

# Anatomy of Holy Light

Everything you need to illuminate your home on Hanukkah

## What to say:

**Night 1:** Blessing over the Hanukkah candles, blessing for Hanukkah, and *shehecheyanu*

**Nights 2-8:** Only the blessing over the Hanukkah candles and the blessing for Hanukkah



### Blessing over Hanukkah candles:

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה

### Transliteration:

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

### Translation:

Praised are You, Source of light, Who made us holy through Your commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

### Blessing for Hanukkah:

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו. ואמותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה

### Transliteration:

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, she-asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.

### Translation:

Praised are You, Bringer of seasons, Who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in those ancient days at this season.

### Shehecheyanu

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה

### Transliteration:

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu, v'kiyimanu, v'higiyanu la'zman hazeh.

### Translation:

Praised are You, Source of life, Who has given us life and sustained us and enabled us to reach this exact moment.

## How-tos & pro tips:

### Not to be a stickler, but...

A *menorah* (*meh-noh-rah*), which has only seven candleholders, was the lamp used in the ancient holy temple in Jerusalem — now a symbol of Judaism and an emblem of Israel. A *hanukkiyah* (*ha-noo-kee-yah*), however, has nine candlesticks — one for each night of Hanukkah, and an extra one to light the others.

### How to set up & light:

Many of us place the candles in the *hanukkiyah* from right to left, and then light them left to right. (After an exhaustive Google and rabbi search, we still don't know why. Some traditions aren't easily explained!)

### The "9th" candle:

There are 8 nights on Hanukkah, but 9 candles in a hanukkiyah. The extra candle is for the *shamash*, or "helper" candle. Light the *shamash* candle first, and use it to light the other candles, left to right. After lighting, put the *shamash* back in its spot and recite the blessings!

### On Hanukkah, visibility is everything:

According to tradition, placing your *hanukkiyah* near your front window brings light into a world that could frankly use more light. Publicizing the beautiful light from your *hanukkiyah* also reminds us that miracles are heightened when they are shared. The light from your *hanukkiyah* increases with every night, symbolizing our hope for the blessings in our lives to increase over time too.