

HAVDALAH הַבְּדֵלָה

Just as there is a ceremony welcoming Shabbat, so there is one to mark its conclusion. It is called Havdalah, which means "separation." The name havdalah is taken from the Hebrew 'le-havdil', which means to divide. This ceremony takes place on Saturday night at nightfall. It consists of blessings over wine, spices, and a braided candle.

Our Sages created Havdalah over 2,000 years ago to make the transition from Shabbat easier. We give thanks to God for making Shabbat different from the other days of the week by employing certain symbols that both remind us of the goodness we have enjoyed and point us toward a more hopeful future. Wine and fragrant spices represent the sweetness and joy of Shabbat. The braided candle symbolizes the bright, warm light that Shabbat brings to our lives. It also reminds us of how Shabbat brings us together, the many wicks combining into one flame.

Havdalah begins when the sky is dark enough to see three stars.

We begin by singing Eliyahu HaNavi. This song honors the prophet Elijah who, legend says, will bring peace to the world. We sing because we hope that the peace of Shabbat will remain in the world every day of the week.

*Eliyahu HaNavi - Eliyahu Hatishbi
Eliyahu, Eliyahu - Eliyahu Hagiladi
Bimheira v'yameinu yavo eileinu,
Im Mashiach ben David,
Im Mashiach ben David.*

אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַנְּבִיא אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַתְּשֻׁבִי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, הַגִּלְעָדִי
בְּמַהֲרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ יָבוֹא אֱלֵינוּ
עִם מְשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד, עִם מְשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד

**May the Prophet Elijah come soon,
In our time, With Messiah, son of David.**

The first "work" we do after Shabbat is lighting the havdalah candle, after which it is traditional to chant the following verses from the Psalms while holding the cup of wine:

Behold: God is my deliverance; I trust in God and I am not afraid, for God is my strength and my stronghold, the source of my deliverance. With joy, you shall draw out water from the wells of deliverance. Adonai is with us, the God of Jacob is a fortress for us. Adonai: happy is the one who trusts in you. Adonai will deliver; our Sovereign will answer us on the day we call.

הִנֵּה אֵל יְשׁוּעָתִי, אֲבֹטַח וְלֹא אֶפְחָד, כִּי
עָזִי וְזִמְרַת יְהוָה יִי, וַיְהִי לִי לִישׁוּעָה;
וַיִּשְׁאַבְתֶּם מִים בְּשִׁשׁוֹן מִמַּעַיְנֵי הַיְשׁוּעָה;
לִי הַיְשׁוּעָה עַל עֲמֹד בְּרִכְתֶּךָ סֵלָה: יִי
צְבָאוֹת עֲמָנוּ מִשְׁגֵּב לָנוּ אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב
סֵלָה: יִי צְבָאוֹת אֲשֶׁר־י אֲדָם בְּטַח בְּךָ: יִי
הוֹשִׁיעָה הַמֶּלֶךְ יַעֲנֵנוּ בַיּוֹם קְרָאֵנוּ:

Everyone repeats the words:

*La-yedhudim haytah orah v'simchah
v'sason vikar, kein tihyeh lanu.*

לְיְהוּדִים הֵיְתָה אוֹרָה וְשִׂמְחָה וְשִׂשׂוֹן
וִיקָר: כִּן תִּהְיֶה לָנוּ

**Grant us the blessing of light, of gladness, happiness and of honor, which the
miracle of freedom brought to our ancestors.**

The leader lifts the cup and says:

*Kos yeshu'ot esa uv'shem adonai
ekra.*

כּוֹס יְשׁוּעוֹת אֲשָׂא. וּבָשֵׂם יי
אֶקְרָא:

I will lift the cup of deliverance and call upon Adonai's name.

While the kiddush cup is lifted, we say:

*Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech
ha'olam, borei p'ri hagafen.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא פְרִי הַגָּפֶן.

**Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.**

Without drinking, set the cup down.

Next, lift up the B'samim -- spice box, saying:

*Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech
ha'olam, Borei minei v'samim.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא מִיְי בְשָׁמִים:

**Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe,
who creates so many different fragrances.**

Pass the spice box for each person to inhale the scent. The fragrant spices are symbolic of all the wonderful things in the world and the goodness that is in the world.

In the creation story God is called the 'Creator of the lights of fire. Therefore, our sages decided there should be at least two wicks in the havdalah candle.

The wicks produce a bright and intense flame that reminds us to begin a new week and all of its possibilities with confidence and joy. The light is symbolic of how we have come closer together with the people we love and that we begin the week strengthened by our connection to each other and to God.

Hold you hands in front of the candlelight so you can see the flame in the reflection of your fingernails as well as the shadows cast by your fingers on your palms, illustrating the distinction between light and dark.

Then hold up the candle and say:

*Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech
ha'olam, Borei m'orei ha'eish.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא מְאוֹרֵי הָאֵשׁ:

**Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe,
who creates the fiery lights.**

Raise the cup of wine and say the final Havdalah blessing which speaks of the distinction between the holiness of Shabbat and the other days of the week; ordinary and special moments; endings and beginning. When Shabbat is over it is time for us to again accept responsibility for our job as God's partner in protecting and taking care of the world.

*Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu melekh
ha-olam ha-mavdil ben Kodesh l'khol,
bein or l'khoshekh, bein yesrael
la-amim, bein yom ah'shvi-l l'sheshet
y'mei ha-ma'asse. Barukh ata Adonai
ha-mavdil ben Kodesh l'khol.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
הַמְבַדִּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל, בֵּין אוֹר
לְחֹשֶׁךְ, בֵּין יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעַמִּים, בֵּין יוֹם
הַשְּׁבִיעִי, לְשֵׁשֶׁת יָמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה: בָּרוּךְ
אַתָּה יְיָ, הַמְבַדִּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל:

**Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who
has made a distinction between the holy and the ordinary,
between light and darkness, between the people of Israel
and the heathens, between the seventh day and the six
ordinary days of the week. Praised are You, Adonai, who
has made a distinction between the holy and the ordinary.**

Allow everyone to take a sip of the wine or grape juice, and then extinguish the flames in the cup with the remaining wine.

Saying goodbye to Shabbat is bittersweet for it marks the return to ordinary time—to the work-a-day world filled with tasks, deadlines, and stress. But Shabbat happens every week, so our regret is tempered by the realization that in just six days, Shabbat will return.

שְׁבוּעַ טוֹב

Shavua tov--A good week!

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