



A Coloring Book

With History & Songs of Celebration

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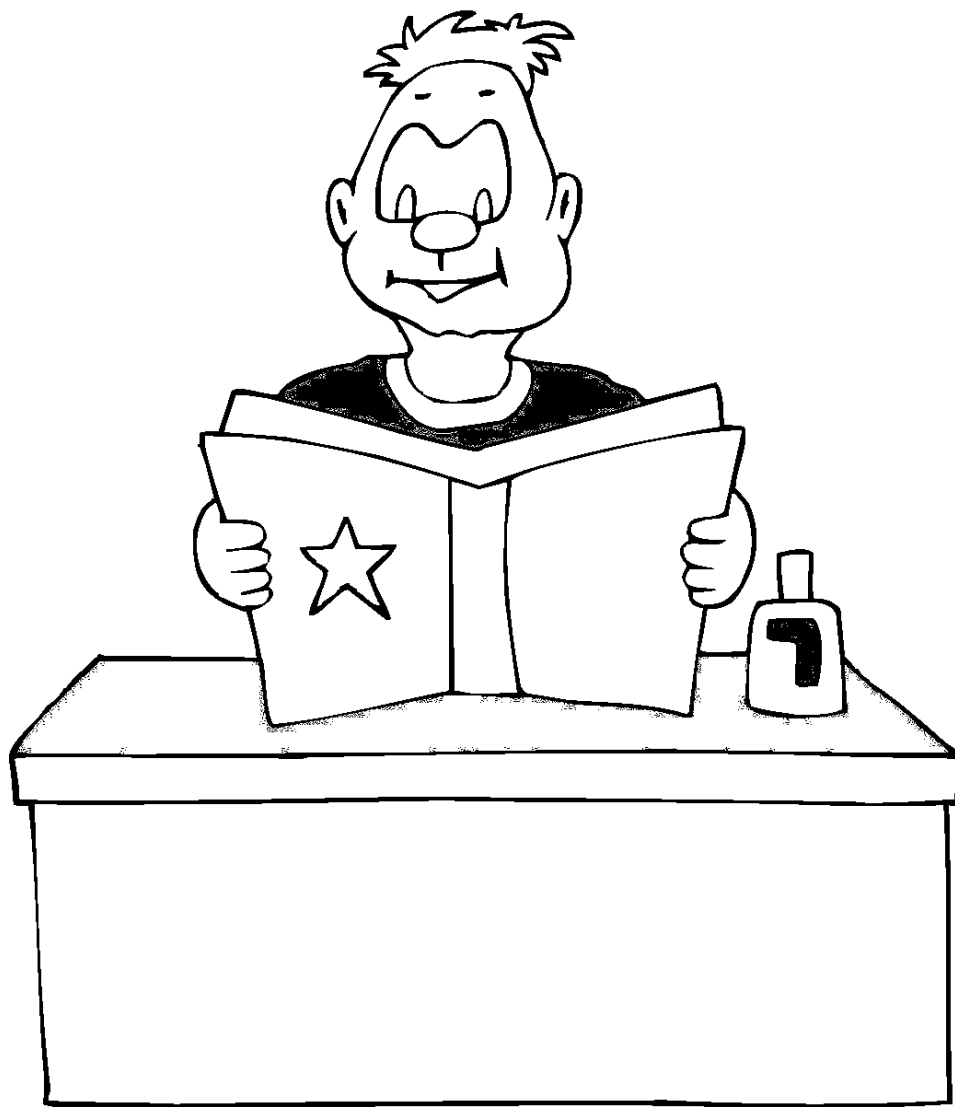
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Hanukkah: 25th day of Kislev (first day)

In 168 B.C.E. the Syrians seized the Jews' holy Temple, and King Antiochus IV ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods, decreeing that anyone caught practicing Jewish rites would be put to death. In response, the Jews waged the first rebellion in recorded history for religious freedom.

Exactly three years after the Temple was defiled, Judah Maccabee and his followers reclaimed, cleaned, and rededicated it. When they were ready to light the menorah that was always to be kept burning, however, they could find only one small flask of oil -- enough for a day. According to legend, that oil burned for eight days, the amount of time they needed to get more.

To commemorate this miracle, Jews everywhere celebrate Hanukkah (Hebrew for "dedication") by lighting menorah candles for eight nights. The celebration begins on the 25th of Kislev.

