

HANNUKA

Dear friends,

We are about to start, in a few weeks, the Holiday of Lights, or as it is commonly known, the holiday of Hannuka.

To talk about Hannukah is to talk about the history of miracles, of difficult to become reality dreams.

In the Shabbat Treaty 21a of The Babylonian Talmud we are taught:

“Our Rabbis taught: the twenty-fifth of Kislev, the days of Chanuka are eight and on them no eulogy should be pronounced or fasting take place. Because when the Greeks entered the sanctuary, they defiled all the oils that were there, and when they strengthened the kingdom of the Hashmonean house and beat them, they searched and found nothing but a single jar of oil lying under the seal of the Supreme Priest (certifying their aptitude) and didn't have but (enough quantity) to light with it a (single) day. A miracle occurred and it was lit with it for eight days. The next year (those days) were established and transformed in holidays, of praise and thanksgiving.”

For eight days we are invited to “observe” the lights of Hannuka.

After receiving the invitation to write this note, I decided to make an exercise: Try to discover “miraculous” things that could happen or difficult dreams to come true. I had to be aware of everything.

Since I got up “daily miracle to open my eyes every day” until I lay down, trying to get “miraculous” information for this article.

A week after receiving the invitation, the world witnessed a “miracle”:

In Chile, 33 miners were rescued after 69 days 700 meters underground, in the San Jose mine located in Copiapo. One billion people are estimated to have followed the images on television and the internet of this “miracle” come true.

A few days later, during a Shabbat, in the Haftorah reading (our Prophets), we read in the book of Kings II chapter 4 the story of Elisha and the woman Shunamite (resurrecting the woman's son that laid dead – there are stories of miracles in the Bible), and then during a

breakfast with Torah study in my Community, we studied the passage of Jacob and his dream of the ladder going from earth to heaven and from which the angels went up and down, and when he woke up his first words were: “G-d really is in this place, but I didn't know” (Genesis 28:16)

Perhaps the story of Hannuka with Matitiau and his five sons invites us to reflect upon:

Not always the most numerous wins. Sometimes it is good to dream from our smallness and feel that we can overcome even the most complex.

Hannuka invites us to dream awake, to dazzle and feel the shine of the glow of the lights.

Thank you for letting me write this article that allowed me to exercise “the exercise of miracles and dreams”. To be able to perceive in every moment something divine and something human, because that is what it's about transforming ourselves in partners of G-d in the Creation.

Being Jewish invites us to a wonderful challenge: get up and have our eyes open, not only to look, but to observe and perceive our surroundings and interior.

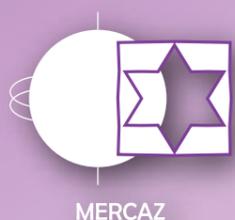
Here in South Florida, USA, we have the famous Disney World parks and I always have in my mind that welcome sign that reads: “A PLACE WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE”.

Let's learn to make our dreams come true: as Matitiau and Judah Maccabee, like the Shunamite woman who saw her son reborn, as the 33 miners who were born again of the earth and as Jacob when he realized that G-d was everywhere.

The festival of lights is waiting to enlighten us... let's open our eyes and welcome it.

Chag Urim Sameach !!

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