

1. Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam borey peri hagafen:

The prayer over wine reminds us that because of You we know the taste of holiness. And without Holiness, our lives would slip into absurdity. Abraham Joshua Heschel teaches that “Holiness conquers absurdity. And that honoring You gives us certainty that there is a meaning beyond the mystery and absurdity of our world.

2. Baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech haolam shehakol barah lichvodo

By affirming our connection to you, the source of all life, you continue to help us to open our eyes to the unfolding miracles of creation. This moment, this union, is an unfolding miracle. Millions of surprise coincidences and chance encounters had to take place for this moment of Kedusha/Holiness to have been made possible. We bless the one who continuously brings forth miracles through the spark of creation.

3. Baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech haolam yotzeir ha'adam

Of all G-d's miracles large and small, the most miraculous one of all, is that out of a worthless lump of clay..... G-d has made a man today..... (tune of "Fiddler on the Roof")

4. Baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech haolam, asher yatzar et ha'adam b'zalmo, b'tzelem dmoot tavneeto v'heetkin lo meemeno binyan adei ad. Baruch ata adonai yotzeir ha'adam

Perhaps your greatest aspect in the creation of Man and Woman was the divine spark given to every human. In creating us in your image, you created a species of partners to share your holy work as architects of creation. Our small but significant role as partners in creation is the greatest and most humbling gift humanity has ever received. Today we pledge to revere this gift and recommit to doing the work of creation that is for the **sake** of **all** creation. And may the honor of sharing the responsibility of creation continue to be only for a blessing!

5. Sos v'tasis v'tagel ha'akara b'kibbutz baneiha l'tocha b'simcha. Baruch ata adonai mismach zion b'vaneiha

Today is a moment for rejoicing. The Jewish people have survived. We may have been left for dead, or become thoroughly fed up with our troubled destiny, but somehow our stubbornness has paid off. Through the words of Isaiah, Rashi compares the tenacity of Jewish survival to a barren woman who somehow finds a way to give birth. Defying evidence, logic, rationality and conventional wisdom, we continue to overcome impossible odds. Every generation seems to have its faith and foundation shaken to the core, but we keep on going. With Jerusalem as our witness, we are all a testament to the ongoing miracle of a chain that shakes but refuses to break. Let all lovers of Zion rejoice.

**6. Samach tisamach re'im ahuvim k'sameichacha
y'tzircha b'gan eden mee kedem. Baruch ata adonai
misameiach chatan v'chalah**

Partnership with G-d is inconceivable without the ability to form lasting partnerships with our most intimate. As we continue to build our lives, let us remember that this union can only survive with a firm foundation. Only through the work of becoming companions we can fulfill the mitzvah of expressing joyfulness as loving companions. Being in love does not alone ensure a successful marriage. True lasting joy and love that is sustainable is the product of a give and take that shakes your soul to its roots. May we all experience and appreciate relationships that take us higher by taking us deeper. May we find the truest joy in the places of depth.

7. (Asher Bara) No translation needed. Let the joyous singing speak for itself.