

Opening

Transitioner lights Havdalah candle

[Transitioner can explain that the Havdalah candle marks a moment of passage. Both an end and beginning]

Transitioner says (in English)

Our God, and God of our ancestors, I stand here today to mark a transition. Your commandments tell us to come together in times of change to sanctify them. We celebrate the passing of day into night, we sanctify the space between weeks and call Shabbat holy.

Today, I mark my own transition: I join with my *[family | community | chosen family]* to acknowledge my identity as a Jewish *[Woman/Man/Nonbinary Person]*, to mark the change, and to renew my place in your covenant.

(in Hebrew)

Baruch Ata A_____i Eloheinu Melech Ha'Olam Ha'Mavir L'Ovrim

(In English)

Blessed are you, A_____i our God, ruler of the universe, helper to those who transform.

[I have stood before a beit din, a Jewish ritual court, and they have certified with me my plan to change my name and affirm my gender through this ritual.]

[I completed a mikveh, a ritual bath, which I used to introspect, to engage in the personal aspect of my spiritual affirmation.]

Gender Change

A_____i, I now stand before Your people, the people of Israel, and before my broader network of friends and family, to affirm my gender, and my part in your community. Today, I declare and identify myself as a Jewish *[Woman/Man/Nonbinary Person]*, and *[take on the unique responsibilities and roles that that Jewish [Women/Men] hold in the community and in your covenant | forge my own [a]gender[ed] path in your covenant and this community, instructed by the hidden Jewish legacy of gender complexity and by your word.]*

Parents or Close Jewish Mentor figure(s): Our God and God of our ancestors, bless and sustain this *[woman/man/nonbinary person]* as *[she/he/the]* go[es] forth in this world, and take care of *[her/him/them]* in *[hers/his/their]* transition. May *[her/his/their]* life be one of happiness, growth, and learning. May *[she/he/they]* continue to share joyfully in the traditions of our people. Recommit *[her/him/them]* to your covenant as she follows *[her/his/their]* path. Encourage *[her/him/them]* to live a life filled with Torah and learning, Huppah and companionship, and Ma'asim Tovim. And may *[she/he/they]* be a blessing on her family for many years to come. And let us say, Amen

Transitioner:

B'rukha At Yah haShekhinah, ru'ah she'asani kirtzonah.

Blessed are you, source of being, spirit of the world, who has made me according to Your will.

Name Change

Up until now my Hebrew name has been *[old Hebrew name]*, *[optionally talk about the old name]*. This name no longer fits my identity as a Jewish *[woman/man/nonbinary person]*. Thus, I seek to change my name before A --- i. From this day forward, I wish to be known as *[new Hebrew name]*. This name will be the one by which I am called to Torah, and the name by which I shall be known for all Jewish life-cycle events. *[optionally talk about the significance of the name]*

B'rukha At Yah haShekhinah, ru'aḥ ha'olam she'asani b'tzalmah

Blessed are You, source of being, spirit of the world, who has made me in God's image

I have asked **[Parents/Trusted Jewish Mentor figures (s)]** *[to talk about my name, then]* to confer my name upon me with their blessing.

[Either you or your mentor may talk about the meaning/significance of your name, then]

ALL ASSEMBLED

Baruch atah A___i, eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei pri hagafen

Praised are you, A----i, creator of the fruit of the vine.

Drink!

[Jewish friends/mentors read each of the following lines]

A----i, God of our Ancestors, sustain this *[child/man/woman/nonbinary person]*. In the presence of loved ones, *[she/he/they]* *[is/are]* given the name *[Chosen English Name]*, and let *[her/him/them]* be known in Israel as *[Chosen Hebrew name]*.

May *[her/his/their]* name be a source of joy and pride to us – *[her/his/their]* parents -- and all of *[her/his/their]* family, and all of Israel.

May this *[person's chosen]* family continue to grow together in health and strength, in harmony, wisdom, and love, our *[community]* filled with *[Jewish traditions,]* Joy, and acts of kindness.

All together May we all share in the joy of seeing this *[young]* *[Woman/Man/Person]* continue to grow *[into adulthood]*, a blessing to *[her/his/their]* family, *[her/his/their]* people, and all humanity.

And let us say

Amen.

[extinguish havdalah candle in wine]

Together:

Baruch Ata A___i Eloheinu Melech Ha'Olam Sheheḥeyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higyanu, laz'man hazeh

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and brought us to this joyous time.

Individual parent/Jewish Mentor Figure: I offer the following benediction to *[Name]*, and use the same holy words that our priests used thousands of years ago to bless the ancient tribes of our people:

[For a Woman]

יְשִׁימֶךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּשָׂרָה רְבֵקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה.

[For a Man]

יְשִׁימֶךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכִמְנַשֶּׁה

[Then for both]

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ
יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְדֶּךָ
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

May you be like *[Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah / Ephriam and Menashe]*

May God bless you and guard you.

May God show you favor and be gracious to you.

May God show you kindness and grant you peace.

—

MAZAL TOV!

Siman tov v'mazal tov.

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