



Hanukkah Songs

שִׁירֵי חֲנֻכָּה

in English

Hebrew &

Yiddish

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Dreidel Song

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Oh dreidel I shall play
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Oh dreidel I shall play

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when it gets all tired
It drops and then I win
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
With legs so short and thin
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
It drops and then I win

My dreidel is always playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
It loves to dance and spin
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Come play now, let's begin

Oy Hanukah, Oy Hanukah

Oy Hanukah, Oy Hanukah

A yomtov a shayner,
A lustiger a fraylicher,
Nishto noch azayner,
All nacht in draydlach shpilen mir
Zudig hayse latkes est ohn shir!
Geshvinder, tsind, kinder,
Di dininke lichtalach on
Zogt al haniseem,)
Loybt Gott far die niseem,)2X
Un kumt gicher tantzen in kon.)

Oh Hanukah, Oh Hanukah

Oh Hanukah, Oh Hanukah

Come light the Menorah
Let's have a party
We'll all dance the Hora
Gather round the table
We'll give you a treat
Dreidels to play with
And Latkes to eat
And while we are playing
the candles are burning bright
One for each night)
They shed a sweet light)2X
To remind us of days long ago)

It Was the Latkes

(Sung to the tune of "Oh Hanukah")

Each Hanukah we glorify
brave Judas Maccabeus
Who had the courage to destroy
Antiochus and free us
But it is not fair
That we should forget
Mrs. Maccabeus
To whom we owe our debt
She mixed it, she fixed it
She poured it into a bowl
You may not guess)
But it was the latkes)2X
That gave brave Judas his soul)

The Syrians said:
"It cannot be
That old Mattathias;
Whose years are more than 83
Will dare to defy us"
But they didn't know his secret you see
Mattathias dined on latkes and tea.
One latke, two latkes
And so on into the night
You may not guess)
But it was the latkes)2X
That gave him courage to fight)

So this is how it came about
This gastronomic wonder
That broke the ranks of Syria
Like flaming bolts of thunder
Mrs. Maccabeus
Wrote in the dough
Portions of the Torah
Then fried them so
They simmered, they shimmered
Absorbing the olive oil
You may not guess)
But it was the latkes)2X
That made the Syrians recoil)

Now these little Latkes
Brown and delicious
Must have hit the spot 'cause
With appetites vicious
All the heroes downed them
After their toil
Causing in our Temple
A shortage of oil
One latke, two latkes
And so on into the night
You may not guess)
But it was the latkes)2X
That gave us the Hanukah light)

Mi Y'malel

מי ימלל

מי ימלל גבורות ישראל
אותן מי ימנה?
הן בכל דור יקום הגבור,
גואל העם.

שמעו! בימים ההם בזמן הזה
מכבי מושיע ופודה.
ובימנו כל עם ישראל
יתאחד יקום להגאל!

Mi y'ma-lel g'vu-rot Yis-ra-el
O-tan mi yim-neh
Hen b'khol dor
Ya-kum ha-gi-bor go-el ha-am

Sh'ma
Ba-ya-mim ha-hem ba-z'man ha-zeh
Ma-ka-bi mo-shi-a u-fo-deh
Uv'ya-me-nu kol am Yis-ra-el
Yi-ta-heid ya-kum l'hig-ga-el

Who Can Retell?

Who can retell the things that befell 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
Through their faith and courage is
redeemed

Who can retell...

Hark!
In days of yore in Israel's ancient land
Brave Maccabeus led his faithful band
And now all Israel must as one arise
Redeem itself through deed and
sacrifice

King of the Fry

(Sung to the tune of "Who Can Retell")

Who will deny
The King of the Fry
The latke precious
Who can withhold
All glory and gold
From such as he?

