

KTAV, HOLIDAY 102
UNBREAKABLE

hanukkah

THE FEAST OF LIGHTS חנוכה

The Hanukkah Blessings • Rock of Ages • Oh Hanukkah • Mi Yemallel • Spin Sevivon

sung by Emanuel Rosenberg

produced under the direction of Judith K. Eisenstein



THE HANUKKAH SONGS

Ma-oz Tzur • Rock of Ages

(Traditional Hymn)

Ma-oz Tzur yeshuati
Leha na-eh leshabeah
Tikan bat lefiloti
Veshom todah ne-zabe-ah
La-et tabip mat-beah
Mi-tzar hamabeah
Az egmor beshir mizmor
Hanukkat ha-mizbeah.

Rock of Ages, let our song
Praise Thy saving power,
Thou amidst the raging foe
Wast our sheltering tower.

Furious they assailed us
But Thine arm availed us,
And Thy word broke their sword,
When our own strength failed us.

Oh Hanukkah

(adapted from a Yiddish Folk Song)

Oh Hanukkah! Oh Hanukkah!
Come Light the Menorah,
Let's have a party,
We'll all dance the Horah.
Gather round the table,
we'll give you a treat,
S'Vivonim to play with,
Levivot to eat.

And while we are playing
The candles are burning low,
One for each night
They shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago.

Mi Yemalleh

(Modern Israel Folk Song)

Mi yemalleh g'vurat yisrael
Otan mi yimneh
Han behol dar yakum hagibbar
Go-el ha-am,
Sh'mal Bayamim ha-hem ba-zman
ha-zeh
Makabi moshia ufodet
U-v'yamenu kol am yisrael
Yit-ahed, yakum ve-yiga al.

שמע! בימים ההם בזמן הזה
מכני מושיע ופודה
ובימינו כל עם ישראל
יתאחד, יקום ויגאל.

Who can retell the things that
befall us
Who can count them?
In every age a hero or sage came
To our aid.
Hark! At this time of year in days
of yore
Maccabees the Temple did restore,
And today our people, as we
dreamed,
Will arise, unite and be redeemed.

מי ימלל נבירות ישראל
אותו מי ימנה?
הן בכל דור יקום תנבור
גואל העם.

Spin Sevivon

(Modern Israel Folk Song)

Spin, spin, spin, spin, spin Sevivon
From Jerusalem to Giv'on
Spin to Bethel
And from there to Jezreel,
Spin away, spin away,
Greet the happy holiday,
Spin, spin sevivon,
Hurry, scurry to Giv'on.
Spin, spin, spin, spin, spin Sevivon
From Jerusalem to Giv'on
Join the Hanukkah ring,
Now's the time to dance and sing,
'They found oil for the lights,
And it burned eight wondrous
nights!
That's the story you tell
Sevivon, you know it well.

THE STORY OF HANUKKAH

More than 2000 years ago, Antiochus, a Syrian emperor, overran the Jewish homeland and turned the great Jewish Temple of Jerusalem into a place of worship for pagan idols. The Jewish army continued to fight, however, and after three years they defeated the Syrians and recaptured the city of Jerusalem.

After the victory Judah Maccabee, the leader of the Jewish army, cleansed the Temple and rededicated it as a place of Jewish worship.

In memory of these great events the Jews today, during the month of December, celebrate the Festival of Hanukkah.

THE LEGEND OF THE OIL LAMP

There is a legend that when the Syrians were driven from the Temple only a small jar of holy oil — just enough for one day — was left behind. But this tiny jar of oil burned for eight days and nights until new oil could be made with which to fill the sacred lamps. The eight candles on the Menorah symbolize this story.

HOW THE HOLIDAY IS CELEBRATED

Hanukkah is a happy holiday and is one of the few Jewish Holidays that does not have a special and elaborate religious service.

HOW THE HOLIDAY IS CELEBRATED (continued)

It is the custom to give gifts to children and to hold merry family and community gatherings during Hanukkah week.

Observances connected with Hanukkah center around the candle lighting ceremony which the head of the family performs each evening just after nightfall in the presence of the entire household.

On the first evening a single candle is lit. The number is increased by one on each evening until the last night when the full eight are kindled. The lighting of the candles is accompanied by two blessings (a third blessing, She-heh'yanu, is said only on the first night) which are followed by a group of songs, of which Ma-oz Tzur (Rock of Ages) is the best known.

The blessings and the best known traditional songs are found on this record.

CUSTOMS

There are three favorite customs connected with Hanukkah: the first is the giving of presents to children; the second is the eating of pancakes known as levivot or latkes, and the third is the merrymaking over a game of Sevivon. The Sevivon is a small top also known as a Dredl. It is spun by hand and when it comes to rest tells whether the spinner shall take raisins or nuts out of a pile on the table or forfeit them.



INTRODUCTION These lights do we kindle in remembrance of the wondrous deeds which Thou didst perform for our forefathers. On all eight nights of Hanukkah these lights shall be holy — that we may give thanks unto Thee and praise Thy name.

THE BLESSINGS

Baruh attah adonai (baruh hu u-varuh shemo)
Elohenu meleh ha-olam
Asher kid'shanu be-mitzvotav
Yetzivanu lehadlik ner shel Hanukkah. (Amen)

Blessed art Thou o Lord our God, King of the universe,
(Blessed He, Blessed His name,)
Who hast hallowed us with Thy command
To kindle the Hanukkah lights. (Amen)

ברוך אתה ה' (ברוך הוא וכבוד שמו)
אלהינו מלך העולם
אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו
להדליק נר של חנכה (אמן)

Baruh attah adonai (baruh hu u-varuh shemo)
Elohenu meleh ha-olam
She-asah nissim la-avotenu
Bayamim ha-hem ba-z'man hazeh. (Amen)

Blessed art Thou o Lord our God, King of the universe,
Who didst perform great wonders for our forefathers
In days gone by, at this season. (Amen)

ברוך אתה ה' (ברוך הוא וכבוד שמו)
אלהינו מלך העולם
שעשה נסים לאבותינו
בימים ההם בזמן הזה (אמן)

(A third Blessing, She-heh'yanu, is given only on the first night and is omitted from the record.)