

Chanukah Blessings

"There are two ways to live in a world that is often dark and full of tears. We can curse the darkness or we can light a light. And a little light drives out much darkness."

-Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Candles are added to the *chanukiyah* (menorah) from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. On the Shabbat of Chanukah, kindle the Chanukah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.

Light the *shamash* (the helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Chanukah lights. As you do, say or sing:

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

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are You, Holy Presence in our universe, who make us holy with mitzvot, and commands us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Holy Presence in our universe, who performed wondrous miracles for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

Shehechyanu, for first night only:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Holy Presence in our universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.