



HANUKKAH

# INTRODUCTION

Hanukkah may have its roots in winter celebrations observed in ancient Mesopotamian cultures. The festivities marked the winter solstice, symbolising the triumph of increased daylight during a period when people were apprehensive about the potential decline of the sun. To counter this perceived threat, households illuminated eight flames in their dwellings for eight consecutive nights, either adding or diminishing the number of lit flames. The practice of kindling fires was a symbolic gesture mimicking the natural cycles of the Earth, believed to influence nature to prolong daylight. The significance of light, representing life, and darkness, signifying death, infused the festival with a sense of optimism.

Subsequently, Rabbinic tradition attributed divine significance to the narrative of the Maccabees, who reclaimed control of Jerusalem and Jewish life. According to this tradition, the oil used to light the Menorah in the Temple miraculously endured for eight days, adding a layer of religious meaning to the celebration. In Humanistic Judaism, the contemporary observance of Hanukkah extends beyond historical narratives, emphasising the choice to live courageously, with creativity and hope. Each lit candle symbolises a distinct human quality that can be cultivated to enhance our lives.

Displaying the candles in windows or doorways serves to publicise the "miracle" of Jewish survival against all odds, highlighting the enduring resilience and prosperity of the Jewish community. The celebration involves lighting the candles accompanied by blessings, offering an opportunity for reflection on the qualities associated with each night.

♪ HINNÉ MA TOV ♪

Hebrew

הִנֵּה מַה-טוֹב Hinné ma-tov

וּמַה-נְעִים שֶׁבֶת uma-na'im shevet

עַמִּים גַּם-יַחַד amim gam-yaḥad!

Behold how good and how  
pleasant it is for people  
to dwell together



# CANDLE LIGHTING

Lighting the shamash we say:

Hebrew

ברוך האור **Barúch ha'ór**

בַּמְסוֹרֶת הַנּוֹתֵן bamasóret hanóten  
לָנוּ שִׂשׂוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה lánu sasón vesimhá  
בְּהַדְלָקַת נֵר behadlákat ner  
שֶׁל חֲנוּכָּה: shel hanuká

Blessed is the light in the tradition

which gives us joy and happiness

in the kindling of the Hanukkah candles.



# SHEHEHEYANU

Hebrew

נְבָרְךָ אֶת Nevarech et

הַכֹּחַ בְּתוֹכֵנוּ hakoah betochenu

שֶׁהֵחַיֵּנוּ sheheheyanu

וְקִיְמָנוּ vekiyemanu

וְהִגִּיעָנוּ vehigi'anu

לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה lazzeman hazzeh.

Let us bless the strength within us  
that has enlivened us,  
sustained us,  
and brought us to this season!



## THE FIRST NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה

**Barúch or hatvuná**

Blessed is the light of reason

## THE SECOND NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצְמִי

**Barúch or hatvuná uvarúch or hakavód atzmí**

Blessed is the light of reason

and blessed is the light of self-esteem

## THE THIRD NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצְמִי

וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הָאִמֶּץ

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, uvarúch  
or ha'ómetz**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-esteem

and blessed is the light of courage.

## THE FOURTH NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצְמִי

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הָאֱמֶץ וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הַחֵירוּת

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, barúch  
or ha'ómetz uvaruch or haḥerút**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-  
esteem, blessed is the light of courage and blessed is the light  
of freedom.

## THE FIFTH NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצְמִי

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הָאֱמֶץ בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַחֵירוּת

וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הָאֲהָבָה

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, barúch  
or ha'ómetz, barúch or haḥerút, uvarúch or ha'ahavá**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-esteem, blessed is the light of courage, blessed is the light of freedom and blessed is the light of love.

