



1 DEFINITION AND CONTEXT

The Hebrew word Hanukkah means "Inauguration". Therefore, the name of this holiday refers to the (re) inauguration of the Temple, after the Jews managed to regain control of it and defeated the Syrian-Greek regime.

According to the Hebrew calendar, Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the month of Kislev and lasts eight days.

This festivity was established after in the 2nd century BC the Jews rebelled against the government of Antiochus IV in the land of Israel. The revolt broke out after a period of political, economic, cultural and religious oppression, and ended with the indisputable victory of the Jews over the Syrian-Greek regime, thus gaining national independence, the liberation of Jerusalem and the resumption of the Temple rituals.



THE CHAG'S VALUES



DID YOU KNOW?

- The family of Hashmonaim led the revolt against the oppressing empire and was the one that regained independence at the period of the Temple.
- The educational basis of Shichvat Hashmonaim is the Maccabees, who represent the values of the ideals of Hanoar Hatzioni as a personal requirement: Freedom, Justice and Democracy.



The Semel comprises a white circle, in which a green Fleur de Lis is drawn. Inside the Fleur de Lis there is a Menorah and a wheat spike, symbolizing the national liberation and self-determination of the Jewish people, as well as the redemption Halutzi in the land of Israel.

- In Hebrew, the word Hanukkah has the same root as the word Education (חנך). The rebellion of the Jews against Antiochus IV Epiphanes sparked in order to defend their values, principles and culture. Nowadays, we as madrichim throughout the world, continue to fight against assimilation and for the fostering of the Jewish and Zionist identity of our chanichim, with the same power, dedication and passion as before, yet today we do it through education!



SYMBOLS AND CUSTOMS

• HANUKKIA

Even though the candlestick used in the Temple had seven branches (Menorah), the candlestick used in the Hanukkah festivities is called Hannukia., has eight branches, and a ninth branch which functions as the "Shamash" (the candle that lights the rest of the candles). We light the Hanukkia in memory of the Miracle of the Cruse of Oil, which burned for eight days, despite the fact that the quantity of oil was only enough for one day.

• SEVIVON "PO ve SHAM"

Children tend to play dreidel. On each side of the dreidel appears a Hebrew letter, combined they form the acronym NES GADOL HAYA PO (A Great Miracle Happened Here (in Israel). However, in the diaspora, the Pei is replaced with a Shin, creating the word "Sham" (there).

What is the Miracle to which the Dreidel refers? The Answers vary:

1. A small, national people's army, managed to defeat one of the largest and strongest armies of the time.
2. The oil that initially was enough to light the Menorah for only one day kept it lit for the eight days they needed in order to get more oil.

• PUBLICIZE THE HANUKKAH MIRACLE

One of the customs of this chag is to "Publicize the Hanukkah Miracle." Therefore, the custom is to place the Hanukkia where every passerby will be able to witness it and ask about it.

However: What does it mean for us as educators to "Publicize the Miracle"?

Our job as educators is also to "Publicize the Miracle," yet we do it through a complex educational process:

- A) **Informing** our chanichim about Hanukkah,
- B) With the aim of making them **comprehend** the events that our people went through.
- C) Allowing them to **analyze and think critically** about their current reality in light of the educational aspects this festivity conveys,
- D) Stimulating the **identification** of the chanichim with the values which derive from this festivity.
- E) Encouraging our chaverim to **act** for the continuity and strengthening of our people.





HANUKKAH RELATED QUOTES

באנו חושך לגרש : שרה לוי תנאי

"באנו חושך לגרש, בידינו אור ואש. כל אחד הוא אור קטן,
וכולנו אור איתן"

Banu Choshech Legaresh - We Come to Drive Away the Darkness / Sarah Levi Tanai

We have come to drive away the darkness, in our hands light and fire.
Each of us is a small light, and together we are a great light.

אנו נושאים לפידים : אהרון זאב

"נס לא קרה לנו - פר שמן לא מצאנו. בסלע הצבנו עד דם - ויהי אור!"

Anu Nosim Lapidim - We are Carrying Torches / Aharon Ze'ev

A miracle never happened to us. No cruse of oil did we find.
We quarried in the stone until we bled-Let there be light!



ARTICLES RELATED TO THE JAG

BY OUR ROSH CHINUCH BEMEXICO – MIRI MERCADO

We constantly change as a movement. We seek new ideas, we develop new projects and we never settle. We always want more, to change in order to improve. We do everything in order to "revive" the light, and for it to illuminate more people with higher intensity. For us, this light is strongly related to our educational philosophy, similarly to the way the words Hanukkah / חנוכה (Inauguration) and Chinuch / חינוך (Education) are intertwined; both come from the same root (חנך) and share the same purpose.

BY THE MAZKIRUT OLAMIT – SERGIO EDELSTEIN

"We come to illuminate in Hanukkah, similarly to the way we do all year round, with the educational process of the tnuva. We come to drive away the darkness, the ignorance, the intransigence and the injustice. The act of illuminating means to be open-minded and think. To think freely and critically. The light allowed the human being to seek a path, to search for meaning, to think and create. We turn on the light as educators, with the end of being able to see and allow our participants to think like free people. To be enlightened. To think. To doubt".

BY OUR SOURCES OF INSPIRATION - HERZL

"The eyes of the children sparkled. For our friend, the occasion became a parable for the enkindling of a whole nation. First one candle; it is still dark, and the solitary light looks gloomy. Then it finds a companion, then another, and yet another. The darkness must retreat".

TO READ THE COMPLETE ARTICLES WE
INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.hholamit.org.il

HANUKKAH SAMEACH

Hanoar Hatzioni

