



Share your light, the Chanukah Perspective 2021

The Chanukah Perspective is in loving memory of Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward, and Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia. May their souls be uplifted and their memories a blessing.

The Chanukah Perspective is in honor of the Refuah Shlema of HaRav Amitai Ben Shoshanna and Shaul Ben Berta.

There are two main and prevailing miracles in Chanukah's story. The first miracle is that a small group of Maccabees won an incredibly tough and brutal war against the mighty Greek armies. The second miracle is that a small oil jug lasted eight days.

Interestingly, we primarily celebrate Chanukah with the lighting of the menorah in commemoration of the oil lasting eight days. But the only celebration for Maccabees winning the war is the recital of "***V'al Hanissim - on the miracles,***" a short explanation of Chanukah that is added to the daily prayers. Why don't we remember the miracle of the Maccabees winning the war with a distinct and unmistakable commemoration?

The Lubavitcher Rebbe gives a profound explanation. He writes that from a spiritual perspective, the miracle of winning the battle is minor compared to the miracle of the oil lasting eight days.

Since finding that pure and small jug of oil amid all that destruction and ruin is extraordinary on its own. On top of all that, the oil lasted miraculously until they received new oil eight days later.

These miracles represent a spiritual awakening and rejuvenation that impacts us today. As one of the blessings of the menorah says, בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה - *Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days and these times.*

The Rebbe continues that discovering that miraculous jug represents finding souls hiding in the world's darkness. The oil lasting eight days symbolizes that previously hidden soul shining so brightly that it inspires others to do the same. Revealing the potential and holiness of every Jewish person to be a vessel and conduit for G-d in the world.

The Rebbe's lesson from the oil is ever more relevant as the world is more connected than ever. But accompanying this progress is a dense darkness that disguises the light and conceals it from us.

Yet, when we share our light and encourage others to do the same, we initiate change from beyond our imagination. We create a domino effect of other's souls shining so brightly that it reveals the holiness hiding in plain sight, the unique, special, and beautiful soul of every person.

**May we merit to share our light and celebrate Chanukah in the third
Beis Hamikdash with the ultimate redemption!**

*Have a meaningful Chanukah,
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*