

הדלקת נרות לחנוכה

HADLAKAT NEROT L'CHANUKAH

Kindling The Chanukah Lights



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Kabbalah4All Transliteration Guidelines

Please note that transliteration guidelines are different according to each culture and also within each movement of Judaism. We have developed these guidelines for use with our transliterated documents. They may or may not apply to transliterations put out by other movements including the various organizations teaching Kabbalah.

a as in father

ai as in aisle

e as in red

ei as in eight

i as in pizza

o as in no

oy as in toy

u as in tune

ch as in Bach in German (strong sound from the throat)

g as in give

tz as in lots

' typically adds an "EH" sound after a consonant, this is known as a Shva Na or pronounced Shva as in the word "Sh'ma".

- a dash is simply used to aid in pronunciation, usually if two like vowels follow each other, as in the word "da-at."

In Hebrew, the accent generally falls on the last syllable, however it sometimes falls somewhere else in the word. In our transliteration, when the syllable falls somewhere else other than the last syllable, that stressed syllable will be underlined. Example: Melech.

Hebrew Rules

The following are some of the Hebrew rules you may notice in our siddurim (connection books).

מֶלֶךְ

In Hebrew, the accent generally falls on the last syllable, however it sometimes falls somewhere else in the word. Whenever a syllable other than the last is accented, a "meteg" (the vertical line under the first letter) will appear.

כּוֹל

The "masoret" above the letter Chaf indicates that this is a Kamatz Katan, which is pronounced as "o"; in this example the word is "kol."

יִשְׁמְחוּ

The "rafe" above a letter indicates it is a Shva Na. This example is pronounced yism'chu.

Note that the rafe does not appear above the first letter of a word that has a Shva as that is ALWAYS a Shva Na.

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All prefaces to prayers written and adapted by David Aharon L. Curtis for Kabbalah4All.

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HOW TO LIGHT THE CHANUKAH MENORAH

The Chanukah menorah or chanukiah has eight branches plus one in the middle for the shamash candle. Only put the candles needed for each day in the menorah. We should never extinguish holiday or Shabbat candles; we are to let them burn out completely on their own. When standing in front of the menorah, put the candle(s) in the menorah for the day, starting from the right (right to left just as Hebrew is written).

We always light the shamash first and then use the shamash to light the other candles of the menorah. On the first night, simply light the first candle, put the shamash back in its place in the middle holder. Recite the blessings for Lighting The Menorah and you then may continue with the rest of the blessings and songs in this connection. On the second and subsequent nights, you light the shamash and then use the shamash to light the candle of that night first and then light the rest of the candles (from left to right). So on the second night you will light the second candle and then the first candle. On Shabbat, we light the menorah before lighting Shabbat candles since we should not light any candles after them.

ABOUT CHANUKAH

The miracle of Chanukah is in the story of the victory of the Maccabim over the Greek army and that in rededicating the holy Temple, the oil that was found was only enough for one day, but burned for eight. These were effects and as we know, effects can never be causes. Causes are found in the spiritual world; effects are part of this world of malchut.

"Our world is filled with mysteries, and it is in the darkest months of the year, that the most luminous energy becomes available. The hidden is revealed and its radiance is accessible to all those who wish to partake and be nourished by it."¹

Here in this realm, we are in the process of transformation and learning to reach higher levels of consciousness. The Chanukah lights act like an antenna for holiness. As each day passes, the light of the menorah grows increasingly stronger. We place our menorahs in the window to remind the world that darkness can indeed be dispelled, obscurity can be illuminated and that it is the Light of the Creator that will prevail in the end.

1. Kabbalistic Chanukah: The Downloading of Primordial Light by Rabbi Michael Ozair.

הדלקת הנרות לחנוכה

KINDLING THE CHANUKAH LIGHTS

By lighting the Chanukah lights, we connect to the Light and S'firah of Hod. We are not lighting it as a memory of miraculous events of the past, but rather to connect to the cause of that miracle.

Baruch atah Adonai,
Blessed are You Adonai,
Eloheinu melech ha-olam,
our Elohim, Sovereign of the universe,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav,
You have sanctified us through Your mitzvot,
v'tziyanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.
and bid us to light the candles of Chanukah.

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

Baruch atah Adonai,
Blessed are You Adonai,
Eloheinu melech ha-olam,
our Elohim, Sovereign of the universe,
she-asah nisim la-avoteinu,
Who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors,
bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.
in days of old at this season.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה,
 אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
 שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
 בְּיָמֵם הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

The following blessing is only said on the first night.

