

The Narrow Bridge

גשר צר מאוד

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

Short Quotes from Various Tzaddikim - Week 151

To join our Whatsapp group for daily messages, contact us at 845-641-2648

רפואה שלמה פעסל בת גאלדא / לזכות חילינו

Chanukah is the eternal testimony that the Jewish people cannot be intimidated, suppressed, or extinguished – spiritually or physically.

The menorah stands in the window to remind the world – and ourselves – that no matter how dark the night may get, our flame will continue to burn bright.

Each flicker of light is a quiet declaration: we are still here, we still believe, and we will never stop bringing goodness into the world.

BASED ON THE TEACHINGS OF THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE, RABBI MENACHEM MENDEL SCHNEERSON (1902-1994)

The real miracle of Chanukah isn't only that a small flask of oil burned longer than nature allowed. It's that in the aftermath of devastation, when the Beis HaMikdash lay defiled, when their spirits were shattered, the Jewish people still had the courage to look for purity at all.

To give up would have been understandable, to despair would have been justified, but instead, they searched – for hope, for holiness, for the strength to begin again.

The miracle begins long before the flames are lit – in the strength to keep seeking light when darkness feels overwhelming; in the quiet decision to try, to hope, to believe that one small act of holiness still matters.

And when they found that single cruse, the miracle was that they chose to light it; that they didn't wait for certainty, abundance, or guarantees. They lit the little bit that they had, regardless of the uncertainties ahead.

Chanukah reminds us that when we gather the courage to kindle the spark we still have – however small or insignificant it may seem – Hashem meets us there and transforms our simple act into a light that endures far beyond what we could have ever imagined.

BASED ON THE TEACHINGS OF THE BAAL HATANYA, RABBI SHNEUR ZALMAN OF LIADI (1745–1812)

Chanukah isn't only for those who feel inspired, uplifted, or full of light. It was given precisely for moments when the light feels distant. The miracle didn't begin with oil that burned; it began with weary people who felt small and overwhelmed, yet still took one quiet step forward. If the joy of Chanukah feels difficult to reach this year, that itself means you are standing in the very place where its message lives.

No two flames burn the same way. One flickers softly, another stands tall and steady, and a third struggles before it catches.

Chanukah does not demand a uniform light – it welcomes every kind. Your connection doesn't need to look like anyone else's to be real. A hesitant flame is still a flame, and its light counts just as much.

Just as each flame rises in its own way, so too is each soul's journey toward holy light – unique and indispensable.

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF RAV AVRAHAM YITZCHAK KOOK (1865-1935)

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שלמה פעסל בת גאלדא / לזכות חילינו

The Chanukah menorah is deliberately placed low, within ten tefachim of the ground, to teach us that holiness is not found in the sky or above the clouds, but within the shadows of real life. It reminds us that sacred light does not belong only to moments of clarity, inspiration, or spiritual confidence; it belongs just as much – and perhaps even more – to the places where a person feels exhausted, weighed down, or unsure which way is up.

The menorah shows us that holiness reveals itself most powerfully in moments of darkness and confusion – not by denying it, but by responding with light. When everything feels tangled, disoriented, and unclear, lighting a flame declares: “I may not understand, but I refuse to surrender to the dark.”

The menorah’s low placement reminds us that darkness is not a sign of distance from the Divine, it is an invitation – an invitation to kindle light right where we are, and to discover that the confusion itself can become a vessel for holiness. Even when we cannot see the path ahead, the act of bringing light can itself create direction and illuminate the path forward. A small act of courage in a confusing moment, a small act of faith in a dark moment, is not a secondary form of holiness, it’s the purest expression of holiness.

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF RABBI SHALOM LANDAU

Why is the shamash [which is used to kindle the other candles] customarily placed higher than the other candles? Because when one devotes their energies to helping others shine their light, they themselves are raised to new levels of greatness; when one chooses to give of their strength, time, or compassion so another can glow, they discover that their own soul rises as well.

The shamash serves as a reminder that greatness is not measured by how brightly we shine alone, but by how many flames we help kindle. In serving as a source of light for others, a person is gently drawn closer to their own higher calling. When we choose to be there for others – especially in moments of darkness – we are lifted to places we could never reach by ourselves. In raising others, we are raised; in lighting the way forward, we ourselves shine brighter.

INSPIRED BY THE TEACHING OF RABBI ELIMELECH BIDERMAN