

LIGHTING THE HANUKKAH LIGHTS

Blessed art thou, Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast sanctified us with thy commandments, and commanded us to light Hanukkah lights.

Blessed art thou, Lord our God, King of the universe, who didst perform miracles for our fathers in those days, at this season.

On the first night of Hanukkah add:

Blessed art thou, Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast granted us life and sustenance and permitted us to reach this season.

While kindling the lights from left to right:

We light these lights on account of the miracles, and wonders, triumphs and battles, thou didst perform for our fathers through thy holy priests in those days, at this season. These lights are sacred throughout the eight days of Hanukkah; we are not permitted to make any other use of them except watching them, in order to praise thy great name for thy miracles, thy wonders and thy triumphs.

הַדְּלָקַת נֵר הַחֲנֻכָּה

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְשֵׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוֵּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר חֲנֻכָּה.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר נִסִּיתָ לְאַבְרָהָם בְּיָמָיו בְּהַצִּילֵנוּ מִיַּד פְּרַעְוֹן הַמֶּלֶךְ.

On the first night of Hanukkah add:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר הַצַּדִּיקִים וְהַצַּדִּיקוּת וְהַיִּשְׁרָאֵלִים לָאוּרֵי חֲנֻכָּה.

While kindling the lights from left to right:

הַיְדָרֹת הַלֵּלֵי אֲנַחְנוּ מְדַלְקִין עַל הַנְּסִיִּים וְעַל תְּהַפְּלֹאוֹת וְעַל הַחַשְׁמוּעוּת וְעַל הַמַּלְחָמוֹת לְאַבְרָהָם בְּיָמָיו בְּהַצִּילֵנוּ מִיַּד הַמֶּלֶךְ פְּרַעְוֹן הַמֶּלֶךְ הַמִּצְרִי וְעַל יְדֵי כְהֻנֵּי תְּהַפְּלֹאוֹת וְעַל יְדֵי שְׁמֹנֶת יְמֵי חֲנֻכָּה לְהַצִּילֵנוּ מִיַּד פְּרַעְוֹן הַמֶּלֶךְ הַמִּצְרִי וְעַל יְדֵי נְפִילַתֵנוּ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתָהּ.

Philip Birnbaum. Daily Prayer Book
Hebrew Publishing Co. 1949, 1971

On Hanukkah add:

(We thank thee for the miracles, for the redemption, for the mighty deeds and triumphs, and for the battles which thou didst perform for our fathers in those days, at this season—

In the days of the Hasmonean, Mattathias ben Yoḥanan, the High Priest, and his sons, when a wicked Hellenic government rose up against thy people Israel to make them forget thy Torah and transgress the laws of thy will. Thou in thy great mercy didst stand by them in the time of their distress. Thou didst champion their cause, defend their rights and avenge their wrong; thou didst deliver the strong into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few, the impure into the hands of the pure, the wicked into the hands of the righteous, and the arrogant into the hands of the students of thy Torah. Thou didst make a great and holy name for thyself in thy world, and for thy people Israel thou didst perform a great deliverance unto this day. Thereupon thy children entered the shrine of thy house, cleansed thy Temple, purified thy sanctuary, kindled lights in thy holy courts, and designated these eight days of Ḥanukkah for giving thanks and praise to thy great name.)

On Hanukkah add:

(עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַפְּרָקָן, וְעַל הַנְּבוֹרוֹת וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת, וְעַל
הַמְּלַחְמוֹת, שְׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמֶן הַזֶּה—

בַּיָּמִי מִתְתַּיְהוּ בֶן יוֹחָנָן כְּהֵן גָּדוֹל, חֲשֵׁמוֹנִי וּבָנָיו, כְּשֶׁעָמְדָה
מַלְכוּת יוֹן הַרְשָׁעָה עַל עַמֶּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַשְׁבִּיחַם תּוֹרְתְךָ,
וּלְהַעֲבִירָם מִחֻקֵּי רְצוֹנְךָ. וְאַתָּה בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ הַרְבִּים עָמַדְתָּ לָהֶם

בְּעֵת צָרָתָם, רַבֵּת אֶת רִיבָם, דָּגַת אֶת דִּינָם, נִקְמַת אֶת נִקְמָתָם;
מִסִּרְתָּ גִבּוֹרִים בְּיַד חֲלָשִׁים, וְרַבִּים בְּיַד מְעֻטִּים, וְטַמְאִים בְּיַד
טְהוֹרִים. וּרְשָׁעִים בְּיַד צַדִּיקִים, וְזָדִים בְּיַד עוֹסְקֵי תּוֹרְתְךָ.
וְלָךְ עָשִׂיתָ שֵׁם גָּדוֹל וְקָדוֹשׁ בְּעוֹלָמְךָ, וּלְעַמֶּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל עָשִׂיתָ
תְּשׁוּעָה גְדוֹלָה וּפְרָקָן כְּהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה. וְאַחַר כֵּן בָּאוּ בָנֶיךָ לְדַבֵּר
בֵּיתְךָ, וּפְנּוּ אֶת הַיְכָלְךָ, וְטָהְרוּ אֶת מִקְדָּשְׁךָ, וְהִדְלִיקוּ נֵרוֹת
בְּחִצְרוֹת קִדְשֶׁךָ, וּקְבָעוּ שְׂמוֹנֶת יָמֵי חֲנֻכָּה אֵלָיו לְחֹדוֹת וּלְהַלָּל
לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל.)

