

# Houston Scout Shabbat

## Havdalah

### Reader

As our Havdalah service begins, I remember the Jewish definition for the starting point of a new week: 3 stars in the evening sky. In the depths of space, far beyond our solar system, these stars shine out, glowing balls of hydrogen and helium in the trackless void. They stand out, like wonderful accomplished people, many of whom are here tonight. Being a Scout, I have spent many nights camping out, observing the stars. Now, we watch and wait for 3 of them so the week may begin. We pray that our Judaism and our Scouting continue to illumine our lives.

### Please read responsively:

In the Torah we read: The Eternal One spoke to Aaron: 'You shall distinguish between the sacred and the profane.' Like Aaron, first of the priests, we who were called at Sinai to be a kingdom of priests are charged to make Havdalah.

*We must distinguish between sacred and profane, between holy and common.*

To this end has Shabbat been set aside:

*Shabbat, most precious of days; Shabbat, the day of holiness.*

Shabbat is blessed rest from daily toil. More than rest, Shabbat is freedom:

*To reach out to God, to family and friends.*

To search and hope to find goodness and beauty, holiness and truth.

*Our fathers knew Shabbat as refuge from this world's compromises, from the brutalities and hurts of competition.*

It was refuge, haven, oasis for our mothers: a day of release from earthbound pursuits, from the relentless struggle for daily bread.

*A foretaste of heaven which they called: 'Yom sheh-ku-lo Shabbat,' a time that is all Shabbat.*

But our Shabbat is here on earth, this day's earth, and end it does.

*With all reluctance we say farewell to this foretaste of heaven.*

Let us carry into the coming week some Shabbat hope and joy, and bring them into our offices and shops, the choices we make, our hours of leisure.

## Reader

### VERSES OF THANKS

The ancients took words from Scripture to voice their thanks to God who sustains us during the week. Within their words of praise was the hint of prayer for life and health in the week to come. May their loving faith be ours, as we make their words of praise our own.

#### **Please read responsively:**

Behold, God is my Help;

*trusting in the Eternal One, I am not afraid.*

For the Eternal One is my strength and my song,

*and has become my salvation.*

With joy we draw water

*from the wells of salvation.*

The Eternal One brings deliverance,

*and blessing to the people.*

The God of the hosts of heaven is with us;

*the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

God of the hosts of heaven,

*happy is the one who trusts in You!*

Save us, Eternal One;

*answer us, when we call upon You.*

Give us light and joy, gladness and honor,

*as in the happiest days of our people's past.*

Then shall we lift up the cup to rejoice in Your saving power,

*and call out Your name in praise.*

**THE LEADER RAISES THE CUP OF WINE OR GRAPE JUICE AND SAYS:**

#### **Reader**

Wine is, in Judaism, a symbol of happiness and merriment. In Scouting, the 8<sup>th</sup> point of the Scout Law is "A scout is cheerful." Just as our Jewish Scouting Awards link Judaism and scouting, we can see that both value happiness in our daily lives.

Judaism wants us to use wine to enhance our celebrations, but never at the cost of losing control, because Judaism values saving life over everything else. Scouting also wants us to enjoy ourselves, but without risking our health and safety. We should remember these ideas as we bless the wine.

*Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu  
meh-lech ha-o-lam, bo-rei p'ri  
ha-ga-fen.*

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו  
מלך העולם, בורא פרי  
הגפן.

° We give thanks for the goodness of fruit, for sun, air, and earth,  
and for all who labor on the soil.

THE LEADER HOLDS UP THE SPICE-BOX AND SAYS:

**Reader**  
B'samim

At the end of Shabbat, we smell the spices to re-awaken our minds and prepare our souls for the next week. In scouting, we promise to keep ourselves mentally awake and to be ready for what happens. Havdalah helps to prepare for the next week, just like Scouting helps prepare us for our future.

*Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu  
meh-lech ha-o-lam, bo-rei mi-nei  
ve-sa-mim.*

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו  
מלך העולם, בורא מיני  
בשמים.

° We give thanks for this world and its sweetness, and for Shabbat,  
which gives fragrance to all the days.

THE SPICE BOX IS CIRCULATED AND ALL PRESENT INHALE ITS FRAGRANCE.

THE LEADER HOLDS UP THE CANDLE AND SAYS:

**Reader**

Fire is a source of light and a symbol for light. Just as we use light for guidance when we are on our Scout journeys, our Torah, our Jewish heritage, and our Boy Scout Program provide knowledge and guidance that we can use during the journey of a lifetime. In our Jewish studies and our Scouting work, we learn to use the source of light to benefit our fellow human beings and ourselves.

**Reader**

Shabbat departs as we kindle fire and the workday begins. We, who dread the night no more, thank God for the flame by which we turn earth's raw stuff into things of use and beauty.

The Havdalah candle's double wick reminds us that all qualities are paired. We have the power to kindle many fires, some useful, others baneful. Let us be on guard never to let this gift of fire devour human life, sear cities, forests, and fields. Let the fire we kindle be holy; let it bring light and warmth to all humanity.

*Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu  
meh-lech ha-o-lam, bo-rei m'o-rei  
ha-eish.*

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו  
מלך העולם, בורא מאורי  
האש.

°We give thanks for all that gives light and warmth to flesh and  
blood.

**Reader**

SEPARATION

The light will soon be gone, and Shabbat with it, yet hope illumines the night for us, who are prisoners of hope. Amid the reality of a world shrouded in deep darkness, our hope is steadfast and our faith sure. There will come a Shabbat without Havdalah, when the glory of Shabbat, its peace and its love, will endure for ever.

THE CANDLE IS HELD HIGH AS THE LEADER SAYS:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, המבדיל בין קדש לחול, בין אור לחשך, בין ישראל לעמים, בין יום השביעי לששת ימי המעשה. ברוך אתה יי המבדיל בין קדש לחול.

° We give thanks to the One who makes distinctions, teaching us to transform the commonplace into the holy; creating light and darkness, Israel and the nations, the seventh day of rest and the six days of labor.

THE CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED BY IMMERSING IT IN THE CUP.

Ei-li-ya-hu ha-na-vi, Ei-li-ya-hu  
ha-tish-bi; Ei-li-ya-hu, Ei-li-ya-hu,  
Ei-li-ya-hu ha-gil-a-di.  
Bi-me-hei-ra ve-ya-mei-nu, ya-vo  
ei-lei-nu; im ma-shi-ach ben  
Da-vid, im ma-shi-ach ben  
Da-vid. Ei-li-ya-hu . . . .

אלהו הנביא, אלהו  
השבי; אלהו, אלהו,  
אלהו הגלעדי.  
במהרה בימינו, יבא  
אלינו; עם משיח בן  
דוד, עם משיח בן  
דוד. אלהו . . .



A good week. A week of peace. May gladness reign and light increase . . .

Sha-vu-a tov . . .

שבוע טוב . . .

**Reader**

In Scouting, we set forth to be helpful to our fellow person. This makes us different from many people, who normally seek only to help themselves. In this way, we are separate from other people on Earth. The closing prayer of the Havdalah service reminds us to separate the holy from the profane, Shabbat from the rest of the week, and each of us from the other. In the coming week, let us, as Jewish Scouts and Scouters, carry forth the spirit of Shabbat into the week, and cheerfully help to brighten the week of others.

Scouting reminds us to treat others as we wish to be treated, every day of the week. Havdalah helps us to bring the spirit of Shabbat into the coming week by bringing holiness into our daily lives.