

Sound Bytes of Torah from JTS: Hanukkah
[Creating the Light of Hanukkah: Sources](#)

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What is [the reason for] Hanukkah? . . . [W]hen the Greeks entered the Temple, they defiled all the oil therein. When the Hasmonean dynasty [=the Maccabees] prevailed against and defeated them, they made search and found only one cruse of oil which lay with the seal of the High Priest, but which contained sufficient for one day's lighting only. Yet a miracle occurred and they were able to light [the menorah] with this oil for eight days. The following year these [days] were appointed a festival with [the recital of] Hallel and thanksgiving.

מאי חנוכה? דתנו רבנן : בכ"ה
בכסליו יומי דחנוכה תמניא אינון,
דלא למספד בהון ודלא להתענות
בהון. שכשנכנסו יוונים להיכל
טמאו כל השמנים שבהיכל,
וכשגברה מלכות בית חשמונאי
ונצחום, בדקו ולא מצאו אלא פך
אחד של שמן שהיה מונח בחותמו
של כהן גדול, ולא היה בו אלא
להדליק יום אחד, נעשה בו נס
והדליקו ממנו שמונה ימים. לשנה
אחרת קבעום ועשאום ימים
טובים בהלל והודאה.

Light One Candle (excerpt)

By Peter Yarrow

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
A pain they learned so long ago;
Light one candle for all we believe in,
That anger not tear us apart;
And light one candle to bind us together
With peace as the song in our heart!

[Full lyrics](#)