



HANUKKAH

INTRODUCTION

Hanukkah may have its roots in winter celebrations observed in ancient Mesopotamian cultures. The festivities marked the winter solstice, symbolising the triumph of increased daylight during a period when people were apprehensive about the potential decline of the sun. To counter this perceived threat, households illuminated eight flames in their dwellings for eight consecutive nights, either adding or diminishing the number of lit flames. The practice of kindling fires was a symbolic gesture mimicking the natural cycles of the Earth, believed to influence nature to prolong daylight. The significance of light, representing life, and darkness, signifying death, infused the festival with a sense of optimism.

Subsequently, Rabbinic tradition attributed divine significance to the narrative of the Maccabees, who reclaimed control of Jerusalem and Jewish life. According to this tradition, the oil used to light the Menorah in the Temple miraculously endured for eight days, adding a layer of religious meaning to the celebration. In Humanistic Judaism, the contemporary observance of Hanukkah extends beyond historical narratives, emphasising the choice to live courageously, with creativity and hope. Each lit candle symbolises a distinct human quality that can be cultivated to enhance our lives.

Displaying the candles in windows or doorways serves to publicise the "miracle" of Jewish survival against all odds, highlighting the enduring resilience and prosperity of the Jewish community. The celebration involves lighting the candles accompanied by blessings, offering an opportunity for reflection on the qualities associated with each night.

♪ HINNÉ MA TOV ♪

הִנֵּה מַה-טוֹב Hinné ma-tov

וּמַה-נְּעִים שֶׁבֶת uma-na'im shevet

עַמִּים גַּם-יַחַד amim gam-yahad!

Behold how good and how
pleasant it is for people
to dwell together



CANDLE LIGHTING

Lighting the shamash we say:

בְּרוּךְ הָאוֹר **Barúch ha'ór**

בְּמִסּוֹרֵת הַנּוֹתֵן bamasóret hanóten
לָנוּ שִׂשׂוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה lánu sasón vesimhá
בְּהַדְלָקַת נֵר behadlákat ner
שֶׁל חֲנוּכָּה: shel hanuká

Blessed is the light in the tradition

which gives us joy and happiness

in the kindling of the Hanukkah candles.



SHEHEHEYANU

נְבָרְךָ אֶת Nevarech et
הַכֹּחַ בְּתוֹכֵנוּ hakoah betochenu
שֶׁהֵיְאָנוּ sheheheyanu
וְקִיְמָנוּ vekiyemanu
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ vehigi'anu
לְזָמַן הַזֶּה lazzeman hazzeh.

Let us bless the strength within us
that has enlivened us,
sustained us,
and brought us to this season!



THE FIRST NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה

Barúch or hatvuná

Blessed is the light of reason

THE SECOND NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצְמִי

Barúch or hatvuná uvarúch or hakavód atzmí

Blessed is the light of reason

and blessed is the light of self-esteem

THE THIRD NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצְמִי

וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הָאֱמֶץ

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, uvarúch
or ha'ómetz**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-esteem

and blessed is the light of courage.

THE FOURTH NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצְמִי
בְּרוּךְ אֹר הָאִמָּץ וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הַחֵירוּת

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, barúch
or ha'ómetz uvaruch or haḥerút**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-
esteem, blessed is the light of courage and blessed is the light
of freedom.

THE FIFTH NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצְמִי
בְּרוּךְ אֹר הָאִמָּץ בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַחֵירוּת
וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הָאֲהָבָה

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, barúch
or ha'ómetz, barúch or haḥerút, uvarúch or ha'ahavá**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-esteem, blessed is the light of courage, blessed is the light of freedom and blessed is the light of love.

THE SIXTH NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצְמִי
בְּרוּךְ אֹר הָאֱמֶץ בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַחֵירוּת
בְּרוּךְ אֹר הָאַהֲבָה וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הַנְּאֻמָּנוּת

Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, barúch or ha'ómetz, barúch or haḥerút, barúch or ha'ahavá, uvarúch or hane'emanút.

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-esteem, blessed is the light of courage, blessed is the light of freedom, blessed is the light of love and blessed is the light of loyalty.

THE SEVENTH NIGHT

בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים וְהַחַיָּוִת
בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים וְהַחַיָּוִת
בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים וְהַחַיָּוִת
וּבָרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים וְהַחַיָּוִת

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, barúch
or ha'ómetz, barúch or haşerút, barúch or ha'ahavá,
barúch or hane'emanút uvarúch or hanedivút.**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-
esteem, blessed is the light of courage, blessed is the light of
freedom, blessed is the light of love, blessed is the light of
loyalty and blessed is the light of generosity



THE EIGHTH NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצָמִי

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הָאֱמֶץ בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַחֵירוּת

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הָאֲהָבָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַנְּאֻמָּנוּת

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַנְּדִיבוּת וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּקוּהָה

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, barúch
or ha'ómetz, barúch or haḥerút, barúch or ha'ahavá,
barúch or hane'emanút barúch or hanedivút uvarúch
or hatikvá**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-esteem, blessed is the light of courage, blessed is the light of freedom, blessed is the light of love, blessed is the light of loyalty, blessed is the light of generosity and blessed is the light of hope!

OCHO KANDELIKAS



Eight Little Candles
by Flory Jagoda, 1983

[Video here](#)

Beautiful hanukah is here
eight candles for me,
Beautiful hanukah is here,
eight candles for me, oh!

Chorus:

One little candle, two little candles,
Three little candles, four little candles;
Five little candles, six little candles, seven little candles,
Eight little candles for me.

Lots of parties I will do
With happiness and pleasure
Dainty pastries to eat
With almonds and honey, oh!

Chorus:

One little candle, two little candles,
Three little candles, four little candles;
Five little candles, six little candles, seven little candles,
Eight little candles for me



Hanukah linda sta aki
Ocho kandelas para mi
Hanukah linda sta aki
Ocho kandelas para mi, oh!

Una kandelika, dos kandelikas
Tres kandelikas, quatro kandelikas
Sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas
Siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi

Muchas fiestas vo fazer
Kon alegrias i plazer
Muchas fiestas vo fazer
Kon alegrias i plazer
Los pastelikos vo kumer
Kon almendrikas i la myel
Los pastelikos vo kumer
Kon almendrikas i la myel, oh!

Una kandelika, dos kandelikas
Tres kandelikas, quatro kandelikas.....



BANU HOSHECH

Banu hoshech legaresh

Beyadenu or va'esh

Kol ehad hu or katan

Vechulanu or eitan

Sura hoshech, halah shchor

Sura mipnei ha'or

So the night is dark and cold

There is light within our soul

In our hearts there burns a flame

Unity in freedom's name

Go away darkness, bleak as night.

Go away, make way for light! X2



DREIDEL GAME



ג

ש

נ

ה

GADOL

SHALOM

NA'ASEH

HAVA

GIMEL

SHIN

NUN

HAY

'TAKE ALL'

'PUT TWO IN'

'TAKE NONE'

'TAKE
HALF THE
POT'

“Hava Na’aseh Shalom Gadol” means “Let us Make Great Peace” and was written as an alternative to the theistic “A Great Miracle Happened There” by Rabbi Adam Chalom, SHJ



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