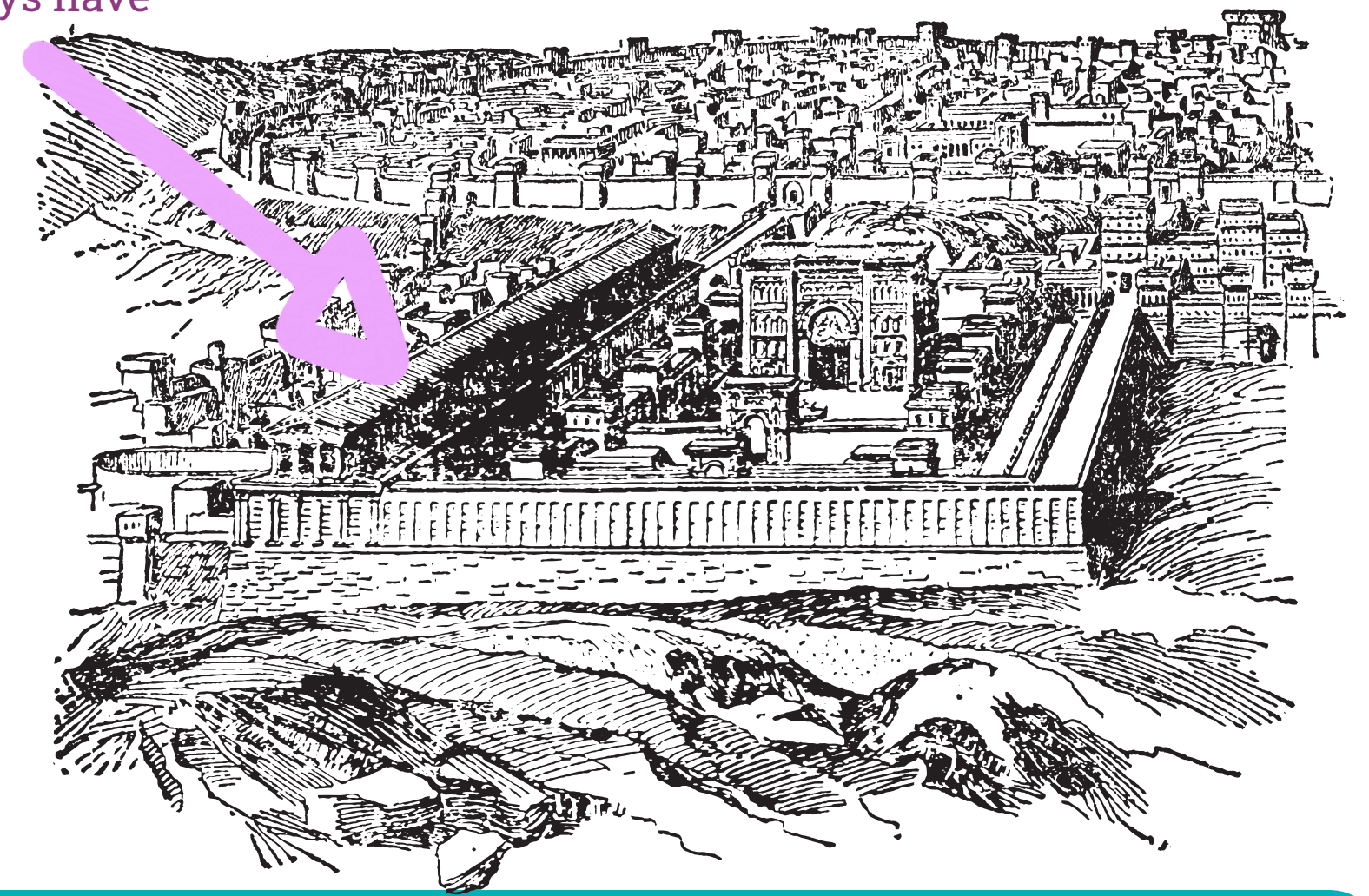


The background is a solid teal color. It is decorated with two strings of warm white string lights. One string runs diagonally from the top left towards the middle right, and the other runs diagonally from the bottom left towards the middle right. At the ends of these strings are stylized white starburst or sun-like decorations with multiple short lines radiating from a central circle.

