

FRONT OF CARD

HAVDALAH



The content of the Havdalah ceremony helps us contemplate the many ways that Shabbat is unique and different from the rest of time. Havdalah (from the Hebrew word to separate) is recited at the end of Shabbat to mark the division between the departing sacred Shabbat day and the ordinary weekday, yom chol, that is about to begin.

The Wine

Havdalah is traditionally recited after three stars are spotted in the night sky, usually about one hour after sunset. Just as we bring in Shabbat with a blessing over wine, we affirm the significance of the Havdalah ceremony by including a wine blessing here as well. Fill and raise a cup of wine, but do not yet drink, and recite the following blessing.

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, סלך העולם, בורא פרי הגפן.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

The Spices

There is a Talmudic tradition that every Jew is given an extra soul on Shabbat, and when Shabbat is concluded that extra soul is removed. The fragrance (v'samim) of spices is savored to revive us from this loss of the extra soul. The following blessing is said before inhaling the scent of the spices:

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, סלך העולם, בורא מיני בשמים.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei minei v'samim.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of the scents of spices.

BACK OF CARD

The Light

We light the candle and as we recite the blessing we look at the reflection of the light on our finger nails. Then we curl our fingers and hold our hands toward the flame of the candle allowing the fingertips to cast a shadow on the palm. In this way, the distinction between light and darkness can be seen and appreciated.

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, סלך העולם, בורא מאורי האש.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei m'orei ha-eish.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of the lights of fire.

The Blessing of Separation

The wine is now sipped. A small amount of wine is spilled into a plate to symbolize the loss of Shabbat, and the flame is extinguished in the spilled wine after we recite the following blessing.

ברוך אתה, יי אלהינו, סלך העולם, המבדיל

בין קודש לחול, בין אור לחושך, בין ישראל

לעמים, בין יום השביעי לששת ימי המעשה

ברוך אתה, יי המבדיל בין קודש לחול.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol, bein o' l'choshch, bein Yisrael laamim, bein yom hashvi-i l'sheishet y'mei hamaaseh. Baruch atah Adonai, hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who separates between the holy and ordinary, between light and dark, between Israel and the nations, between the seventh day and the six days of work. Blessed are You, Adonai who separates between the holy and ordinary.

Celebration

We sing the song Elyahu Hanavi "The Prophet Elijah" and wish everyone present - Shavu'a Tov - a good week!

אלהינו הנביא, אלהינו התשבי, אלהינו הגלעדי.

במהרה בימינו, יבוא אלינו, עם משיח בן-דוד.

Elyahu HaNavi, Elyahu HaTishbi, Elyahu, HaGiladi. Bimhara b'yameinu, yavo elainu. Im Mashiah ben David.

Elijah the prophet, Elijah the Tishbite, Elijah the Gileadite. Come speedily and in our day. Come to us, with Messiah, son of David.

These cards contain sacred texts, please handle them with respect.

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