

The Chanukah Candle Lighting Ceremony

1. First Blessing (recited before lighting the candles):

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

2. Second Blessing (recited while lighting the candles):

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

3. Third Blessing (recited only on the first night):

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחֲתִינוּ וְקִיָּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ
לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

Transliteration:

1. First Blessing (recited before lighting the candles):

Bar-RUKH a-TAH a-do-NAI, e-lo-HEI-nu ME-lech ha-o-LAM,
a-SHER kid'SHA-nu b'MITZ-vo-TAV, v'tzee-VA-nu l'had-LEEK
ner shel CHA-nu-kah.

2. Second Blessing (recited while lighting the candles):

Bar-RUKH a-TAH a-do-NAI, e-lo-HEI-nu ME-lech ha-o-LAM,
she-a-SAH nee-SEEM l'a-vo-TEI-nu ba-ya-MEEM ha-HEIM ba-
z'MAN ha-ZEH.

3. Third Blessing (recited *only on the first night*):

Bar-RUKH a-TAH a-do-NAI, e-lo-HEI-nu ME-lech ha-o-LAM,
she-he-che-YA-nu v'ki-y'MA-nu v'hee-gee-YA-nu la-ZMAN ha-
ZEH.

English Translation:

1. First Blessing (recited before lighting the candles):

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe,
Who has sanctified us with His commandments,
and has commanded us to kindle the Chanukkah light.

2. Second Blessing (recited while lighting the candles):

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe,
Who performed miracles for our forefathers, in those days at this
season.

3. Third Blessing (recited *only on the first night*):

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe,
Who has kept us alive and sustained us and brought us to this
season.

To be sung after the candles are lit:

הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מִדְּלִיקִים עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת וְעַל
הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַמִּלְחָמוֹת, שְׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵנוּ
הַזֶּה, עַל יְדֵי כֹהֲנֶיךָ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים. וְכָל שְׁמוֹנַת יָמֵי חֲנֻכָּה הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ
קֹדֶשׁ הֵם, וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֲלָא לְרְאוּתָם בְּלְבָד,
כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל, עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל
יְשׁוּעָתֶךָ.

Haneirot halalu anachnu madlikin

al ha nisim v'al ha-nifla'ot v'al hat'shu'ot v'al ha milchamot

She-a-sita la'avoteinu bayamim haheim bazman ha-zeh

al y'dei kohanecha hak'doshim.

V'chol sh'monat y'mei Chanukah,

Haneirot halalu kodesh heim.

V'ein lanu reshut l'hishtameish baheim elah lir'otam bilvad,

k'dei l'hodot ul'hallel l'shimcha hagadol,

al nisecha v'al nifl'otecha v'al y'shuatecha.

We light these lights on account of the miracles and the wonders and the triumphs and the battles that You performed for our ancestors in those days, at this season, at the hands of Your holy priests. And throughout the eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred, and we are not permitted to use them, but rather to simply view them, in order to give thanks and to praise Your great name for Your miracles, Your wonders, and Your triumphs.

Rock of Ages - מַעוֹז צוּר

מַעוֹז צוּר יִשׁוּעָתִי, לְךָ נֹאֵה לְשַׁבֵּי'אֵח,
תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נְזַבֵּי'אֵח,
לְעֵת תִּכְיִן מִטְּבֵי'אֵח מִצָּר הַמְּנַבֵּי'אֵח,
אֵז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּי'אֵח.

יְוָנִים נִקְבְּצוּ עָלַי אֲזַי בְּיָמֵי חֲשֻׁמָּנִים,
וּפָרְצוּ חוֹמוֹת מִגְדָּלַי וְטָמְאוּ כָּל הַשְּׁמָנִים,
וּמִנּוֹתָר קַנְקָנִים נַעֲשָׂה גַם לְשׁוֹשָׁנִים,
בְּנֵי בֵינָה יָמֵי שְׁמוֹנָה קָבְעוּ שִׁיר וְרִנָּנִים.

Ma'oz tzur yeshu'ati, lecha na'eh leshabei'ach.
Tikon beit tefilati, vesham todah nezabei'ach.
Le'et tachin matbei'ach, mitzar ham'nabei'ach.
Az egmor b'shir mizmor Chanukat hamizbei'ach.

*O mighty Rock of my salvation, to praise You is a delight.
Restore my House of Prayer and there we'll bring a thanksgiving offering.
When You will have prepared the slaughter for the blaspheming foe,
Then I shall complete with a song of hymn the dedication of the Altar.*

Yevanim nikbetzu alai, azai bimei Hashmanim.
Ufartzu homot migdalai, vetim'u kol hashmanim.
Uminotar kankanim na'asa nes lashoshanim.
B'nei vina yemei shmona kav'u shir urenanim.

*Greeks gathered against me then in Hasmonean days.
They breached the walls of my towers and they defiled all the oils;
And from the remaining flask a miracle was wrought for the roses*.
Men of insight - eight days established for song and jubilation.*

* The actual Hebrew word means lillies, rather than roses. Either way, the floral reference is an affectionate term for the Jewish people.

Here is a singable English version of Rock of Ages:

Rock of Ages, let our song praise Your saving power.

You amid the raging foe were our sheltering tower.

Furious they assailed us, but Your help availed us.

And Your word broke their sword when our own strength failed us.

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Happy Chanukah!