

Dayenu with English Hebrew and Transliteration

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Source: Compiled

One of most beloved songs in the Passover seder is "Dayenu". A few of us will read the stanzas one at a time, and the everyone else will respond, "Dayenu" – meaning, "it would have been enough".

How many times do we forget to pause and notice that where we are is exactly where we ought to be? Dayenu is a reminder to never forget all the miracles in our lives. When we stand and wait impatiently for the next one to appear, we are missing the whole point of life. Instead, we can actively seek a new reason to be grateful, a reason to say "Dayenu."

Fun fact: Persian and Afghani Jews hit each other over the heads and shoulders with scallions every time they say Dayenu! They especially use the scallions in the ninth stanza which mentions the manna that the Israelites ate everyday in the desert, because Torah tells us that the Israelites began to complain about the manna and longed for the onions, leeks and garlic. Feel free to be Persian/Afghani for the evening if you'd like.

English translation	Transliteration	Hebrew
If He had brought us out from Egypt ,	<i>Illo hotzianu mimitzrayim,</i>	אֵלֹהֵינוּ הוֹצִיאָנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם
and had not carried out judgments against them	<i>v'lo asah bahem sh'fatim,</i>	וְלֹא עָשָׂה בָּהֶם שְׁפָטִים
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיֵּינוּ
If He had carried out judgments against them,	<i>Illo asah bahem sh'fatim</i>	אֵלֹהֵינוּ עָשָׂה בָּהֶם שְׁפָטִים
and not against their idols	<i>v'lo asah beloheihem,</i>	וְלֹא עָשָׂה בְּאֱלֹהֵיהֶם
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיֵּינוּ
If He had destroyed their idols,	<i>Illo asah beloheihem,</i>	אֵלֹהֵינוּ עָשָׂה בְּאֱלֹהֵיהֶם
and had not smitten their first-born	<i>v'lo harag et b'choreihem,</i>	וְלֹא הָרַג אֶת בְּכוֹרֵיהֶם
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיֵּינוּ
If He had smitten their first-born,	<i>Illo harag et b'choreihem,</i>	אֵלֹהֵינוּ הָרַג אֶת בְּכוֹרֵיהֶם

and had not given us their wealth	<i>v'lo natan lanu et mamonom,</i>	וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת מַמּוֹנָם
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיֵּינוּ
If He had given us their wealth,	<i>illu natan lanu et mamonom,</i>	אִלּוּ נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת מַמּוֹנָם
and had not split the sea for us	<i>v'lo kara lanu et hayam,</i>	וְלֹא קָרַע לָנוּ אֶת הַיָּם
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיֵּינוּ
If He had split the sea for us,	<i>illu kara lanu et hayam,</i>	אִלּוּ קָרַע לָנוּ אֶת הַיָּם
and had not taken us through it on dry land	<i>v'lo he'eviranu b'tocho becharavah,</i>	וְלֹא הֶעֱבִירָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ בְּחַרְבָּה
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיֵּינוּ
If He had taken us through the sea on dry land,	<i>illu he'eviranu b'tocho becharavah,</i>	אִלּוּ הֶעֱבִירָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ בְּחַרְבָּה
and had not drowned our oppressors in it	<i>v'lo shika tzareinu b'tocho,</i>	וְלֹא שָׁקַע צָרֵינוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיֵּינוּ
If He had drowned our oppressors in it,	<i>illu shika tzareinu b'tocho,</i>	אִלּוּ שָׁקַע צָרֵינוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ
and had not supplied our needs in the desert for forty years	<i>v'lo sipeik tzorkeinu bamidbar arba'im shana,</i>	וְלֹא סִפֵּק צָרְכָנוּ בְּמִדְבָּר אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיֵּינוּ
If He had supplied our needs in the desert for forty years,	<i>illu sipeik tzorkeinu bamidbar arba'im shana,</i>	אִלּוּ סִפֵּק צָרְכָנוּ בְּמִדְבָּר אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה
and had not fed us the manna	<i>v'lo he'echilanu et haman,</i>	וְלֹא הֶאֱכִילָנוּ אֶת הַמָּן
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיֵּינוּ

If He had fed us the manna,	<i>Ilu he'echilanu et haman,</i>	אלו האכילנו את המן
and had not given us the Shabbat	<i>v'lo natan lanu et hashabbat,</i>	ולא נתן לנו את השבת
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דיינו
If He had given us the Shabbat ,	<i>Ilu natan lanu et hashabbat,</i>	אלו נתן לנו את השבת
and had not brought us before Mount Sinai	<i>v'lo keirvanu lifnei har sinai,</i>	ולא קרבנו לפני הר סיני
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דיינו
If He had brought us before Mount Sinai ,	<i>Ilu keirvanu lifnei har sinai,</i>	אלו קרבנו לפני הר סיני
and had not given us the Torah	<i>v'lo natan lanu et hatorah,</i>	ולא נתן לנו את התורה
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דיינו
If He had given us the Torah ,	<i>Ilu natan lanu et hatorah,</i>	אלו נתן לנו את התורה
and had not brought us into the land of Israel	<i>v'lo hichnisanu l'eretz yisra'eil,</i>	ולא הכניסנו לארץ ישראל
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דיינו
If He had brought us into the land of Israel ,	<i>Ilu hichnisanu l'eretz yisra'eil,</i>	אלו הכניסנו לארץ ישראל
and not built for us the Holy Temple	<i>v'lo vanah lanu et beit hamikdash,</i>	ולא בנה לנו את בית המקדש
– Dayenu, it would have been enough!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דיינו