



# HOW TO MAKE HAVDALAH

## You'll need:

1. a candle, usually braided with several wicks but any candle will do
2. some fragrant herbs or spices
3. a glass of wine or grape juice.

## The ritual:

There are different ways people do Havdalah, but basically this is the order.

1. Light the candle
2. Say the blessing over the wine
3. [Some sip it now but most sip only after the final blessing.]
4. Say the blessing for the spices and inhale their fragrance.
5. Say the blessing for the light of the fire and then find a way to use the light. One is to check if your fingernails are clean; another is to look into the eyes of the other people; another is to read this paper.
6. Sip wine here if you didn't already.
7. Extinguish the candle with wine (pour wine on plate and stub it out, or plunge the candle into the wine).
8. Sing Eliyahu haNavi.

Here is a [link to a video explaining Havdalah.](#)

Here is a [link to an animated video of the blessings and songs.](#)

In this document there are also two nice poems, and a prayer that is often said before starting Havdalah, called "Hinei El Y'shuati."

You can add to this by reading a poem, or adding a favorite song. You can also say something you want to accomplish this week, or something you are looking forward to. It is a lovely, flexible ritual that is great for families of all ages. Enjoy!

# HAVDALAH

## HINEI EL Y'SHUATI

הִנֵּה אֵל יְשׁוּעָתִי אֲבֹטַח וְלֹא אֶפְחָד: כִּי עֲזִי וְזִמְרַת יְהוָה יִי וַיְהִי לִי לְיִשׁוּעָה:  
וְשִׂאֲבֶתֶם מִיַּם בְּשִׂשׁוֹן מִמַּעַיְנֵי הַיְשׁוּעָה לִּי הַיְשׁוּעָה עַל עַמֶּךָ בְּרַכְתֶּךָ  
סֵלָה: יִי צְבָאוֹת עֲמָנוּ מִשָּׁגֵב לָנוּ אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב סֵלָה: יִי צְבָאוֹת אֲשֶׁרִי אָדָם  
בְּוֹטַח בְּךָ: יִי הוֹשִׁיעָה הַמֶּלֶךְ יַעֲנֵנוּ בְּיוֹם קִרְאָנוּ. לַיְהוּדִים הִיְתָה אוֹרָה  
וְשִׂמְחָה וְשִׂשׁוֹן וִיקָר כֵּן תִּהְיֶה לָנוּ: כּוֹס יְשׁוּעוֹת אֲשָׂא וּבִשְׁם יִי אֶקְרָא

Hinei El yeshu'ati, evtach v'-lo efchad. Ki ozi ve-zimrat Yah Adonai , vayhi li liyshu'a.  
Ush'avtem mayim b'sason mi-ma'y'nei ha-yshu'a. L'Adonai ha-y'shu'a, al amkha  
virkhatekha selah. Adonai tz'vaot imanu, misgav lanu Elohei Ya'akov selah. Adonai  
tz'vaot ashrei adam boteakh bach. Adonai hosheea, ha-Melech ya'aneinu b'yom  
kor'einu. La-Yehudim hayta orah ve-simcha ve-sasson viykar, ken tihyeh lanu. Kos  
yeshu'ot esa uvshem Adonai ekra.

*Behold, God is my unfailing help; I will trust in God and will not be afraid. God is strength and song, my Deliverer. With joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation. God alone is our help; may God bless His people. God of the universe is with us; the God of Jacob is our protection. There was light and joy; gladness and honor for the Jewish people. So may we be blessed. I will lift the cup of salvation and call upon God's Name.*

## BLESSING OVER THE WINE:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן

Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam, borei peri ha-gafen.  
*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.*

## BLESSING OVER THE SPICES:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא מִיַּיִן בְּשָׂמִים

Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam, borei minei v'samim.  
*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, Creator of many kinds of spices.*

## BLESSING OVER THE LIGHT OF THE HAVDALAH CANDLE:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא מְאוֹרֵי הָאֵשׁ

Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam, borei m'orei ha-eish.  
*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, Creator of the fire's light.*

## FINAL HAVDALAH BLESSING

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַמְבַדִּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל, בֵּין אֹר  
לְחֹשֶׁךְ, בֵּין יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעַמִּים, בֵּין יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לְשֵׁשֶׁת יָמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה, בֵּין  
קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, הַמְבַדִּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל.

Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam, ha-mavdil bein kodesh l'chol, bein or-  
le'choshekh, bein Yisrael la-amim, bein yom ha-shevi'i l'sheshet y'mai ha-ma'aseh.  
Barukh ata Adonai, ha-mavdil bein kodesh l'chol.

*Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, Who distinguishes between the sacred and the profane, between light and darkness, between Israel and other people of the world, between the seventh day and the six days of the week. Blessed are You, Who distinguishes between the sacred and the profane.*

אֱלִיָּהוּ הַנָּבִיא, אֱלִיָּהוּ הַתִּשְׁבִּי,  
אֱלִיָּהוּ, אֱלִיָּהוּ, אֱלִיָּהוּ הַגִּלְעָדִי

Eliyahu Ha-Navi, Eiliyahu Ha-Tishbi,

Eliyahu, Eiliyahu, Eliyahu Ha-Giladi.

בְּמַהֲרָה בְיָמֵינוּ, יָבֹא אֱלֵינוּ,

Bimheira veyameinu, yavo Eileinu,

עִם מָשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד.

Im Mashiach ben David (2x)

(Elijah the prophet, the Tishbite from Gilead, come quickly, in our days, with the Messiah, descendant of David.)

שְׁבוּעַ טוֹב!

Shavua tov!

Have a good week!

## OPTIONAL READINGS

This day has disappeared, like the palm tree's shadow. I call to the divine who has brought an end to the light that lit my way today. Today, the watchman announced the coming of the morning and now the night. Your righteousness is like a great mountain, that quickens the sun's setting, allowing my wrongs to quickly pass out of sight- like a yesterday that is gone or a watch in the night.

from **HAVDALAH** - Marge Piercy

The sun slides from the sky  
as the sparks of the day are tamped out.  
From the last we ignite the twisted candle  
that summons us to remember how to braid  
into the rough wool of our daily lives  
that silken skein of the bright and holy;

that reminds us we are a quilted people  
who have picked up the dye of our surroundings,  
as tall and short, as dark and light as the lands  
we have been blown to, eating of strange  
and distant trees, that we are a varied people  
braided into one;  
the candle that reminds us we pray with many  
accents, in many languages and ways.  
All are holy and burn with their own inner  
light as the strands of this wax flame together.

Let us draw in together before we scatter  
into the maze of our jobs and worries,  
let us feel ourselves in the paused dance  
that is the candle with its leaping flame:  
let us too pause before shabbat lets us go.

Let us rejoice in the fruit of the vine,  
the blood of summer sweet and warm  
on the lips, telling us, remember to enjoy  
the swift innocent pleasures of the earth.

Let us breathe the perfume of the spices.  
Ships sailed off the edges of maps into chaos,  
tribes were enslaved and rulers overthrown  
for these heady flavors more prized than gold,  
now sold like flour in the market.  
Let us not forget to savor the common wonders.

Now we drown the candle in the little lake of wine.  
The only light we have kept is inside us.  
Let us take it home to shine in our daily lives.

## LET EVENING COME – Jane Kenyon

Let the light of late afternoon  
shine through chinks in the barn, moving  
up the bales as the sun moves down.

Let the cricket take up chafing  
as a woman takes up her needles  
and her yarn. Let evening come.

Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned  
in long grass. Let the stars appear  
and the moon disclose her silver horn.

Let the fox go back to its sandy den.  
Let the wind die down. Let the shed  
go black inside. Let evening come.

To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop  
in the oats, to air in the lung  
let evening come.

Let it come, as it will, and don't  
be afraid. God does not leave us  
comfortless, so let evening come.