## **THE SIXTH NIGHT**

בְּרוּךְ אִוֶּר הַתְּבוּנָה בְּרוּךְ אִוֶּר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצָמִי  
בְּרוּךְ אִוֶּר הָאֱמֶץ בְּרוּךְ אִוֶּר הַחֵירוּת  
בְּרוּךְ אִוֶּר הָאַהֲבָה וּבְרוּךְ אִוֶּר הַנְּאֻמָּנוּת

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, barúch or ha'ómetz, barúch or haḥerút, barúch or ha'ahavá, uvarúch or hane'emanút.**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-esteem, blessed is the light of courage, blessed is the light of freedom, blessed is the light of love and blessed is the light of loyalty.



## THE SEVENTH NIGHT

בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים  
בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים  
בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים  
בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים בָּרוּךְ אֹרֶךְ הַחַיִּים

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, barúch  
or ha'ómetz, barúch or haşerút, barúch or ha'ahavá,  
barúch or hane'emanút uvarúch or hanedivút.**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-  
esteem, blessed is the light of courage, blessed is the light of  
freedom, blessed is the light of love, blessed is the light of  
loyalty and blessed is the light of generosity



## THE EIGHTH NIGHT

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּבוּנָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַכְּבוֹד עֲצָמִי

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הָאֱמֶץ בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַחֵירוּת

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הָאֲהָבָה בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַנְּאֻמָּנוּת

בְּרוּךְ אֹר הַנְּדִיבוּת וּבְרוּךְ אֹר הַתְּקוּהָה

**Barúch or hatvuná, barúch or hakavód atzmí, barúch  
or ha'ómetz, barúch or haḥerút, barúch or ha'ahavá,  
barúch or hane'emanút barúch or hanedivút uvarúch  
or hatikvá**

Blessed is the light of reason, blessed is the light of self-esteem, blessed is the light of courage, blessed is the light of freedom, blessed is the light of love, blessed is the light of loyalty, blessed is the light of generosity and blessed is the light of hope!

# OCHO KANDELIKAS



**Eight Little Candles**  
by Flory Jagoda, 1983

[Video here](#)

Beautiful hanukah is here  
eight candles for me,  
Beautiful hanukah is here,  
eight candles for me, oh!

**Chorus:**

One little candle, two little candles,  
Three little candles, four little candles;  
Five little candles, six little candles, seven little candles,  
Eight little candles for me.

Lots of parties I will do  
With happiness and pleasure  
Dainty pastries to eat  
With almonds and honey, oh!

**Chorus:**

One little candle, two little candles,  
Three little candles, four little candles;  
Five little candles, six little candles, seven little candles,  
Eight little candles for me



Ladino

Hanukah linda sta aki  
Ocho kandelas para mi  
Hanukah linda sta aki  
Ocho kandelas para mi, oh!

Una kandelika, dos kandelikas  
Tres kandelikas, quatro kandelikas  
Sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas  
Siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi

Muchas fiestas vo fazer  
Kon alegrias i plazer  
Muchas fiestas vo fazer  
Kon alegrias i plazer  
Los pastelikos vo kumer  
Kon almendrikas i la myel  
Los pastelikos vo kumer  
Kon almendrikas i la myel, oh!

Una kandelika, dos kandelikas  
Tres kandelikas, quatro kandelikas.....



# BANU HOSHECH

Hebrew

Banu hoshech legaresh

Beyadenu or va'esh

Kol ehad hu or katan

Vechulanu or eitan

Sura hoshech, halah shchor

Sura mipnei ha'or

So the night is dark and cold  
There is light within our soul  
In our hearts there burns a flame  
Unity in freedom's name

Go away darkness, bleak as night.  
Go away, make way for light! X2



# DREIDEL GAME



ג

ש

נ

ה

GADOL

SHALOM

NA'ASEH

HAVA

GIMEL

SHIN

NUN

HAY

'TAKE ALL'

'PUT TWO IN'

'TAKE NONE'

'TAKE  
HALF THE  
POT'

“Hava Na’aseh Shalom Gadol” means “Let us Make Great Peace” and was written as an alternative to the theistic “A Great Miracle Happened There” by Rabbi Adam Chalom, SHJ



**Written and compiled by Martin Di Maggio of  
Humanistic Judaism UK and Spinoza Havurah**

**2024**

