

# Celebrating the Meaning of Hanukkah's Light חג אורים שמח

## B'rakhot for Hanukkah's Lights

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,  
אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

*Barukh Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh haOlam asher kid-sha 'nu  
b'mitz-votav v'tzi-vanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.*

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe,  
who sanctified us as a people through God's commandments,  
and commanded us to kindle the lights of Hanukkah.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,  
שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

*Barukh Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh haOlam,  
sh'a-sah nisim la'avo-tei-nu ba-yamim ha-hem baz'man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe,  
who performed miracles for our ancestors during those days  
at this season.

## On the first night only:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,  
שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

*Barukh Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh haOlam,  
sh'he-he-ya-nu v'ki-y'ma-nu v'hi-gi-a-nu laZ'man haZeh.*

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe,  
for the gift of our lives, for all that sustains us,  
and for enabling us to reach this season.

## How the lights are kindled:

One candle is lit in the Hanukkah menorah for each night. For the first night, one candle, the second night, two candles, and so on until eight candles are kindled on the eighth night. The candle for the first night is placed on the right side of your Hanukkiyah. On each subsequent night an additional candle is placed to the left of the preceding night's candle. The lighting proceeds from left to right so that the new candle is kindled first

On Hanukkah we remember the miracles of faith, of our people's perseverance, and of life's daily wonders. We remember the Maccabees and the conflict of ancient days while we honor the victory of faith, and of Judaism's ideals. Hanukkah's light represents spiritual strength, not only physical prowess. Our Hanukkiyot represent God's light, a path of peace and goodness that must endure for all time

הנרות הללו אנו מדליקים על הנסים,  
ועל הנפלאות ועל התשועות ועל המלחמות,  
שעשית לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה,  
על ידי כהניך הקדושים. וכל שמונת ימי חנוכה  
הנרות הללו קדש הם, ואין לנו רשות  
להשתמש בהם, אלא לראותם בלבד,  
כדי להודות ולהלל לשמך הגדול  
על נסידך ועל נפלאותיך ועל ישועתך.

*HaNerot Hallalu anahnu madlikim, al ha-nisim, v'al ha-nif-laot,  
v'al ha-t'shuot, v'al-ha milhamot, she-a'sita-la'avoteinu  
ba-ya-mim ha-hem,*

*bazman ha-zeh al y'dei kohanekha hak'doshim.  
V'khol sh-mo-nat y'mei*

*Hanukkah haNerot hallalu kodesh hem,  
v'ein la-nu r'shut l'hish-ta-mesh  
ba-hem, eleh li'rotom bilvad, k'day l'hodot u'l'halel  
l'shimkha ha-gadol  
al nisekha v'al niflotekha v'al y'shuatekha.*

each night. No practical use may be made of the Hanukkah lights such as illuminating the room. Therefore, according to Jewish tradition, a special extra candle known as the Shamash is used to light the others and to provide light. On Friday night the Hanukkah lights are lit before the Shabbat candles, prior to sunset. On Saturday night, be sure the sun has set before lighting the Hanukkah candles.

