

A Prayer for a Unique Moment

THANKSGIVING *e* CHANUKAH GRATITUDE AND REDEDICATION

וְאָכַלְתָּ וְשָׂבַעְתָּ וּבֵרַכְתָּ אֶת־יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ

Eat, enjoy, be nourished.

Savor the fullness and be satisfied.

Give thanks for the myriad of blessings.

— Deuteronomy 8:10



As we gather for Thanksgiving this year, we also remember the Chanukah story of the rededication of the Holy Temple. In our own day, Chanukah reminds us that the mystery of life dwells, not in a single place, but within every person, tree, plant and animal, in every rock, field, fish and stream, in every crack and crevice of creation.

Like the Chanukah lamps, all of us are sacred vessels, formed and shaped so the One light can shine through us into the world. And for that, we give thanks.

On this first day of Chanukah, as we also gather for Thanksgiving, let us offer gratitude for the beauty and wonder of creation. And let us name, if only to ourselves, some of the things that we are blessed to see and experience in the world we share.

As this Thanksgiving day becomes evening, let us kindle two small Chanukah lights to help us see our vulnerabilities, fears and pain as well as our strengths, joys, love and beauty. And let us name, if only to ourselves, the many gifts that we have received this year, and the ones we have given to others.

May these be the miracles of Chanukah: *That all of us are valued for who we are. That all of us are able to live with dignity and share the great bounty of the earth. May the full spectrum of our own light, and that of others, shine into the world. And may we rededicate ourselves to act for the well-being of all creation.*



בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Blessed is the Mystery

That brings forth bread from the earth.

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

Blessed is the Mystery

That calls us into connection

And lifts up our awareness

Through the flames of the Chanukah lights.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ בְּיָמֵים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

Blessed is the Mystery

That brings forth miracles in every moment.

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