

The first sounds of the festival are the prayers (brachot) that accompany the lighting of the candles. The first two are recited each night, the third is recited only on the first night. We light the candles starting with Shamash (leader) then from left to right. (1st Night - 2 Candles, 2nd Night - 3, 3rd Night - 4, 4th - 5, 5th - 6, 6th - 7, 7th - 8, and 8th Night - 9)

CHANUKAH BLESSINGS

FIRST BLESSING: COMMANDMENT TO KINDLE THE LIGHTS OF CHANUKAH

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

TRANSLITERATION: Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam,
asher kid-shanu b'mitzvo tav v'tizivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.(amein)

TRANSLATION: Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, Sovereign of the Universe, whose mitzvot
add holiness to our life and who gave us the mitzvah to kindle the lights of Chanukah. (amen)

SECOND BLESSING: FOR PERFORMING MIRACLE

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וּבְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

TRANSLITERATION: Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam,
sheh-asah nissim la'avoteinu ba-yamim ha-heym u-vaz'man ha-zeh. (amein)

TRANSLATION: Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, Sovereign of the Universe, who performed
miracles for our ancestors in ancient days, and in our time. (amen)

THIRD BLESSING: ENABLING US TO REACH THIS DAY (FIRST NIGHT ONLY)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

TRANSLITERATION: Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam,
she-hehayanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu laz'man ha-zeh. (amein)

TRANSLATION: Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, Sovereign of the Universe, for granting us life,
for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this day. (amen)

PLAYING DREIDEL

Each player places some object, candies, raisins, or even pennies into the kitty. Each player takes a turn spinning the *dreidel*. When only one object is left in the kitty, each player adds another object into the kitty. When a player has all the objects, (i.e. everyone else is broke), that person wins!

"Nun" means nothing. You win nothing, you lose nothing.

"Gimel" means whole, as in you take the whole thing, everyone else puts in 1 object.

"Hay" means half. You win half of what's in the kitty plus one if there is an odd number.

"Shin" (or in Israel - "Pay") means put in. You lose, and must put one object into the kitty.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Israel, a dreidel has a *pay* (פ) to signify "a great miracle happened here." But, outside of Israel, a dreidel has a *shin* (ש) to signify "a great miracle happened there."