

Chanukah Blessings



The first Chanukah candle is lit on Saturday night, December 24, 2016. Each night, the candles are placed in the menorah from right to left and kindled from left to right. The home ceremony could include: 1) lighting the shamash candle, 2) reading of the day, 3) blessings below, 4) lighting the Chanukah candles, 5) singing of Chanukah songs.

Blessing for the Shamash (recited each day):

As one candle may kindle many others, yet lose none of its own light, so Judaism has kindled the lights of justice and freedom in many ages for many peoples. In a time of darkness, our ancestors had the courage to struggle for freedom to be themselves, freedom to worship in their own way. Theirs was the victory of the weak over the strong, the few over the many, and the righteous over the arrogant. It was a victory for all ages and all peoples. Let the lights we kindle shine forth for the world. May they illuminate our lives, even as they fill us with gratitude that our faith has been saved from extinction time and again. As Chanukah means “rededication”, we rededicate ourselves this Chanukah to these middot, or character traits from the Mussar tradition.

1st night: The *middah* of *Humility*: No more than my space, no less than my place.

2nd night: The *middah* of *Patience*: Lengthening the distance between the match and the fuse.

3rd night: The *middah* of *Holiness*. Each of us is a holy soul.

4th night: The *middah* of *Equanimity*: Rise above the good and the bad.

5th night: The *middah* of *Tzedakah*, righteous giving.

6th night: The *middah* of *Hachnasat Orchim*, hospitality.

7th night: The *middah* of *Shalom Bayit*, peace in the home.

8th night: The *middah* of *Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof*, “Justice, justice, you will pursue.”



To discuss each night: In what ways does this middah help us want to change something in our lives or in our society?

On all nights, after the shamash is lit (and reading done on the left), recite:

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

Baruch ata A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Melech Ha’olam,
asher kid’sha-nu b’mitzvo-tav vetzi-va-nu l’had-lik
ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God,
Sovereign of the Universe, who has
sanctified us with Your mitzvot and
commanded us to kindle the light of
Chanukah.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמֹתֵינוּ
בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch ata A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Melech Ha’olam,
she’asa ni’sim la’avotaynu v’imo-tei-nu ba’yamim
ha’heim ba’zman ha’zeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God,
Sovereign of the Universe, who performed
wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of
old at this season.

On first night only:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch ata A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Melech Ha’olam,
shehecheyanu v’kiy’manu v’higianu la’zman ha’zeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God,
Sovereign of the Universe, who has kept us
alive, sustained us, and enabled us to
celebrate this season.

Morç Chanukah Prayers

Maoz Tzur

Ma-oz tzur y'shu-a-ti, le-cha na-eh l'sha-bei-ach

Ti-kon beit t'fi-la-ti, v'sham to-da n'za-bei-ach

L'eit ta-chin mat-bei-ach, mi-tzar ham'na-bei-ach

Az eg-mor b'shir miz-mor Cha-nu-kat ha-miz-bei-ach

Az eg-mor b'shir miz-mor Cha-nu-kat ha-miz-bei-ach

מְעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי לְךָ נִאֶה לְשַׁבַּח,

תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תִּפְלֵתִי וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח,

לַעֵת תִּכְיֶן מִטְבַּח מִצָּר הַמְּנַבַּח,

אֲז אֶגְמַר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּיחַ.

Rock of Ages let our song praise Thy saving power

Thou amidst the raging foes wast our shelt'ring tower

Furious they assailed us, but Thine arm availed us

And Thy word broke their sword when our own strength failed us (2X).

HaNeerot Halalu



הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מִדְּלִיקִים עַל הַנְּסִים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל
הַמְּלַחְמוֹת, שְׁעֲשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה. וְכָל שְׁמוֹנַת יָמֵי חֲנֻכָּה
הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם, וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוֹת לְהַשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֲלָא לְרְאוֹתָם בְּלְבָד,
כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל, עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתֶךָ.

*Ha-ne-rot ha-la-lu a-na-chnu ma-dli-kin Al ha-nis-sim ve'al ha-nif-la-ot Al ha-tshu-ot ve'al
ha-mil-cha-mot She-a-si-ta la'avo-tey-nu Ba-ya-mim ha-hem, ba-z'man ha-zeh. Ve-chol shmo-nat
ye-mey Chanukah Ha-ne-rot ha-la-lu ko-desh hem, Ve-ein la-nu re-shut le-hish-ta-mesh ba-hem E-la
li-ro-tam bil-vad Ke-dai le-ho-dot le-shim-cha Al nis-se-cha ve-al nif-lo-te-cha ve-al ye-shu-o-te-cha.*

We kindle these lights for the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors.
During these eight days of Chanukah, these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but
only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous
acts of deliverance.