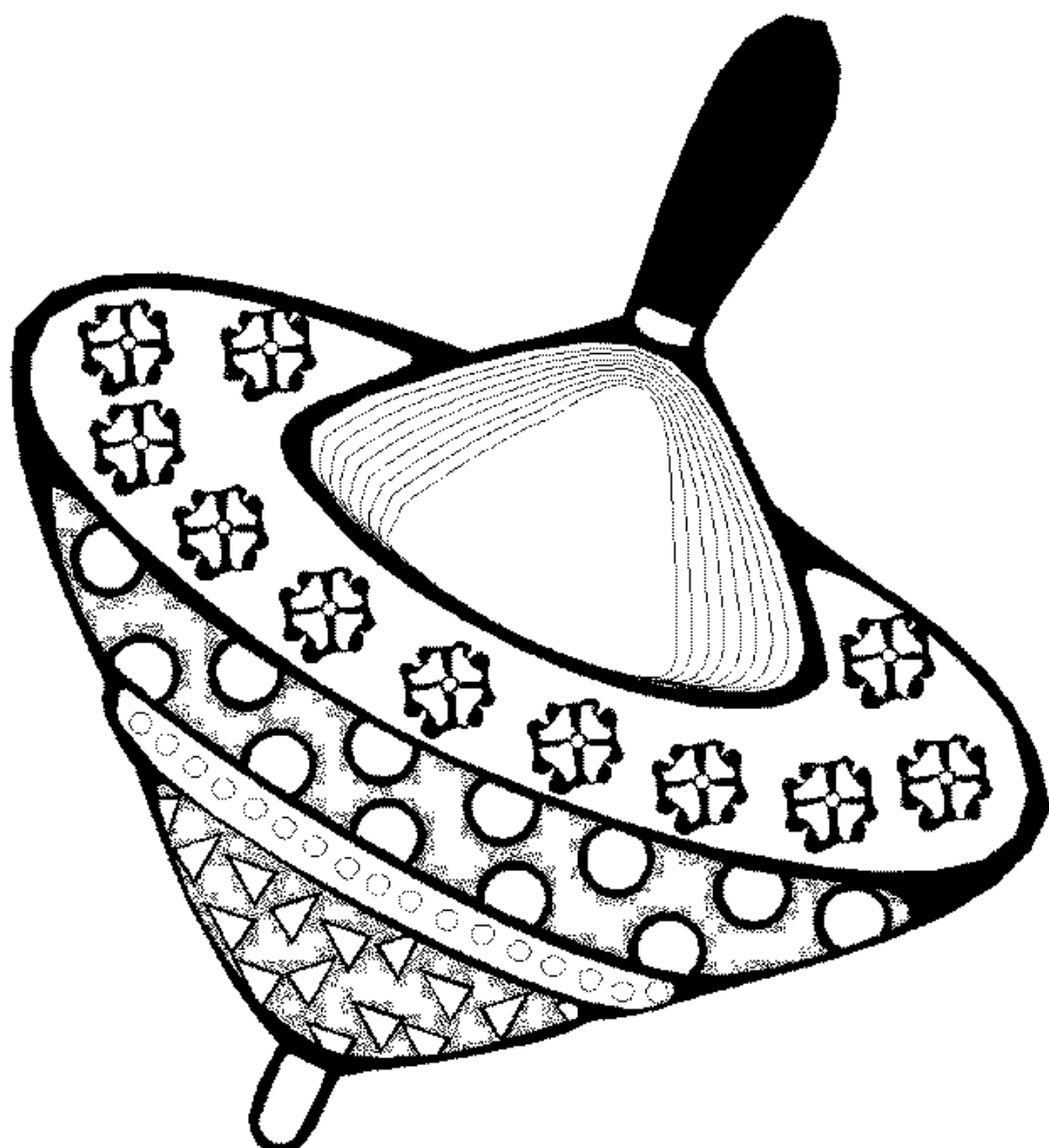


Learning about Hanukkah



Lighting the candles

The most important part of Hanukkah is lighting the menorah. The menorah is a candle holder that has spaces for eight candles, placed so that the viewer can easily see how many candles are burning. There is usually one extra candle, called the shammash, that is used for lighting the other candles. It is placed higher than the other candles to differentiate it from the other candles.



A Top



A Dreidel

It is an old custom to play games during Hanukkah. The most common game uses a dreidel. A dreidel is a top with a different Hebrew letter inscribed on each of its four sides. The four letters are nun, gimel, heh, and shin. They form an acronym - "Neis gadol hayah sham." This means, "A great miracle happened here."