Hear! Hear my friends
The stirring history
Of a people struggling to be free
Matzah is the food of liberty
Latke is the food of bravery

Tzimmes and fish
And kugel and knish
And blintze blessings
Tagelach and schnapps
Are surely the tops for Shabbes joy
(Repeat verse)

Hear! Hamentaschen for festivity
Kreplach are the food of piety
Honey for New Year's prosperity
Latke is the food for bravery

[Repeat first verse]

Ner Li

נר לי

נר לי נר לי נר לי דָּקִיק
בְּחִנְכָּה נְרִי אֲדַלִּיק
בְּחִנְכָּה נְרִי יֵאִיר
בְּחִנְכָּה שִׁירִים אֲשִׁיר

Ner li (3X) da-kik
Ba-Ha-nu-kah ne-ri ad-lik
Ba-Ha-nu-kah ne-ri ya-ir
Ba-Ha-nu-kah shir-im a-shir

My candle (3X) so small
On Hanukah I will light you all
On Hanukah my candle I'll light
On Hanukah I will sing all night

Al Hanissim

על הניסים

עַל הַנִּסִּים, וְעַל הַפְּרָקוֹן,
וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת, וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת,
וְעַל הַמְּלַחְמוֹת שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְן הַזֶּה.

Al ha-nis-sim v'al ha-pur-kan
V'al ha-g'vu-rot v'al ha-t'shu-ot
V'al ha-mil-ha-mot she-a-si-ta
la-a-vo-tei-nu
Ba-ya-mim ha-hem ba-z'man ha-zeh

We give thanks for the redeeming miracles and the mighty deeds by which, at this season, our people was saved in days of old.

Latkes

(Sung to the tune of "Downtown")

There is a treat that
Everybody should eat
A certain time of year: Latkes
While they are fixin' –
How the smell in the kitchen
Makes you smile and cheer: Latkes

With applesauce or sour cream
Both ways are really nifty
You can also eat them plain
Because they're nice and crispy

Delicious too,
You fry them in low fat oil
The Rabbi, the Cantor,
The Shammass, the Mohel

Eat Latkes - they are so good for you
Latkes - napkins you'll need a few
Latkes - eat them at Hanukah time.

Hanukah

(sung to the tune of "Matilda")

Chorus:
Hanukah, Hanukah, Hanukah,
Come light the candles
In the menorah (Repeat chorus)

We call it "Festival of Lights"
The candles burning for eight nights
Hanukah: come light the candles
In the menorah

Chorus

The Maccabees they had no fear
Because their freedom was so dear
Hanukah come light the candles in the
menorah

Chorus

Brave Judah and the Maccabees
Brought the Syrians to their knees.
We're celebrating in (Shreveport)
The battles' over ancestors fought
By now the reason is quite clear
Why we have a party every year.

Mama's Little Baby Loves Latkes

Chorus: Mama's little baby
Loves latkes, latkes.
Mama's little baby loves latkes too!
(Repeat chorus)

Put away the breads,
Put away the jelly,
Now's the time to rub your belly!
Put away the candies,
Put away the popcorn
Hanukah's the time when
Latkes were born.

Mama's little baby, (etc.)

S'vivon

סביבון

סְבִיבּוֹן סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב
חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חָג טוֹב
חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חָג טוֹב
סְבִיבּוֹן סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב

חָג שְׂמֵחָה הוּא לָעַם
נֶס גְּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם
נֶס גְּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם
חָג שְׂמֵחָה הוּא לָעַם

S'vi-von sov, sov, sov
Ha-nu-kah hu hag tov
Ha-nu-kah hu hag tov
S'vivon sov sov sov

Hag sim-ha hu la-am
Nes ga-dol ha-ya sham
Nes ga-dol ha-ya sham
Hag sim-ha hu la-am

S'vivon - spin, spin, spin
Nun and Gimmel, Hay and Shin
Gimmel stops, then I win
S'vivon - spin, spin, spin

Nun and Gimmel tell the story
Of God's wonder and God's glory
So we sing and so we celebrate
Hanukah O Hanukah