Baruch atah Adonai,
Blessed are You Adonai,
Eloheinu melech ha-olam,
our Elohim, Sovereign of the universe,
shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu
for giving us life and for enabling us to reach
laz'man hazeh.
this season.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה,
 אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
 שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ
 לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Kabbalistic sages have suggested that once we light the Chanukah lights, we should sit gently in front of them and look, notice, and listen to them for they represent the light of our own soul. As you look at the Chanukah lights, you begin to notice every detail. Allow yourself to feel the light within your own soul, a light which is often lost in the distraction of so many things to do, a light that wishes to dance just as the Chanukah lights, reaching upward, trying to touch something higher, richer, and deeper. That light is your light and it can never be extinguished.

הנרות הללו

HANEROT HALALU

"These lights are holy. We must not use them for pleasure, we may only gaze upon them." They represent a primordial light which reminds us that there are higher forces at work.

Hanerot halalu,
These lights are holy,
 anachnu madlikim
we kindle them
 al hanisim, v'al hanifla-ot,
for the miracles, and for the wonders,
 v'al hat'shu-ot,
and for the salvation,
 v'al hamilchamot,
and for the victories,
 she-asita la-avoteinu
that You performed for our ancestors
 bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.
in those days past at this season.
 V'chol sh'monat y'mei Chanukah
During all the days of Chanukah
 hanerot halalu kodesh hem,
these lights are holy,
 v'ein lanu r'shut
and we are not permitted
 l'hishtamesh bahem,
to make ordinary use of them,
 ela lirotam bilvad,
but only to look at them,
 k'dei l'hodot
in order to give thanks
 l'halel l'shimcha hagadol,
and praise to Your great Name,
 al nisecha v'al nifl'otecha
for Your miracles and for Your wonders
 v'al y'shu-otecha.
and for Your salvation.

הַנְּרוֹת הַלְלוּ,
 אֲנַחְנוּ מַדְלִיקִים
 עַל הַנִּסִּים, וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת,
 וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת,
 וְעַל הַמִּלְחָמוֹת,
 שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
 בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְּמַן הַזֶּה.
 וְכָל שְׁמוֹנַת יָמֵי חֲנֻכָּה
 הַנְּרוֹת הַלְלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם,
 וְאֵין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת
 לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם,
 אֶלָּא לְרְאוֹתָם בְּלִבָּד,
 כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת
 לְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל,
 עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ
 וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתְךָ.

This psalm is recited each night of Chanukah.

מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר חֲנֻכַּת

MIZMOR SHIR CHANUKAT

Mizmor shir chanukat

*A psalm a song for the dedication of
habayit l'David.
the Temple by David.*

Aromimcha Adonai ki dilutani,
*I will exalt You Adonai for You have raised me up,
v'lo simachta oy'vai li.
and not let my foes rejoice over me.*

Adonai Elohai shivati,
*Adonai my Elohim I cried out,
Elecha vatirpa-eni.
to You and You healed me.*

Adonai he-eluta min sh'ol nafshi,
*Adonai You have raised up from the lower world my soul,
chiyutani miyuardi vor.
You have preserved me from my descent to the grave.*

Zam'ru l'Adonai chasidav,
*Sing to Adonai devout ones,
v'hodu l'zecher kodsho.
and give thanks the Holy Name.*

Ki rega b'apo,
*For but a moment endures Your anger,
chayim birtzono.
Your will is life.*

Ba-erev yalin bechi
*At evening one lies down weeping,
v'laboker rinah.
but with dawn a cry of joy.*

Va-ani amarti b'shalvi
*I had said in my serenity
bal emot l'olam.
I would not falter ever.*

Adonai birzton'cha
*Adonai through Your favor
he-emadtah l'har'ri oz,
You supported my mountain to be mighty
histarta fanecha hayiti nivhal.
when You concealed Your face I was confounded.*

Elecha Adonai ekra,
*To You Adonai I would call,
v'el Adonai etchanan.
and to You I would appeal.*

מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר חֲנֻכַּת
הַבַּיִת לְדָוִד.

אַרְוִמְכָּךְ יְהוָה כִּי דִלִּיתָנִי
וְלֹא שִׂמַּחְתָּ אֹיְבֵי לִי.

יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי שׁוּעָתִי
אֵלַיךְ וַתִּרְפָּאֵנִי.

