

TEMPLE RODEPH TORAH of Western Monmouth

Hanukkah Prayers, Readings, Songs and Games

The lights of Hanukkah are a symbol of our joy. In time of darkness, our ancestors had the courage to struggle for freedom. Theirs was a victory of the weak over the strong, the few over the many. It was a victory for all ages and all peoples.

The light of our faith burns brightly now; our people Israel has survived all who sought to destroy us. In every generation, we are called, through love and sacrifice, to renew ourselves and the life of our people.

Let the lights we kindle shine forth for all the world to see. May they illumine our lives and fill us with gratitude for those who came before us, whose will and courage, time and again, kept the flame of faith from extinction.

(Candles are placed in the *hanukiyyah* from right to left, as seen from in front of the *hanukiyyah*, and lit from left to right, lighting the newest candle first. On Shabbat, light the Hanukkah candles and say the blessings *before* lighting the Shabbat candles.)

Candle Blessings

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

Ba-ruch A-ta A-do-nai, Elo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sher kid-shanu be-mits-vo-tav ve-tsi-vanu le-had-lik ner shel Ha-nu-kah.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Source of all creation, for sanctifying us with Your commandments, and commanding us to light the lights of Hanukkah.

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

Ba-ruch A-ta A-do-nai, Elo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam, she-a-sah ni-sim la-a-vo-tei-nu ba-ya-mim ha-hem baz-man ha-zeh.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Source of all creation, who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this season of the year.

(On the first night of Hanukkah only, add:)

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

Ba-ruch A-ta, A-do-nai Elo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-yanu ve-ki-i-manu ve-hi-gi-anu laz-man ha-zeh.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this joyous time.

Ma'oz Tsur - Rock of Ages

*Ma'oz tsur ye-shu-a-ti, le-cha na-eh le-sha-bei-ach.
Ti-kon beit te-fi-la-ti, ve-sham to-dah ne-za-bei-ach.
Le-eit ta-chin mat-bei-ach, mi-tsar ham-na-bei-ach,
Az eg-mor be-shir miz-mor, cha-nu-kat ha-miz-bei-ach.*

מעוז צור ישועתי, לך נאה לשבח;
תכון בית תפילתי, ושם תודה נזבח.
לעת תכין מטבח, מצר המנבח,
אז אגמור, בשיר מזמור, חנכת המזבח.

(English verse on next page)

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 (repeat)

A Yiddish Hanukkah Song

*Hanukkah, oi Hanukkah, a yontev a sheiner,
A lustiger, a freilicher, nito noch a zeiner.
Ale nacht in dreidl shpilen mir; zudig heise latkes essen mir.
Geshvinder tzint kinder di Hanukkah lichtelech on,
**Zogt "Al Ha-Nisim," loibt Gott far di nissim,
Un kumt gicher tantzen in konn!** (Repeat)*

Hanukkah, o Hanukkah, come light the menorah;
Let's have a party, we'll all dance the hora!
Gather 'round the table, we'll give you a treat -
Dreidls to play with, and latkes to eat.
And while we are playing, the candles are burning low;
**One for each night, they shed a sweet light,
To remind us of days long ago!** (Repeat)

Light One Candle

Light one candle for the Maccabee children, give thanks that their light didn't die.
Light one candle for the pain they endured when their right to exist was denied.
Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice justice and freedom demand.
Light one candle for the wisdom to know when the peacemaker's time is at hand.

CHORUS: Don't let the light go out, it's lasted for so many years.
Don't let the light go out, let it shine through our love and our tears.

Light one candle for the strength that we need to never become our own foe.
Light one candle for those who are suffering the pain that we learned so long ago.
Light one candle for all we believe in, let anger not tear us apart.
Light one candle to bind us together with peace as the song in our heart. (CHORUS)

What is the memory that's valued so highly that we keep it alive in that flame?
What's the commitment to those who have died when we cry out, "They've not died in vain"?
We have come this far always believing that justice will somehow prevail.
This is the burden and this is the promise and this is why we will not fail! (CHORUS)

Don't let the light go out, don't let the light go out, Don't let the light go out!

How to Play Dreidl



While dreidl has not yet been accepted as an official game in Atlantic City, it is nevertheless a game of chance. The stakes are usually quite high: raisins, M&Ms, or occasionally pennies. (While raisins are the traditional stake, many of them will inevitably become a permanent part of your floor, rug or upholstery; the other items may be more appealing to the grownups who have to clean up after the game.)

To begin, distribute an equal number of “chips” (the aforementioned raisins, etc.) to each player. At the beginning, and whenever the “pot” is empty, every player antes one chip.

The first player spins the dreidl, and acts according to the following result:

- נ *Nun* (Yiddish: *nisht*, nothing): do nothing, and the next person spins.
- ג *Gimel* (Yiddish: *gantz*, the whole thing): take the whole pot; everyone antes again, and the next person spins.
- ה *Hey* (Yiddish: *halb*, half): take half the pot (one less than half if an odd number; if only one in the pot, take it.)
- ש *Shin* (Yiddish: *shtet*, put): put one more into the pot from your own hoard.

The game continues either until one person gets cleaned out, or until one person has collected all of everyone else’s chips. The winner then eats the chips (unless you used pennies.)

The four letters on the dreidl stand for *Nes Gadol Haya Sham*, “a great miracle happened there.” If you should come across a dreidl which has no ש, but instead has the letter ד, you have an Israeli dreidl. In Israel, the word *Sham*, (meaning, “There”) is replaced with the word *Poh*, (meaning, “Here”), since that’s where it happened!

The game is best played with the lights of the *hanukkiyah* glowing nearby.

Enjoy the game, and happy Hanukkah!