"Al Hanisim"

From Philip Birnbaum, *Daily Prayer Book*
Hebrew Publishing Co. 1949, 1977

O God, my saving Stronghold,
To praise thee is a delight!
Restore my house of prayer,
Where I will offer thee thanks;
When thou wilt prepare havoc
For the foe who maligns us,
I will gratify myself
With a song at the altar.

My soul is sated with trouble;
My strength is consumed with grief;
They made life bitter for me
With hard service in Egypt;
But God with his great power
Brought forth the chosen people,
While all the host of Pharaoh
Sank like stone into the deep.

He brought me to his holy shrine;
Even there I found no peace;
The foe came and exiled me,
Because I had served strange gods
And was dazed with poisoned wine.
Soon Babylon's end drew near!
Guided by Zerubbabel,
I was saved after seventy years.

To cut down Mordecai's tree
Was the design of Haman;
But it proved a snare to him,
And his arrogance was stilled.
Thou didst promote Mordecai
And didst blot out the foe's name;
His numerous progeny
Didst thou hang on the gallows.

Greeks gathered to attack me
In the Hasmonean days;
They demolished my towers
And polluted all the oils;
From the last remaining flask
A miracle was wrought for Israel.
Men of wisdom then decreed
Eight days for hymns of praise.

לָךְ נִאֲהַ לְשִׁבְחָה.
וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּחַ.
מִצָּר הַמְּנַבֵּחַ.
חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.

בִּיגוֹן כָּחוּ כָלָה.
בְּשִׁעְבוֹד מַלְכוּת עֲנִלָה.
הוֹצִיא אֶת הַסִּנְיָה.
יָרְדוּ כְאֶבֶן מִצּוֹלָה.

וְגַם שֵׁם לֹא שָׁקַטְתִּי.
כִּי זָרִים עָבַדְתִּי.
בְּמַעַט שְׁעַבַרְתִּי.
לְקִץ שְׁבָעִים נוֹשַׁעְתִּי.

אֲנִי בֶן הַמִּדְבָּא.
וְנִאֲוָתוֹ נִשְׁבַּחְתָּה.
וְאוֹיֵב שְׁמוֹ מִחִיתָ.
עַל הָעֵץ תָּלִיתָ.

אֲזִי בֵימֵי חֲשֵׁמְנִים.
וְשִׁמְאוֹ כָּל הַשְּׁמַנִּים.
נַעֲשֶׂה גַם לְשׁוֹשְׁנִים.
קָבְעוּ שִׁיר וְרִנָּיִם.

The following stanza is a comparatively late addition.

וְקָרַב יוֹם הַיְשׁוּעָה.
מִמְּלָכוֹת הָרָשָׁעָה.
וְאִיוֹן קִץ לִימֵי רָעָה.
וְהִקָּם רוּעִים שְׁבָעָה.

מִעוֹ צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי
תִּכְבֹּן בֵּית תְּפִלָּתִי
לְעֵת חֲכִין מִטְּבַחַ
אֲזִי אֲנִמֵּר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר

ךְ עוֹת שְׁבָעָה נִפְשִׁי
חֲנִי מִרְרוּ בְּקִשִׁי
וּבְיָדוֹ הַגְּדוּלָּה
חֵיל פְּרַעַה וְכָל זָרְעוֹ

דְּבִיר קָדְשׁוֹ הֵבִיאֲנִי
וּבֵא נוֹגֵשׁ וְהַגְּלִנִי
וַיִּזְן רַעַל מִסִּבְּתִי
קִץ בָּבֶל, זָרְבָבֶל,

כָּרַת קוֹמַת בְּרוֹשׁ בְּקִשׁ
וְנִהְיָתָה לוֹ לְפַח וּלְמוֹקֵשׁ
רֹאשׁ יְמִינִי נִשְׂאֵת
רֵב בָּנוּ וְקִנְיָנוּ

יְוָנִים נִקְבְּצוּ עָלַי
וּפְרָצוּ חוֹמוֹת מִגְּדָלַי
וּמִנּוֹתַר קִנְקִנִּים
בְּנֵי בִינָה יְמֵי שְׁמֹנָה

חַ שׁוֹף זָרוּעַ קָדְשֶׁךָ
נִקּוּם נִקְמַת עֲבָדֶיךָ
כִּי אָרְכָה הַשָּׁעָה
דָּחָה אֲדַמּוֹן בְּצַל צֶלְמוֹן

The following stanza is a comparatively late addition. The name of the author (מרדכי) is given in the initial letters of the five stanzas. The poem alludes to the deliverance from Egypt, Babylonia, Persia, and Syria.

Philip Birnbaum. Daily Prayer Book
Hebrew Publishing Co. 1949, 1977

Rock of Ages

Based on the German version by Leopold Stein (1810–1882), and was written by Talmudic linguist [Marcus Jastrow](#) and [Gustav Gottheil](#). These are the original English lyrics, which are sometimes changed into gender neutral language.

Rock of Ages, let our song, praise Thy saving power;
Thou, amidst the raging foes, wast our sheltering tower.
Furious they assailed us, but Thine arm availed us,
And Thy Word broke their sword, when our own strength failed us.
And Thy Word broke their sword, when our own strength failed us.

Kindling new the holy lamps, priests, approved in suffering,
Purified the nation's shrine, brought to God their offering.
And His courts surrounding, hear, in joy abounding,
Happy throngs, singing songs with a mighty sounding.
Happy throngs, singing songs with a mighty sounding.

Children of the martyr race, whether free or fettered,
Wake the echoes of the songs where ye may be scattered.
Yours the message cheering that the time is nearing
Which will see, all men free, tyrants disappearing.
Which will see, all men free, tyrants disappearing.

From Wikipedia