יְהוָה הֶעֱלִיתָ מִן שְׂאוֹל נַפְשִׁי,
חֵייתָנִי מִיַּרְדֵּי בּוֹר.

זַמְּרוּ לַיהוָה חַסִּידָיו
וְהוֹדוּ לְזֵכֶר קֹדְשׁוֹ.

כִּי רָגַע בְּאָפוֹ,
חַיִּים בְּרִצּוֹנוֹ.

בַּעֲרֵב יָלִין בַּכִּי,
וּלְבֹקֶר רִנָּה.

וְאָנִי אָמַרְתִּי בְשִׁלְוִי
כֹּל אָמוּט לְעוֹלָם.

יְהוָה בְּרִצּוֹנְךָ

הֶעֱמַדְתָּה לְהַרְרֵי עֹז,

הִסְתַּרְתָּ פְנֵיךָ הֵייתִי נִבְהָל.
אֵלַיךְ יְהוָה אֶקְרָא,

וְאֵל אֲדֹנָי אֶתְחַנֵּן.

Mah betza b'dami*What gain is there in my death*b'ridti el shachat,*in my descent to the pit,*

hayod'cha afar hayagid amitecha.

will the dust acknowledge You, will it declare Your truth?

Sh'ma Adonai v'choneini,

Hear O Adonai and favor me,

Adonai he-yeh ozer li.

Adonai; be my Helper.

Hafachta misp'di l'machol li,

You have transformed my lament into dancing for me,

pitachta saki va-t'az'reni simchah.

You undid my sackcloth and You girded me with gladness.

L'ma-an y'zamercha chavod v'lo yidom,

So that I may sing to You my glory and not be silenced,

Adonai Elohai l'olam odecha.

Adonai my Elohim I will thank You.

מַה בְּצַע בְּדָמַי
 בְּרִדְתִּי אֶל שַׁחַת,
 הַיּוֹדֵךְ עֶפְר הַיְגִיד אֶמְתְּךָ.
 שְׁמַע יְהוָה וְחַנּוּנִי,
 יְהוָה הִיָּה עֹזֵר לִי.
 הִפַּכְתָּ מִסִּפְדִּי לְמַחּוֹל לִי,
 פִּתַּחְתָּ סָקִי וּתְאַרְרֵנִי שִׂמְחָה.
 לְמַעַן יִזְמְרֶךָ כְּבוֹד וְלֹא יִדָּם,
 יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי לְעוֹלָם אֲוֹדְךָ.

מעוז צור

MA-OZ TZUR

This song, which recounts the miracles throughout the ages, connects us to the six levels of Zeir Anpin, the S'firot which correspond to the emotive faculties of the soul.

CHESED חסד

Ma-oz tzur y'shuati,

Mighty Rock of my salvation,

l'cha na-eh l'shabe-ach,

it is a delight to praise You,

tikon beit t'filati,

restore my house of prayer,

v'sham todah n'zabe-ach,

there we will bring a thanks offering,

l'et tachin matbe-ach

when You will prepare the slaughter

mitzar ham'nabe-ach,

of the blaspheming foe,

az egmor b'shir mizmor,

and then I will finish by singing a song

Chanukat hamizbe-ach.

of Chanukah at the altar.

מַעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי
 לְךָ נָאֵה לְשַׁבַּח,
 תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי
 וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח,
 לְעֵת תְּכִין מִטְבַּח
 מִצַּר הַמְּנַבֵּחַ,
 אַז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר,
 חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.

גבורה GEVURAH

Ra-ot sav'ah nafshi,
Troubles have filled my soul,
 b'yagon kochi kilah,
with grief my strength has been consumed,
 chayai me-r'ru b'koshi
my life is embittered by hardship
 b'shibud malchut eglah,
with bondage of the world of the calf,
 uvyado hag'dolah
by Your great power
 hotzi et has'gulah,
You have brought forth the treasured ones,
 cheil Paroh v'chol zaro
Pharaoh's army and all his offspring
 yar'do k'even bimtzulah.
went down like a stone into the deep.

רעות שבעה נפשי,
 ביגון כחי כלה,
 חיי מררו בקשי
 בשעבוד מלכות עגלה,
 ובידו הגדולה
 הוציא את הסגלה,
 חיל פרעה וכל זרעו
 ירדו כאבן במצולה.

