

Rachtzah - Washing Hands

Contributed by [Rachel Schulties](#)

Source: Rabbi Menachem Creditor, Congregation Netivot Shalom, Berkeley, CA

Our hands were touched by this water earlier during tonight's seder, but this time is different. This is a deeper step than that. This act of washing our hands is accompanied by a blessing, for in this moment we feel our People's story more viscerally, having just retold it during Maggid. Now, having re-experienced the majesty of the Jewish journey from degradation to dignity, we raise our hands in holiness, remembering once again that our liberation is bound up in everyone else's. Each step we take together with others towards liberation is blessing, and so we recite:

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu bemitvotav vetzivanu al netilat yadayim.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וציונו על נטילת ידים.

Blessed are you our God, who has sanctified us with commandments and instructed us regarding lifting up our hands.