

HAVDALAH הבדלה

Havdalah symbolizes the separation between the Sabbath day of rest, and the work week. It also encourages us to realize the separation in all areas of our lives; the special from the ordinary, the good from the bad, the new from the old. As we close this week we let go of the worries, difficulties, and errors which held us, and we look forward to a week of peace, tranquility, and inspiration.

Hinay Mah Tov

הנה מה טוב

Hiney mah tov umah naim shevet achim gam yachad. הנה מה טוב ומה נעים שבת אחים גם יחד.

How good it is, and how pleasant when we dwell together in unity.

The Rabbis tell us: As night descended at the end of the world's first Sabbath, Adam and Eve feared and wept. Then God showed them how to make fire, and by its light and warmth to dispel their darkness and terrors.

-Gates of Prayer

Filling a cup to overflowing is considered a good omen, an expression of hope that the week to follow will bring with it goodness in abundance.

Fruit of the Vine

פרי הגפן

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
borei p'ri hagafen.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם.
בורא פרי הגפן.

We praise God, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

A Jewish folktale teaches that each of us is given a second soul on Shabbat, which leaves us at the end of the Day of Rest. The fragrance of the spices is intended to give the body strength as the Sabbath soul departs.

Spices

מיני בשמים

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
borei minei v'samim.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם.
בורא מיני בשמים.

We praise God, Creator of the world's spices.

When the great Israel Baal Shem Tov saw misfortune threatening the Jews, it was his custom to go into a certain part of the forest to meditate. There he would light a fire and say a special prayer, and the miracle would be accomplished and the misfortune averted.

Later, when his disciple had occasion, for the same reason, to intercede with heaven, he said, "Creator of the Universe, listen! I do not know how to light the fire, or the words of the prayer. I do not even know the place in the forest. All I can do is tell the story." And the story was sufficient.

God created people because God loves stories.

Adapted from Elie Wiesel

(continued)

While lighting candles marks both the beginning and the end of Shabbat, the *Havdalah* candle has a meaning different from that of the *Shabbat* candles. Lighting this new fire signals commencement of the work week because fire is often an instrument of labor.

Light

האש

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
borei m'orei ha'eish.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם.
בורא מאורי האש.

We praise God, Creator of fire.

Separation

המבדיל

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol, bein or l'choshech,
bein yom hash'vi'i
l'sheishet y'mei hama'aseh. Baruch ata Adonai,
hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם.
המבדיל בין קדש לחול, בין אור לחושך.
בין יום השביעי
לששת ימי המעשה. ברוך אתה יי.
המבדיל בין קדש לחול.

We praise God for the opportunity to distinguish the holy from the ordinary, and to find some of each in the other.

Eliyahu Hanavi

אליהו הנביא

Eliyahu hanavi, Eilyahu hatishbi, Eilyahu, Eilyahu,
Eilyahu hagiladi. Bim'heira v'yameinu, yavo eileinu;
im mashiach ben David, im mashiach ben David.

אליהו הנביא, אליהו התשבי, אליהו,
אליהו הגלעדי. במהרה בימינו, יבא אלינו,
עם משיח בן דוד, עם משיח בן דוד.

Elijah the prophet, Elijah the Tishbite. Elijah of Gilead. Soon, in our days, Elijah will come with the Messiah, the son of David.

Shavua tov, shavua tov, shavua tov...
A good week, a week of peace,
May gladness reign and joy increase.

שבוע טוב, שבוע טוב, שבוע טוב...