Usually the stakes for the game are chocolate gold coins, called "gelt." But they could be just about anything - pennies, peanuts, raisins, or whatever. Each player puts one coin in the "pot." Then the players take turns spinning the dreidel. The letter that the dreidel stops on determines your score:

- Nun means you neither win nor lose.
- Gimel means you take the whole pot.
- Heh means you take half the pot.
- Shin means you must put a coin in the pot.



Children light the candles at Hanukkah

The menorah is lighted each night of Hanukkah after sundown. One light is added each night until the last night, when all eight candles are lighted. The candles are placed in the menorah starting on your right. Once the candles are in place, you light the shamash and then use the shamash to light the other candles from the left, (the opposite way you place the candles in the menorah.)



A chalice



Menorah



A Season of Celebration

Songs of Hanukkah

It's fun to sing while watching the Hanukkah candles.

O Hanukkah

O Hanukkah, O Hanukkah, a time to
remember,

A jolly, jolly holiday that comes in
December.

Every night for eight days dreidel to
spin,

Crispy little latkas, tasty and thin.

And nightly, so brightly,

The candles of Hanukkah glow.

Shining with glory, telling the story,

The wonders of long, long ago.



More candles being lit

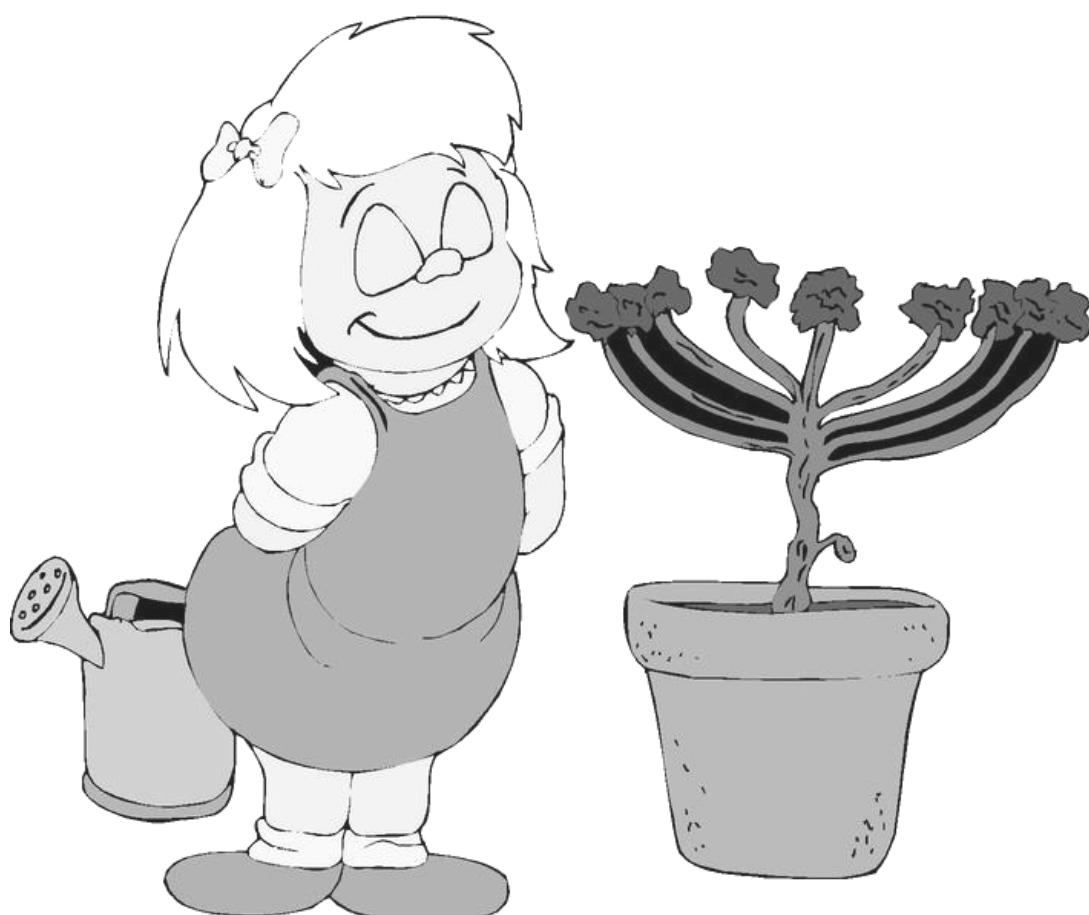
In the early days, the menorah was placed on the doorstep so all passerbys could see it. Some people still like to put it in a window so that people can see it and remember the miracle of Hanukkah.

