

# Havdalah Ceremony

*Separation of the holy from the common*

וְלַהֲבַדֵּיל בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין הַחֹל וּבֵין הַטָּמֵא וּבֵין הַטּוֹר:

u-lahavdeel been ha-kodesh u-vain hachol u-vain ha-tamay u-vain ha-ta-or:

All READ (the translation of the above verse): *"You are to distinguish between the holy & the common, & between the unclean & the clean,"* Leviticus 10:10.

The Havdalah ceremony usually begins with the recitation of a number of biblical verses commemorating YHVH's salvation. Below are two verses often recited at Havdalah ceremonies:



ALL READ: *"Behold, YHVH is my salvation; I will trust, & not be afraid: for YHVH is my strength & my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore, with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation,"* Is 12:2-3.

ALL READ: *"I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of YHVH,"* Psalm 116:13.

Let us ponder and give thanks for the Sabbath day that is now ending. We are grateful for its many blessings: for peace and joy, rest for the body, and refreshment for the soul.

## 1. Blessing over the wine (grape juice):



This holy day is concluded with wine. We lift the cup of wine and say the blessing.

The father, or head of house, lifts the cup and prays:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן: אָמֵן

Baruch ata YHVH, Elohaynu melech ha-olam, boray pree ha-gafen. (Amen)

*Blessed are You, YHVH our God, King of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine. (Amen)*

## 2. Blessing over the spice box:



A special spice box filled with fragrant herbs (*besamim*) is used to represent the fragrance of Shabbat (the spices commonly used are cloves, cinnamon, or bay leaves). Smelling spices helps distinguish the special fragrance from the more ordinary; the *besamim* box helps illustrate the separation of the sacred from the profane.

One who says/leads this prayer holds up the spice box:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא מִיְנֵי בְשָׂמִים: אָמֵן

Baruch ata YHVH, Elohaynu melech ha-olam, boray mee-nay besameem. (Amen)

*Blessed are You, YHVH our God, King of the universe, Who creates all kinds of spices. (Amen)*

### 3. Blessing over the light:



The Havdalah candle represents light, the first element created by God at the beginning of the first week.

One who says/leads this prayer lights the candle:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא מְאֹרֵא הָאֵשׁ: אָמֵן

Baruch ata YHVH, Elohaynu melech ha-olam, boray mayoray ha-aysh. (Amen)

*Blessed are You, YHVH our God, King of the universe, Who creates the light of fire.*

(Amen)

### 4. Final blessing: (the blessing of the separation)



בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמְבַדֵּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל  
בֵּין אֹר לְחֹשֶׁךְ בֵּין יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעַמִּים בֵּין יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לְשֵׁשֶׁת  
יָמֵי הַמַּעֲשֵׂה בָרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה הַמְבַדֵּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל: אָמֵן

Baruch ata YHVH, Elohaynu melech ha-olam, ha-mavdeel bayn kodesh lechol, bayn or lay choshech bayn Yisrael la-a-meem, bayn yom ha-shvee-ee lay-sheeshet yahmay ha-ma-asay. Baruch ata YHVH ha-mavdeel bayn kodesh lehchol. (Amen)

*Blessed are You, YHVH our God, King of the universe, Who separates the sacred from the profane, light from the darkness, Israel from the nations, the seventh day of rest from the six days of labor. Blessed is the YHVH, who separates the sacred from the profane. (Amen)*

May something of the meaning and message of this holy day and our time together remain with us as we enter the new week. May the YHVH's fire burn within us, even as this candle has burned tonight. May we lift all we do to a higher plane of holiness, and may we be inspired to work with a new heart.

### 5. The candle is extinguished.