תפארת TIFERET

D'vir kodsho hevi-ani
I was brought to the Holy of Holies
 v'gam sham lo shakat-ti,
and also there I found no rest,
 uva noges v'higlani,
because an oppressor came and exiled me,
 ki zarim avadti,
for foreigners I had to serve,
 v'yein ra-al masachti
and I had to drink intoxicating wine
 kimat she-avarti,
scarcely had I departed,
 ketz Bavel, Z'rubavel,
at Babylonian's end, Zerubabel came,
 l'ketz shivim noshati.
at the end of seventy years I was saved.

דביר קדשו הביאני
 וגם שם לא שקטתי,
 ובא נוגש והגלני,
 כי זרים עבדתי,
 ויין רעל מסכתי
 כמעט שעברתי,
 קץ בבל, זרובבל,
 לקץ שבעים נושעתי.

נצח NETZACH

K'rot komat b'rosh bikesh
To sever the towering cypress sought
 agagi ben Ham'data,
the Aggagite son of Hamedatha,
 v'nih-y'tah lo l'fach ulmokesh,
but it became a snare and a stumbling block
 v'ga-avato nishbatah,
to him and his arrogance was stilled,
 rosh Y'mini niseta,
the head of the Benjaminite You lifted up,

כרת קומת ברוש בקש
 אגגי בן המדתא,
 ונהיתה לו לפח ולמוקש,
 וגאותו נשבתה,
 ראש ימיני נשאת,

v'oyev sh'mo machita,
and You obliterated the name of the enemy,
 rov banav v'kinyanav
his numerous progeny and his possessions
 al ha-etz talita.
on the tree You hanged.

וְאוֹיֵב שְׁמוֹ מַחִיתָ,
 רֹב בָּנָיו וְקִנְיָנָיו
 עַל הָעֵץ תִּלִּיתָ.

HOD הוד

Y'vanim nikb'tzu alai,
Greeks gathered against me
 azai bimei Chashmanim,
in the days of the Hasmoneans,
 ufar'tzu chomot migdalai
they breached the walls of my towers
 v'tim'u kol hashmanim,
and they defiled all the oils,
 uminotar kankananim
and from one remnant of the flasks
 na-asah nes lashoshanim,
was wrought a miracle from the roses,
 b'nei vinah y'mei sh'monah
children of understanding eight days
 kav'u shir urnanim.
appointed for song and jubilation.

יוֹנִים נִקְבְּצוּ עָלַי,
 אֲזַי בְּיָמֵי חַשְׁמָנִים,
 וּפָרְצוּ חוֹמוֹת מִגְדָּלַי
 וּטְמְאוּ כָּל הַשְּׁמָנִים,
 וּמִנּוֹתַר קַנְקָנִים
 נַעֲשָׂה נֵס לְשׁוֹשָׁנִים,
 בְּנֵי בִינָה יְמֵי שְׁמוֹנָה
 קָבְעוּ שִׁיר וְרִנָּנִים.

YESOD יסוד

Chasof z'ro-a kodshecha,
Bare Your holy arm
 v'korev ketz hayshu-ah,
and hasten the end for salvation,
 n'kom nikmat dam
avenge the vengeance
 avadecha me-umah har'sha-ah,
of Your servants' blood from the wicked nation,
 ki ar'chah lanu hayshuah,
for salvation is too long delayed for us,
 v'ein ketz limei hara-ah,
and there is no end to days of evil,
 d'cheh admon b'tzel tzalmon
repel the red one in the nethermost shadow
 hakem lanu ro-im shivah.
and establish for us the seven shepherds.

חַשׁוֹף זְרוּעַ קְדוֹשְׁךָ,
 וְקָרֵב קֵץ הַיְשׁוּעָה,
 נִקְם נִקְמַת דָּם
 עַבְדֶּיךָ מֵאֲמָה הָרָשָׁעָה,
 כִּי אֶרְכָּה לָנוּ הַיְשׁוּעָה,
 וְאֵין קֵץ לַיָּמֵי הָרָעָה,
 דַּחַה אֲדַמוֹן בְּצֵל צֵלְמוֹן
 הַקֵּם לָנוּ רוּעִים שִׁבְעָה.

OCHO KANDELIKAS

This is a lively Sephardic song which helps us to feel the joy and gladness of Chanukah, and is a reminder that each one of us must kindle the Chanukah (menorah) in order to connect to the energy of this Festival of Lights.

