Havdalah

God once declared to Aaron, “You shall distinguish between the sacred and the profane, the unclean and the clean.” Like Aaron, first of the priests, we who were called at Sinai to become a nation of priests are charged to make Havdalah [separation], distinguishing the sacred from the ordinary.

Our everyday task is to separate the holy and good from the unholy and evil, from all that stifles the image of God within us. This is the purpose of observing the Shabbat each week: to contemplate how we accomplish these important goals. Now it is time to say farewell to our day of holiness and rest, and look toward the week ahead as a time to put our plans into action.

Let us carry into the coming week some Shabbat hope and joy, and bring them into our lives. And let the memory of the week about to end, and hopes for the new week about to start, bring new optimism and enthusiasm to what we bring to the world.

FRUIT OF THE VINE

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha’olam, Borei p’ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

SWEET SPICES

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha’olam, Borei minei vsamim.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of all the spices.

A MULTI-WICK CANDLE

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha’olam, Borei m’orei ha’eish.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of the light of fire.
SEPARATING THIS DAY, DISTINGUISHING THE HOLY

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha’olam, Hamavdil bein kodesh l’chol.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who Separates the holy from the ordinary.


Shavua tov!

שָׁבוּעַ טוֹב!