

Dayenu

Contributed by [Rachel Schiff](#)

Source:

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.

If [He](#) had brought us out from [Egypt](#),

Ilu hotzianu mimitzrayim,

אלו הוציאנו ממצרים

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

dayeinu!

דינו

If He had split the sea for us,

Ilu kara lanu et hayam,

אלו קרע לנו את הים

and had not taken us through it on dry land

v'lo he'eviranu b'tocho becharavah,

ולא העבירנו בתוכו בחרבה

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

dayeinu!

דינו

If He had taken us through the sea on dry land

Ilu he'eviranu b'tocho becharavah,

אלו העבירנו בתוכו בחרבה

and had not supplied our needs in the desert for forty years

v'lo sipeik tzorkeinu bamidbar arba'im shana,

ולא ספק צרכנו במדבר ארבעים שנה

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

dayeinu!

דַּיְנוּ

If He had supplied our needs in the desert for forty years,

Ilu sipeik tzorkeinu bamidbar arba'im shana,

אִלּוּ סִפֵּק צָרְכֵנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר אַרְבַּעַיִם שָׁנָה

and had not fed us the manna

v'lo he'echilanu et haman,

וְלֹא הֶאֱכִילָנוּ אֶת הַמָּן

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

dayeinu!

דַּיְנוּ

If He had fed us the manna,

Ilu he'echilanu et haman,

אִלּוּ הֶאֱכִילָנוּ אֶת הַמָּן

and had not given us the [Shabbat](#)

v'lo natan lanu et hashabbat,

וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

dayeinu!

דַּיְנוּ

If He had given us the [Shabbat](#),

Ilu natan lanu et hashabbat,

אִלּוּ נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת

and had not brought us before [Mount Sinai](#)

v'lo keirvanu lifnei har sinai,

וְלֹא קָרַבְנוּ לְפָנֵי הַר סִינַי

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

dayeinu!

דַּיְנוּ

If He had brought us before [Mount Sinai](#),

Ilu keirvanu lifnei har sinai,

אלו קִרְבָּנוּ לְפָנֵי הַר סִינַי

and had not given us the [Torah](#)

v'lo natan lanu et hatorah,

וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַתּוֹרָה

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

dayeinu!

דַּיֵּינוּ

If He had given us the [Torah](#),

Ilu natan lanu et hatorah,

אִלּוּ נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַתּוֹרָה

and had not brought us into the [land of Israel](#)

v'lo hichnisanu l'eretz yisra'eil,

וְלֹא הִכְנִיסָנוּ לְאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

dayeinu!

דַּיֵּינוּ

If He had brought us into the [land of Israel](#),

Ilu hichnisanu l'eretz yisra'eil,

אִלּוּ הִכְנִיסָנוּ לְאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

and not built for us the [Holy Temple](#)

v'lo vanah lanu et beit hamikdash,

וְלֹא בָּנָה לָנוּ אֶת בַּיִת הַמִּקְדָּשׁ

— Dayenu, it would have been enough!

dayeinu!

דַּיֵּינוּ