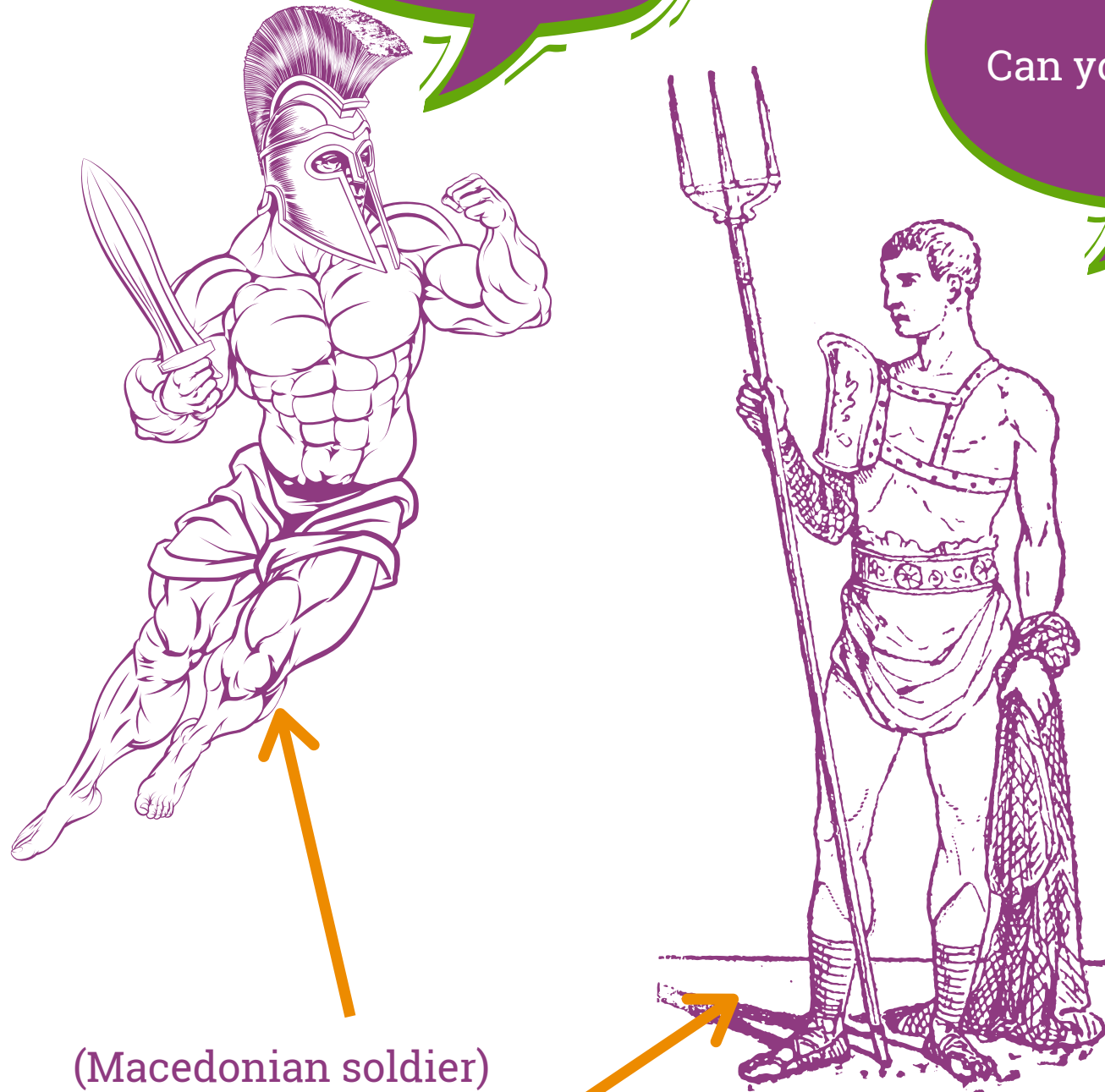
**What even IS Hanukkah?**

(This is the Kotel/Western Wall  
outside of what used to be the  
Great Temple! You guys have  
been there!)



