



# LIGHTING THE MENORAH

Candles are added to the menorah from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. (On the Shabbat of Chanukkah, kindle the Chanukkah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.) Light the *shamash* (helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Chanukkah lights. As you do, sing:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ 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 Chanukkah.*

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Source of all life, who makes us holy with mitzvot and commands us to kindle the Chanukkah lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּיָּמָן הַזֶּה

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam she'asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.*

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Source of all life, who performed miracles for our ancestors in days of old at this time.

For the first night only add:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַיָּמָן הַזֶּה

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech haolam shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Source of all life, who gives us life, sustains us, and enables us to reach this joyful time.

We gather around these lights in times of darkness, sparking our imagination for a world where all people are treated with respect and dignity. As we kindle the menorah, we shine light on the power of community. We shine light on our obligation to create a more just world. In these difficult times, we pray for health, resilience, and strength. May we recommit ourselves to being present to our needs and to the needs of others. May we be intentional and generous. Let us remember that what we say and do matters. Let us create the future together, action by action, light by light, candle by candle.

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