Havdalah Blessings

As Shabbat ends, the Havdalah candle is lit. Some begin by reciting the following collection of biblical verses, raising the cup of wine or grape juice high as the last verse is recited.

Behold, the God who gives me triumph! I am confident, unafraid; for Adonai is my strength and might, and has been my deliverance. Joyfully shall you draw water from the fountains of triumph, deliverance is Adonai’s; Your blessing be upon Your people! Selah.
Adonai Tz’vaot is with us; the God of Jacob is our haven. Selah.
Adonai Tz’vaot. happy is the one who trusts in You. O Adonai, grant victory!
May the Sovereign answer us when we call.

This line is customarily recited by the participants first and then the leader repeats:

The Jews enjoyed light and gladness, happiness and honor. So may it be for us.

I raise the cup of deliverance and invoke the name of Adonai.

Hinei El y’shuati, evtach v’lo efchad.
Ki ozi v’zimrat Yah Adonai vay’hi li lishuah.
Ush’avtem mayim b’sason mimaay’nei hay’shuah.
L’Adonai hay’shuah, al am’cha virchatecha, selah.
Adonai tz’vaot imanu, misgav lanu, Elohei Yaakov, selah.
Adonai tz’vaot, ashrei adam botei-ach bach!
Adonai hoshiah; haMelech yaaneinu v’yom kor’einu.

This line is customarily recited by the participants first and then the leader repeats:

LaY’hudim hay’tah orah v’simchah v’sason vikar; kein tih’yeh lanu.

Kos y’shuot esa, uv’shem Adonai ekra.
BLESSING OVER THE WINE
Lift the cup of wine or grape juice, and recite the blessing:

כָּבָה אַתָּה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעָלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הָגָפֶּן.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p’ri hagafen.

BLESSING OVER THE SPICES
Hold up the spice box, and recite the blessing:

כָּבָה אַתָּה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעָלָם, בּוֹרֵא מְנִי וּסָמִים.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, Creator of varied spices.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei minei v’samim.

BLESSING OVER THE FLAME
Hold the Havdalah candle, and recite the blessing:

כָּבָה אַתָּה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעָלָם, בּוֹרֵא מְאוֹרֵי הָאֵשׁ.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, Creator of the lights of fire.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei m’orei ha-esh.
BLESSING OF SEPARATION

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
hamavdil bein kodesh l’chol, bein or l’choshech,
bein Yisrael laamim,
bein yom hash’vi-i l’sheishet y’mei hamaaseh.
Baruch atah Adonai, hamavdil bein kodesh l’chol.

Praise to You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all: who distinguishes between the holy and ordinary, between light and dark, between Israel and the nations, between the seventh day and the six days of work. Praise to You, Adonai who distinguishes the holy and ordinary.

Sip the wine or grape juice. Then extinguish the candle in the remaining wine or grape juice.

Shavuah Tov!
A good week, a week of peace, may gladness reign and joy increase.

ELIYAHU HANAVI - PRAYER FOR THE PROPHET ELIJAH TO HERALD REDEMPTION

May Elijah the prophet,
Elijah the Tishbite,
Elijah of Gilead,
quickly in our day come to us
heralding redemption.

Eliyahu hanavi,
Eliyahu hatishbi,
Eliyahu hagiladi.
Bimheirah b’yameinu,
yavo eileinu,
im Mashiach ben David.

MIRYAM HAN’VIAH – PRAYER FOR THE PROPHET MIRIAM TO HERALD REDEMPTION

Hebrew lyrics by Rabbi Leila Gal Berner (b. 1950).

Miriam the prophet—the power of song
is in her hand.
Miriam will dance among us and the music
will be heard far and wide.
Miriam will dance among us to
mend our world of suffering.
May she lead us, in our time, without delay,
to the waters of help and healing.

Miryam han’viah —
oz v’zimrah b’yadah.
Miryam tirkod itanu
l’hagdil zimrat olam;
Miryam tirkod itanu
l’takein et haolam.
Bimheirah v’yameinu
hi t’vieinu
el mei haisha

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