Chanuka, oh Chanuka

Chanuka, Oh Chanuka, come light the Menorah
Let's have a party, we'll all dance the hora
Gather round the table, we'll all have a treat
Sivivon to play with, and latkes to eat.

And while we are playing
The candles are burning bright
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago.
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago.





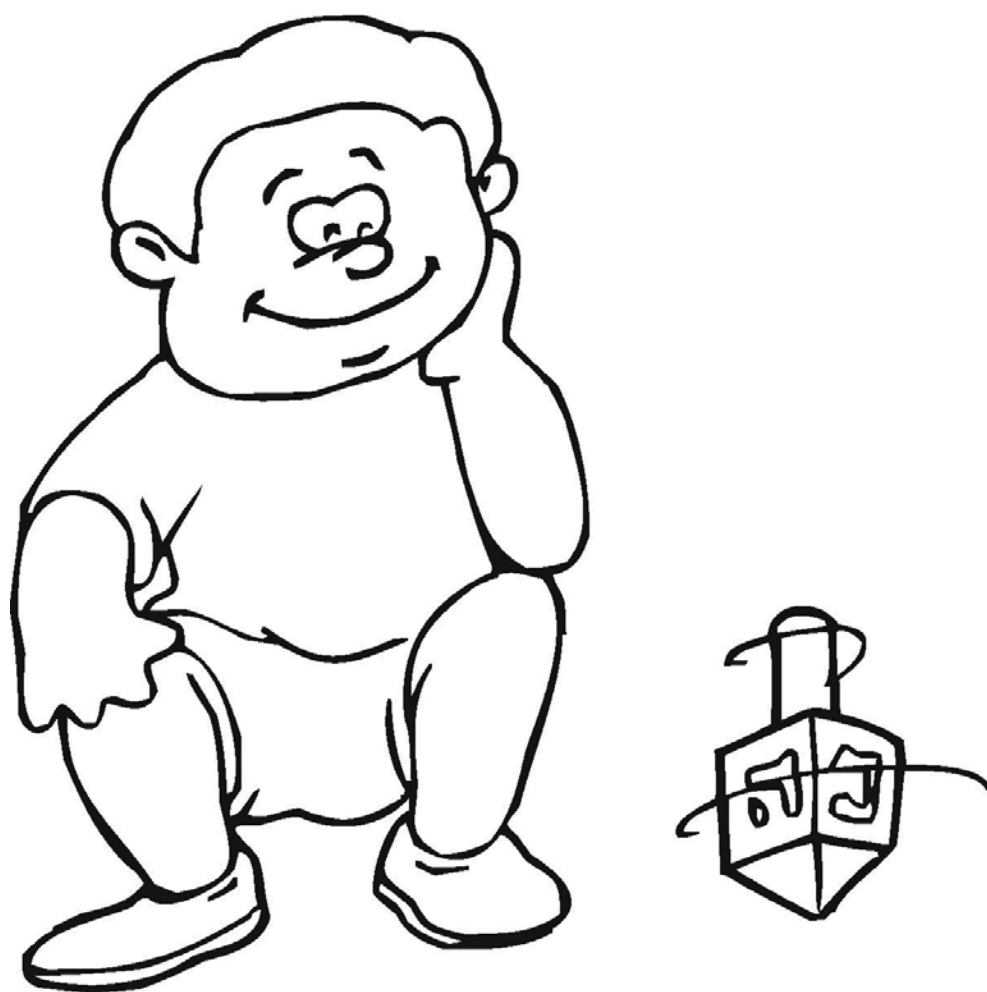
A Season of Growth



A Season of Giving

Celebrating Hanukkah

The eight days of Hanukkah are times of rejoicing, which is reflected in the original meaning of the term *Chanu Kaf-Hay*, the 25th day they rested. Hanukkah itself means "dedication." *Hallel*, or praise, is recited during the morning prayers of all eight days, and grace, or *birkat hamazon*, is said after each meal. Friends and family exchange gifts, put up Hanukkah decorations and light the Hanukkah Menorah.



