



Candles: Bringing in the Light



Tonight begins *yom tov*, our holy day. It is Rosh Hashanah, the head or beginning of the year, the moment we begin again.

Light was the first act of Creation. When we light candles tonight, we are doing what the Creator did: bringing light into darkness and saying, "This moment matters."

Before we cover our eyes, let's make three circles in the air with our hands: one for light, one for warmth, one for love.

Now let's cover our eyes to help us focus. It is a little bit like saying: "The world is about to change, right here in this room."

Let there be light. Let there be love. Let there be sweetness in the year ahead. Now let us sing (or say) the blessing together.



Blessing over the Candles:

On Friday night, insert the words in parentheses.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ,
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל
(שַׁבָּת וְשֶׁל) יוֹם טוֹב.

*Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu,
Melech Ha'olam, asher
kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu
l'hadlik ner shel
(Shabbat v'shel) yom tov.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Guide of the Universe, who makes us holy through the mitzvot, and teaches us to light the (Shabbat candles and the) candles of this sacred day.

CREDITS

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Covering eyes, courtesy of Gail Buchbinder