Chanukah linda sta aki, ocho kandelas para mi,
Beautiful Chanukah is here, eight candles for me,
 Chanukah linda sta aki, ocho kandelas para mi, Ay...
beautiful Chanukah is here, eight candles for me, Ay...

Una kandelika, dos kandelikas, tres kandelikas,
One little candle, two little candles, three little candles,
 quatro kandelikas, sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas,
four little candles, five little candles, six little candles,
 siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi.
seven little candles, eight candles for me.

Muchas fiestas vo fazer, con alegria y plazer,
Many parties will be held, with joy and with happiness,
 muchas fiestas vo fazer, con alegria y plazer, Ay...
many parties will be held, with joy and with happiness, Ay...

Una kandelika, dos kandelikas, tres kandelikas,
One little candle, two little candles, three little candles,
 quatro kandelikas, sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas,
four little candles, five little candles, six little candles,
 siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi.
seven little candles, eight candles for me.

Los pastelikos vo kumer, con almendrikas y la miel,
We are going to eat little pastries, with little almonds and honey,
 los pastelikos vo kumer, con almendrikas y la miel, Ay...
we are going to eat little pastries, with little almonds and honey, Ay...

Una kandelika, dos kandelikas, tres kandelikas,
One little candle, two little candles, three little candles,
 quatro kandelikas, sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas,
four little candles, five little candles, six little candles,
 siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi.
seven little candles, eight candles for me.

סביבון

S'VIVON

S'vivon sov, sov, sov,
Dreidel spin, spin, spin,
 Chanukah hu chag tov!
Chanukah is a good holiday!
 Chanukah hu chag tov!
Chanukah is a good holiday!
 s'vivon sov, sov, sov.
dreidel spin, spin, spin.

Chag simchah hu la-am,
A happy holiday for the people,
 nes gadol hayah sham,
a great miracle happened there,
 nes gadol hayah sham,
a great miracle happened there,
 chag simchah hu la-am.
a happy holiday for the people.

סְבִיבוֹן סב, סב, סב,
 חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חַג טוֹב!
 חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חַג טוֹב!
 סְבִיבוֹן סב, סב, סב.

חַג שְׂמֵחָה הוּא לְעַם,
 נֶס גְּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם,
 נֶס גְּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם,
 חַג שְׂמֵחָה הוּא לְעַם.

מי ימלא

MI YIMALEL

Mi yimalel g'vurot Yisra-el,
Who can retell the strength of Israel,
 otan mi yimneh?
who can count them?
 Hen b'chol dor yakum hagibor,
In every age a hero or sage,
 go-el ha-am.
came to our aid.

Sh'ma!
Hear!
 Bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh,
In those days past at this season,
 Macabi moshi-a ufodeh.
Maccabees saved and redeemed.
 Uvyamenu kol am Yisra-el
And now all the people Israel
 yitached yakum l'higa-el.
must unite and arise to be redeemed.

מִי יִמְלֵל גְּבוּרוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל,
 אוֹתָן מִי יִמְנֶה?
 הֵן בְּכֹל דּוֹר יִקּוּם הַגִּבּוֹר,
 גּוֹאֵל הָעָם.

שְׁמַע!
 בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה,
 מַכַּבֵּי מוֹשִׁיעַ וּפּוֹדֶה.
 וּבַיָּמֵינוּ כָּל עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל
 יִתְאַחַד יִקּוּם לְהִגָּאֵל.

AL HANISIM

Chanukah connects us to the energy of miracles. The following song helps us to harness the power of miracles so that we can create them in our life whenever they are truly needed.

Al hanisim, v'al hapurkan,
(We thank You) for the miracles, and for the deliverance,
 v'al hag'vurot, v'al
and for the heroic acts, and for
 ha-t'shu-ot, v'al hamilchamot,
the salvation, and for the victories,
 she-asita la-avoteinu
that You performed for our ancestors
 bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.
in those days past at this season.

עַל הַנְּסִים, וְעַל הַפְּרָקָן,
 וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת, וְעַל
 הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת, וְעַל הַמְּלַחְמוֹת,
 שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
 בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

For Your miracles, Hallelu-Yah,
 for this blessed freedom, Hallelu-Yah,
 for this celebration, Hallelu-Yah,
 kindle this Festival of Lights.

Hallelu-Yah, Hallelu-Yah,
 Hallelu-Yah, Hallelu-Yah,
 Hallelu-Yah, Hallelu-Yah,
 kindle this Festival of Lights.

Additional lyrics by Rebecca Schwartz.