

# TRADITIONAL BLESSINGS OVER THE HANUKKAH LIGHTS

*Recite or sing these blessings as you light the Hanukkiyah each night during Hanukkah:*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

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

Blessed are you, Our God, Ruler of the Universe, who makes us holy through Your commandments, and commands us to light the Hanukkah lights.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, she-asah nisim la-avoteinu v-imoteinu ba-yamim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh.*

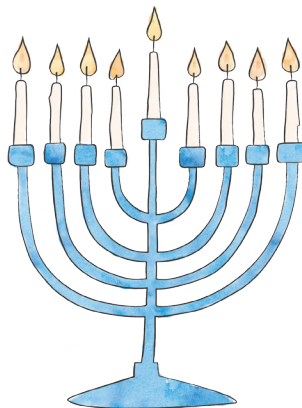
Blessed are you, Our God, Ruler of the Universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in their days at this season.

*On the first night of Hanukkah add this blessing:*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu v-ki'y'manu v-higianu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are you, Our God, Ruler of the Universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.



# A HANUKKAH READING FOR REFUGEES

## READING AFTER THE BLESSINGS

*Al Ha'Nisim is a short prayer of thanksgiving that is meant to express God's role in the miracle of Hanukkah. Sing or read the following version of the prayer and then continue aloud with the reading below the prayer.*

עַל הַנְּסִים וְעַל הַפְּרָקוֹן וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַמְּלַחְמוֹת  
שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזְמַן הַזֶּה:

*Al ha'nisim, v'al ha'purkan, v'al ha'g'vurot, ve'al ha'teshuot ve'al ha'milchamot she'asita l'avoteinu ba'yamim ha'heim ba'zman ha'zeh.*

Thank You for the miracles, for rescuing us, for the courageous acts you performed, for saving us, and for the battles you waged—in defense of our ancestors and at this season.

Thank You for the miracles, for rescuing us, for the courageous acts you performed, for saving us, and for the battles you waged—in defense of our ancestors and at this season.

As we recite these words, our thoughts turn to the 65 million refugees and displaced people still in search of their own miracles, rescue, and salvation.

**עַל הַנְּסִים** (*Al ha'nisim*). For Nene, miraculously reunited with his family following eleven years apart after they fled Congo in the middle of the night as Hutu raiders sprayed his village with gunfire.

**וְעַל הַפְּרָקוֹן** (*V'al ha'purkan*). For Mariana, rescued from violent guerillas in her native Colombia and buoyed by the kindness of strangers who have given her every possession she now owns.

**וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת** (*V'al ha'g'vurot*). For Jalal, courageously starting his life over in culinary school in America after the Taliban tried to kill his family in Afghanistan.

**וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת** (*V'al ha'teshu'ot*). For Minara, saved when she paid with her wedding ring for her family's passage from their native Myanmar to dry land after many days at sea.

**וְעַל הַמְּלַחְמוֹת** (*V'al ha'milchamot*). For Marwan, dreaming of getting married after narrowly escaping death when the Syrian army shelled his home.

In this season of wonders, may we be God's partner in bringing sanctuary to those who are not yet safe. Let us commit ourselves to taking action on behalf of the world's refugees so that their stories may bring light to the world.