

Blessings for Lighting the Hanukkah Candles



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

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b-mitzvotav, v-tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are you, Our God, Ruler of the Universe, who makes us holy through Your commandments, and commands us to light the Hanukkah lights.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים
הֵהָם בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, she-asah nisim la-avoteinu v-imoteinu ba-yamim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh.

Blessed are you, Our God, Ruler of the Universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in their days at this season.

On the first night of Hanukkah add this blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu v-ki'y'manu v-higianu la-z'man ha-zeh.

Blessed are you, Our God, Ruler of the Universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

A Reflection on Hanukkah



Through the dancing flames of our Hanukkiyah, we summon light into the darkness, just as our ancestor Adam did. After experiencing the darkness of night for the first time, Adam, filled with fear and dread, took two stones — one marked “darkness” and one marked “death” — and rubbed them together to produce a spark and, from the spark, a flame. Light was born of darkness and hope was born of despair.

So it is for us now. At this darkest season of the year, we find ourselves in a dark moment in our history. Like Adam, we find ourselves in the midst of despair.

- For the four million refugees who have fled violence and oppression in Syria and the additional seven million Syrian citizens currently displaced within their country’s borders.
- For the Central American children who have fled home, often without their parents, because of endless bloodshed in their native lands.
- For the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians who have fled civil war and persecution and are now homeless in their homeland.

This Hanukkah, as we place our Hanukkiyah in the window to remind the world of the miracle of Hanukkah, let us also share our prayer that all who wish to live in safety and in freedom may do so free from harm and fear of persecution. As the candles burn brightly for all to see, may we also be inspired, as Adam was, to transform darkness into light. Together, may we work to create a world in which everyone finds shelter and peace.

Food for Thought

To discuss with family and friends or simply to spark your curiosity.

Throughout the ages, Jews have experienced religious persecution and been forced to flee our homelands. Too often, we have been refused safe haven.

In what ways are there similarities between the reasons Jews were turned away and the anti-refugee rhetoric being spoken today?