Playing with a Dreidel

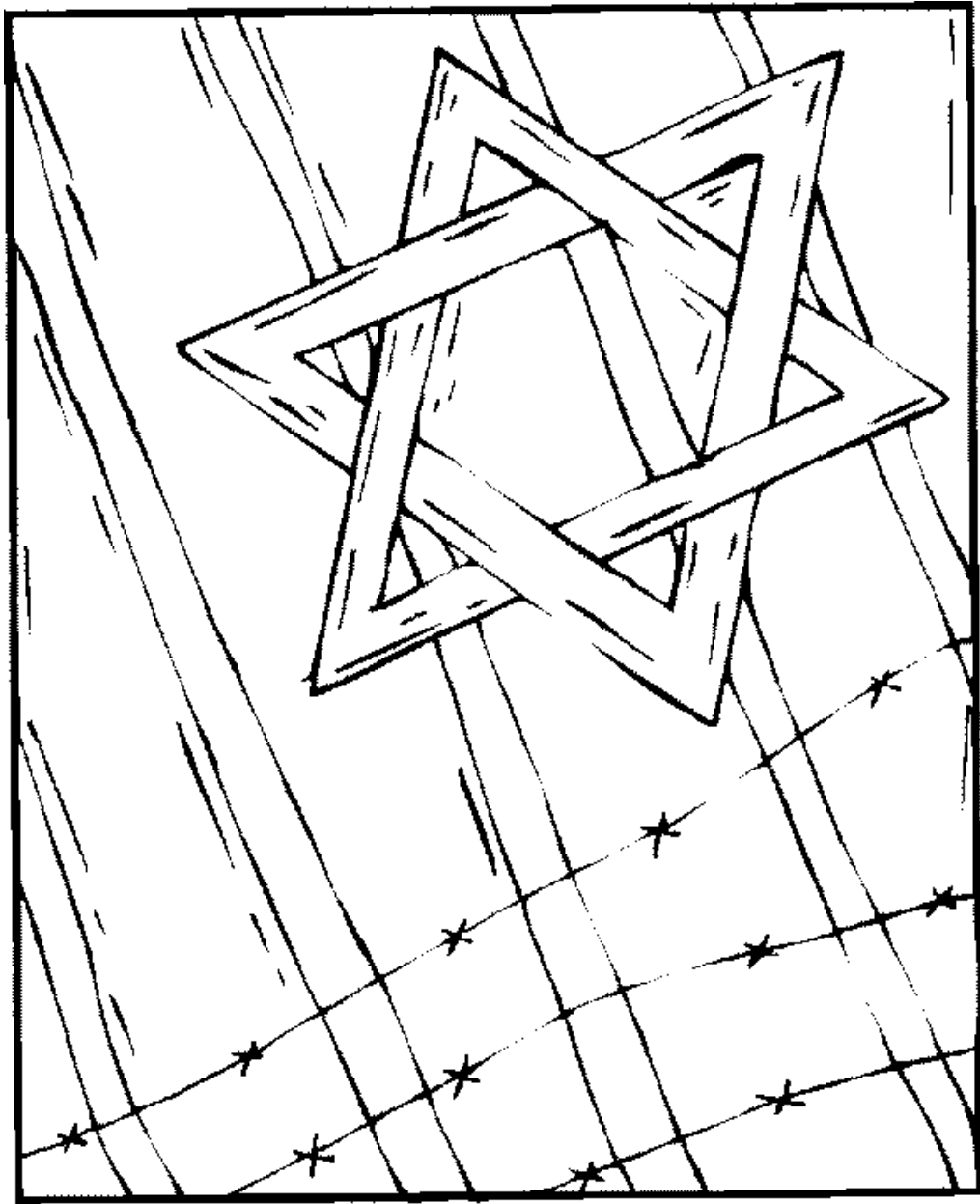
I Have a Little Dreidel

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play!

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play!

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when my dreidel's tired
It drops and then I win!

My dreidel's always playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin!



Star of David

The Magen David (shield of David, or as it is more commonly known, the Star of David) is the symbol most commonly associated with Judaism today, but it is actually a relatively new Jewish symbol.

In the 17th century, it became a popular practice to put Magen Davids on the outside of synagogues, to identify them as Jewish houses of worship in much the same way that a cross identified a Christian house of worship; however, I have never seen any explanation of why this symbol was chosen, rather than some other symbol.

The Magen David gained popularity as a symbol of Judaism when it was adopted as the emblem of the Zionist movement in 1897, but the symbol continued to be controversial for many years afterward. When the modern state of Israel was founded, there was much debate over whether this symbol should be used on the flag.

Today, the Magen David is a universally recognized symbol of Jewry. It appears on the flag of the state of Israel, and the Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross is known as the Red Magen David.



Wishing you a Happy Hanukkah!

My Notes: