

Chanukah

The lights of Chanukah 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.

אֲשֶׁרִי הַגִּפְרוּר שְׁנֹשְׂרָף וְהַצִּית לְהַבּוֹת.
אֲשֶׁרִי הַלְּהַבָּה שְׁבַעְרָה בְּסִתְרֵי לְבָבוֹת.
אֲשֶׁרִי הַלְּבָבוֹת שִׁדְעוּ לְחַדּוֹל בְּכָבוֹד.
אֲשֶׁרִי הַגִּפְרוּר שְׁנֹשְׂרָף וְהַצִּית לְהַבּוֹת.

Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame.
Blessed is the flame that burns in the heart's secret places.
Blessed is the heart with strength to stop its beating for
honor's sake.
Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame.

Zion hears and is glad,
The daughters of Judah rejoice,
Eternal One, in Your judgments.

שָׁמְעָה וְתִשְׂמַח צִיּוֹן;
וְתִגְלָגֵל בְּנוֹת יְהוּדָה,
לְמַעַן מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ, יְהוָה.

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 self-sacrifice, to renew ourselves and the life of our people.

Let the lights we kindle shine forth for 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.

SHABBAT, FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL DAYS

☞ The candles are placed in the Menorah from right to left, and kindled from left to right.

<i>Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu</i>	בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ
<i>meh-lech ha-o-lam a-sher</i>	מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
<i>ki-d'sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav v'tzi-va-nu</i>	קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ וְצִוֵּנוּ
<i>l'had-lik ner shel Chanukah.</i>	לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe: You hallow us with Your Mitzvot, and command us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

<i>Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu</i>	בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ
<i>meh-lech ha-o-lam, sheh-a-sa ni-sim</i>	מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים
<i>la-a-vo-tei-nu /l'i-mo-tei-nu</i>	לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ/לְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ
<i>ba-ya-mim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh.</i>	בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe: You showed wonders to our fathers/mothers in days of old, at this season.

ON THE FIRST NIGHT ONLY

<i>Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu</i>	בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ
<i>me-lech ha-o-lam, she-hecheyanu,</i>	מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ
<i>v'ki-y'manu, v'higi-anu</i>	וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ
<i>la-z'man hazeh.</i>	לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה.

We praise You, Eternal One, Sovereign God of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

Chanukah Songs

מי ימלל

מי ימלל גבורות ישראל, אותן מי ימנה?

Mi y'ma-leil g'vu-rot Yis-ra-eil, o-tan mi yim-neh?

הן בכל דור יקום הגבור, גואל העם.

Hein b'chol dor ya-kum ha-gi-bor go-eil ha-am.

שמעו בימים ההם בזמן הזה, מכפי מושיע ופודה.

*Sh'mal ba-ya-mim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh,
Ma-ka-bi mo-shi-a u-fo-deh,*

ובימינו כל עם ישראל, יתאחד יקום להגאל!

U-v'ya-mei-nu kol am Yis-ra-eil, yit-a-cheid ya-kum l'hi-ga-eil.

Who can retell the things that befell us,
Who can count them?
In every age a hero or sage
Came to our aid.

Hark! In days of yore, in Israel's ancient land,
Brave Maccabeus led his faithful band,
And now all Israel must as one arise,
Redeem itself through deed and sacrifice!

Who can retell the things that befell us,
Who can count them?
In every age a hero or sage
Came to our aid.

SHABBAT, FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL DAYS

מָעוֹז צוֹר

*Ma-oz tzur y'shu-a-ti,
l'cha na-eh l'sha-bei-ach,
ti-kon beit t'fi-la-ti
v'sham to-da n'za-bei-ach.
L'eit tash-bit mat-bei-ach
v'tzar ha-m'na-bei-ach,
az eg-mor, b'shir miz-mor
cha-nu-kat ha-miz-bei-ach.*

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.

מָעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי,
לְךָ נָאֵה לְשַׁבָּח.
תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי,
וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח.
לְעֵת תִּשְׁבִּית מַטְּבַח
וְצַר הַמְּנַבֵּחַ.
אֶז אֶגְמֹר, בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר,
חֲנֻכַּת הַמְּנוֹבָח.

Kindling new the holy lamps,
Priests approved in suffering,
Purified the nation's shrines,
Brought to You their offering.
And Your courts surrounding
Hear, in joy abounding,
Happy throngs,
Singing songs,
With a mighty sounding.

Children of the Maccabees,
Whether free or fettered,
Wake the echoes of the songs,
Where you may be scattered.
Yours the message cheering,
That the day is nearing,
Which will see,
All go free,
Tyrants disappearing.

על הנסים

<i>Al ha-ni-sim, v'al ha-pur-kan,</i>	על הנסים, ועל הפרקן,
<i>v'al ha-g'vu-rot, v'al ha-t'shu-ot,</i>	ועל הגבורות, ועל התשועות,
<i>v'al ha-mil-cha-mot,</i>	ועל המלחמות,
<i>sheh-a-si-ta la-a-vo-tei-nu</i>	שעשית לאבותינו
<i>ve-sheh-a-si-ta l'i-mo-tei-nu</i>	ושעשית לאמותינו
<i>ba-ya-min ha-heim, ba-z'man ha-zeh.</i>	בימים ההם, בזמן הזה.

<i>Bi-mei Ma-tit-ya-hu ben Yo-cha-nan</i>	בימי מתתיהו בן יוחנן
<i>ko-hein ga-dol, chash-mo-nai</i>	כהן גדול, חשמונאי
<i>u-va-nav,</i>	ובניו,
<i>k'sheh-a-m'da mal-chut Ya-van</i>	כשעמדה מלכות יון
<i>al a-m'cha Yis-ra-eil,</i>	על עמך ישראל,
<i>l'hash-ki-cham To-ra-teh-cha,</i>	להשפיקם תורתך,
<i>u-l'ha-a-vi-ram mei-chu-kei</i>	ולהעבירם מחקי
<i>r'tzo-neh-cha.</i>	רצונך.

<i>V'a-ta b'ra-cha-meh-cha ha-ra-bim,</i>	ואתה ברחמיה הרבים,
<i>a-ma-d'ta la-hem b'eit tza-ra-tam.</i>	עמדת להם בעת צרתם.

We kindle these lights in remembrance of the wondrous deliverance You inspired our ancestors to struggle for and to attain.

In the time of the Hasmoneans, a tyrant rose up against our ancestors, determined to make them forget Your Torah, and to turn them away from obedience to Your will. But You were at their side in time of trouble.