Hellenism rules,  
Judaism drools! We  
are gonna mess  
your sh\*t up!

Can you not?



(Macedonian soldier)

(Jewish Maccabee)

### An *EXTREMELY*, overly-simplified version of the Hanukkah story:

During the time of the Second Temple, the Holy Land was ruled by the Macedonian Empire. The Macedonians felt threatened by people (i.e. Jews) who didn't practice their religion (called "Hellenism"). In a demonstration of religious domination, the Macedonian leadership robbed the Jews of their property, made it illegal to practice Jewish ritual, and desecrated the Great Temple. A band of religious zealots called the Maccabees rose up and drove the Macedonians from the land.

(\*Pro tip: Hanukkah is considered a "minor" Jewish holiday, not a "major" one. Unlike the holidays of Yom Kippur or Passover, for example, the celebration of Hanukkah is not ordained by Jewish scripture. Rather, it's a holiday observed out of tradition. Many people mistakenly believe Hanukkah is a MAJOR Jewish holiday, mostly because of its proximity to Christmas. We'll learn more about the connection between Christmas and Hanukkah in the a few slides.)

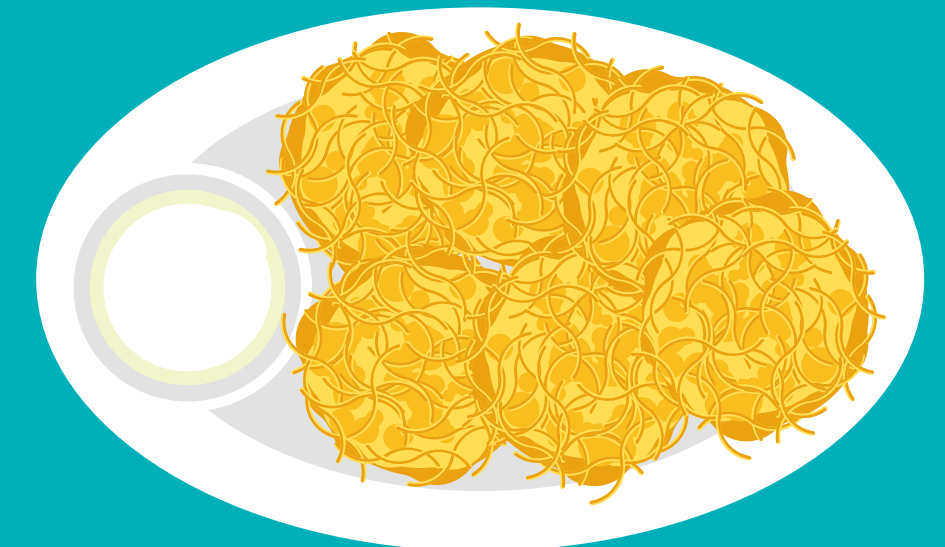


## What's the deal with oil?

Oil was a big deal in The Great Temple because it was used to perform rituals. In an effort to desecrate everything that was important and holy to the Jews, the Macedonians poured out all the oil they looted from The Great Temple.

The story goes that after the Maccabees miraculously overthrew the Macedonians, they found one jar of oil that wasn't poured out. But the jar only contained enough oil to light for one day. The Maccabees lit it anyway, and a miracle happened: The oil lasted for 8 days! That miracle proved to the Jews that God was behind them and it restored their faith in a moment when they really needed it.

For each of the 8 nights of Hanukkah, we light candles and eat foods fried in oil to remember the miracle that took place after the Maccabees defeated the Macedonians and rededicated The Great Temple as the global epicenter of Jewish life. Our homes, which represent modern epicenters of Jewish life, are rededicated every year during Hanukkah. By lighting Hanukkah candles, we fill our homes with light that increases in brightness each of the 8 nights. Additionally, Hanukkah menorahs (called "*hanukkiah*s") historically used oil to generate that light.





# The overarching message of Hanukkah:

Even when things look bad, miracles can still occur. If you fight for what you believe in, you can find strength and light in miraculous, unexpected places.

Also, the good guys always win.

honeymoon : israel  
It's about the journey