In My Chanukiah

(To the tune of "Ten Little Indians")
One little, two little, three little candles,
Four little, five little, six little candles,
Seven little, eight little,
Hanukah candles,
In my Chanukiah

Hanukah, Hanukah

חנכה חנכה

חֲנֻכָּה חֲנֻכָּה חָג יְפֵה כָּל כָּךְ
אוֹר חֲבִיב מְסֻבָּב, גִּיל לְיָלֵד רָךְ
חֲנֻכָּה חֲנֻכָּה סְבִיבּוֹן סוֹב סוֹב
סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב, סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב
מֵה נְעִים וְטוֹב

Ha-nu-kah Ha-nu-kah
Hag ya-feh kol kakh
Or ha-viv mi-sa-viv
Gil l'ye-led rakh
Ha-nu-kah Ha-nu-kah
S'vi-von sov sov
Sov (6X)
Ma na-im va-tov

Ha-nu-kah Ha-nu-kah
Ein ha-lon b'li eish
L'vi-vot suf-ga-ni-yot b'khol ba-yit yeish
Ha-nu-kah Ha-nu-kah
Hag ha-viv m'od
Shi-ru na, zam-ru na u-ts'u lir-kod

Hanukah, Hanukah, happy holiday
Candles burn, dreidels turn
This is what they say
Hanukah, Hanukah,
Sing a song of cheer
Let's have fun, everyone
Hanukah is here!

How Many Candles?

How many candles (3X)
Do we light?
On our chanukiah (2X)
The first (second...eighth)
Hanukah night

One (6X) One candle burning (2X)
The first Hanukah night (2nd - 8th)

Not By Might

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Not by might and not by power }
By spirit alone (RUAH!) }2X
Shall we all live in peace }
Children sing, children dream
Though their tears may fall
You can hear them call
And another song will rise! (3X)

Chorus

[Ending:]

Not by might! Not by power! Shalom!

Light One Candle

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Light one candle
For the Maccabee children
Give thanks that their light didn't die
Light one candle
For the pain that they endured
When their right to exist was denied
Light one candle
For the terrible sacrifice
Justice and freedom demand
Light one candle
For the wisdom to know
When the peacemaker's time is at hand
Don't let the light go out
It's lasted for so many years
Don't let the light go out
Let it shine through
Our love and our tears

Light one candle

For the strength that we need
To never become our own foe

Light one candle

For those who are suffering
The pain we learned
So long ago

Light one candle

For all we believe in
Let anger not tear us apart

Light one candle

To bind us together
With peace as the song in our heart

Don't let the light go out...
What is the memory
That's valued so highly
That we keep it alive in that flame?
What's the commitment
To those who have died
When we cry out
"They've not died in vain?"
We have come this far always believing
That justice will somehow prevail
This is our burden
And this is the promise
And this is why we will prevail
Don't let the light go out...

Maoz Tzur / Rock of Ages מעוז צור

מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי,
לְךָ נֶאֱחָה לְשִׁבְחֲךָ;
תִּכְוֶן בַּיִת תְּפִילָּתִי
וְשֵׁם תְּנוּדָה נִזְבַּח.
לְעֵת תִּפְּיֵן מִטְּבַח,
מִצָּר הַמְּנַבֵּחַ,
אֲזִ אֶגְמֹר, בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר,
חֲנֻכַּת הַמְּזִבְּחַ.

Ma-oz tzur y'shu-a-ti
L'kha na-eh l'sha-be-ah
Ti-kon beit t'fil-la-ti
V'sham to-dah n'za-be-ah
L'et ta-kin mat-be-ah
Mi-tzar ha-m'na-be-ah
Az eg-mor b'shir miz-mor } 2X
Ha-nu-kat ha-miz-be-ah }

Rock of ages let our song
Praise Your saving power
You amid the raging foes
Were our sheltering tower
Furious they assailed us
But Your arm availed us
And Your word
Broke their sword
When our own strength failed us