

A *Menorah* Isn't a *Hanukiah* but...

Exodus details how the *menorah*, a seven-branched candelabra fashioned out of a solid piece of gold, is to be made. Its purpose in the Holy Temple was to spread God's light to the entire world. Our sages tell us many things but the structure of the *menorah* – a central stem that branches outwards – reminds us that our behavior, personality and *mitzvot* should branch out informing our actions so that we, and those around us, can be a light and bring light to the world.

When the temple was destroyed, lighting of the *menorah* ceased but, at *hanukkah*, a special menorah, a *hanukiah*, is still lit in most Jewish homes. Although the *hanukiah* is quite different from the original *menorah* in the Temple in that it has 9, instead of 7, branches, they share the basic function - spreading light, illuminating the world around us.

Hanukkah lasts only eight days but if what if a *menorah* was lit every day?

MENORAH

Meaning of the season

Encourages each of us to believe in miracles.

Never doubting we can be the catalyst

Of belonging, of renewal, of healing, of positive change.

Reach out to family, friends, a stranger

Actuating the power you have to love, to help, to give.

Hand in hand we can illuminate our community and our world making it a better place.

May *Hanukkah* be a joyous reminder of the light each of us has inside.

Shalom Aleichem,

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