

What You Need to Know About Hanukkah: Unveil the Ancient Festival of Lights



Hanukkah Trivia: Everything You Need to Know about The Jewish Holiday: What You Need to Know about Hanukkah Book by Bruce Lansky

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, is a time of joy and celebration. It commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucid Empire and the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and nights, beginning on the 25th day of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar.

Origins of Hanukkah

The story of Hanukkah begins in the 2nd century BC, during the reign of the Seleucid Empire. The Seleucids sought to suppress Jewish religious practices and assimilate the Jewish people into Greek culture. In response, a group of Jewish rebels known as the Maccabees revolted against the Seleucids.

The Maccabees were led by Judah Maccabee, a skilled military leader. After a series of battles, the Maccabees defeated the Seleucids and rededicated the Second Temple in Jerusalem. This victory is commemorated by Hanukkah.

Traditions of Hanukkah

Hanukkah is celebrated with a variety of traditions, including the lighting of the menorah, playing the dreidel, and eating latkes and Hanukkah gelt.

- **Lighting the menorah:** The menorah is a nine-branched candelabra that is lit each night of Hanukkah. The candles are lit from left to right, with the shamash (helper candle) used to light the other candles.
- **Playing the dreidel:** The dreidel is a four-sided spinning top that is used to play a game of chance. Each side of the dreidel has a Hebrew

letter: nun, gimmel, hey, and shin. These letters stand for the phrase "Nes Gadol Haya Sham" (A great miracle happened there).

- **Eating latkes:** Latkes are potato pancakes that are fried in oil. They are a traditional Hanukkah food that symbolizes the miracle of the oil that lasted for eight days.
- **Hanukkah gelt:** Hanukkah gelt is chocolate coins that are given to children during Hanukkah. They symbolize the coins that were used to play the dreidel game.

Significance of Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a significant holiday for Jewish people. It is a time to remember the victory of the Maccabees and the rededication of the Second Temple. Hanukkah is also a time to celebrate the Jewish faith and culture.

Hanukkah is a reminder of the importance of religious freedom and the power of the human spirit. It is a holiday that is filled with joy, tradition, and meaning.



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