place of death, but You saved my life.

⁴ Sing praise to the LORD, you who are loyal to him! Celebrate His holy name!

⁵ His anger lasts only for a short moment, but His kindness lasts a lifetime.

The night may be filled with tears, but in the morning, we sing for joy!

⁶ When I was safe and secure, I thought nothing could hurt me.

⁷ LORD, when You were kind to me, You had made me strong as a mountain.

But when You turned away from me, I became filled with fear.

⁸ I turned and prayed to You, O LORD. I asked You, Lord, to show me mercy.

⁹ I said, "What good is it if I die and go down to the grave?

Shall the dead, who lie in the dirt, praise You? Shall they tell anyone how faithful You are?

¹⁰ LORD, hear me, and be kind to me. LORD, be my helper!"

¹¹ Then You changed my sorrow into dancing.

You have taken away my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹² So I can praise You and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever!

1.



מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי, לְךָ נֶאֱדָה לְשִׁבְחָה
תְּכוּן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי, וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח
בְּעֵת שְׁתַּשְׁמַח, לְבַב כָּל-מְשִׁיב
אֶז נִגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מְזֻמֹּר, חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:

**Refuge, Rock of my salvation
To You it is proper to offer praise.
Prepare the house of my prayers
And there I will offer thanksgiving offerings.
When you will rejoice
The hearts of all that praise you.
Then shall we conclude with a psalm, a song,
For the inauguration of the altar.**

2.



שָׁבַע יִשְׂרָאֵל עָנִי, בְּיָגוֹן כָּחָו כָּלָה
חַיָּיו מָרְרוּ בְּקִשְׁי, בְּשִׁעְבוּד מַלְכוּת עֲגָלָה
וּבְיָדוֹ הִגְדְּלָה, הוֹצִיא אֶת-הַסִּגְלָה
חֵיל פָּרְעָה וְגֵאוּתוֹ, יָרְדוּ כְּאֶבֶן מִצּוּלָה

Israel was satiated with misery
From grief his strength expired.
His life was embittered by hardship
Slaving for the Empire of the Calf.
But by Your great hand,
You took out Your cherished nation.
Pharaoh's army and his arrogance
Sank into the deep like a stone.



3.

The oppression was heavy
under the hand of the Hellenists.
You sent salvation
and the Hasmoneans were victorious.
Evil people were chased away, idols were broken
Abraham's altar was rebuilt
The righteous rejoiced.

כְּבִדָּה הִמְעוֹקָה, עַל-יְדֵי מְתִינְוֹנִים
שָׁלַחַם הִהַצְלָה, וַיִּגְבְּרוּ חַשְׁמוֹנָאִים
הִבְרִיחוּ רָשָׁעִים, וַיִּשְׁמְדוּ אֱלִילִים
וַיִּבְנֶה יי יִרְאֶה, שָׁמְחוּ הַצְּדִיקִים



4.

נְטֵה זְרוּעַ קְדוֹשְׁךָ, וְקַרְבַּ גְּאוּלְתְּךָ
שִׂמְחַ לְבַב עַבְדְּךָ, בְּנֵה בַיִת כְּבוֹדְךָ
לְשִׁפּוֹן בְּתוֹךְ עַמְּךָ, כִּי קוֹיְנוּ לִישׁוּעָתְךָ
אֶת-שִׁמְךָ תַּגְדֵּלָהּ, לְכָל-גּוֹיֵי הָאָדָמָה

Stretch out Your holy arm
and bring Your redemption near
Rejoice the heart of Your servants
Rebuild the house of Your glory
To dwell amid Your people
Because we wait for Your redemption
Make Your name great
For all the nations of the earth.



Hanukka le-Simḥa!
Hanukka Alegre!
Hanukka Saméah!