

**MIMOUNA**



**מימונה**

Mimouna or Noche de Mimouna (in Moroccan Ladino) is a festival in the Moroccan Jewish tradition. It is a joyful celebration that expresses the spirit of the community the values of joy of life, Hachnasat Orḥim (hospitality), generosity, and friendship.

One understanding of Mimouna is the similarity between the Hebrew term for faith-- Emunah and Mimouna. Mimouna is an expression of the faith in the emancipation of the Jewish people - and thus in the emancipation of all people.

Mimouna is also a celebration of spring and an expression of the optimism it brings along for a successful harvest and abundance in the world. This is the reason for decorating the house with wheat stalk and greens of all kind. Nissan-- the month of Pesah, was actually the first month in the Biblical calendar.

Mimouna is also an expression of the tolerance that can exist between Jewish and Muslim people. Indeed, throughout

Morocco local neighbours used to bring trays with Mufleta and other cookies to their Jewish neighbours, helping them celebrate the recommencement of Hametz-eating.

One humorous theory has a simple linguistic explanation. Mona means sweet roll, in Judeo-Spanish. Since we can start eat bread at the end of Passover, we name it: Mi Mona = my sweet roll of bread.

Mimouna is a joyous celebration, where tables are set up with symbolic food and sweets, and people go from house to house. Homes are decorated with flowers, wheat stalks, herbs and orange tree branches with blooming flowers (flores de azahar). Each guest is encouraged to enjoy the sweets on the table, and is welcomed with the traditional greeting: **Tirbehu Utis'adu** (success and good luck).

The celebration at one's home starts with the Havdala LeMotzai Yom Tov (havdalah with just wine, not with spices and candle).

## Greeting the Guests

During Mimouna it is the ‘ada (custom) for hosts to bless guests upon their arrival using symbolic objects. The symbols used differ slightly: some sprinkle a few drops of milk on the guest’s head using a lettuce leaf, others sprinkle flour with their hands. Some offer a date filled with butter while blessing the guest, and others still fill the date with walnuts. In each and every family the blessing is the same:

כִּי אֶרְךָ יָמִים וּשְׁנוֹת חַיִּים וְשָׁלוֹם יוֹסִיפוּ לָךְ

תְּסֻד וְאֵמֶת אֶל-יַעֲנֶבְךָ קֶשֶׁרֶם עַל-גְּרָגְרוֹתֶיךָ כְּתִבָּם עַל-לִוִּחַ לִבְךָ

*Ki orech yamim ushenot hayyim veshalom yosifu lach. Heses*

*ve-emet al-ya’azyucha kashrem ‘al-gargeroteicha katvem ‘al-*

*luah libecha*

“For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall be added to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you: bind them on your neck and write them upon the table of your heart.”

(Proverbs, 3:2–3)

## HAVDALA

**We raise the cup of wine:**

**כּוֹס־יְשׁוּעוֹת אֶשָּׂא וּבְשֵׁם יְהוָה אֶקְרָא:**

**Kos-yeshu'ot essa uvshem Adonai eqra**

The Cup of Salvations, I shall Lift and in the Name of The Divine I  
Shall call.

**אָנָּה יְהוָה הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא, אָנָּה יְהוָה הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא**

**Ana Adonai hoshi'ah na, ana Adonai hoshi'ah na**

**Please Adonai Save Now. Please Adonai Save Now.**

**אָנָּה יְהוָה הַצְלִיחֵה נָּא. אָנָּה יְהוָה הַצְלִיחֵה נָּא:**

**Ana Adonai haşliaḥ na. Ana Adonai haşliaḥ na**

**Please Adonai Give Success Now. Please Adonai Give Success Now.**

**הַצְלִיחֵנוּ, הַצְלִיחֵ דַרְכֵינוּ, הַצְלִיחֵ לְמוֹדֵינוּ, וְשַׁלַּח בְּרָכָה רַוּחָה**

**וְהַצְלִיחֵה בְּכָל־מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵינוּ, כְּדַכְתִּיב יֵשָׂא בְּרָכָה מֵאֵת יְהוָה וְצַדִּיקָה**

**מֵאֵלֵהי יִשְׁעוּ: לִיהוּדִים הִיְתָה אֹנְיָה וְשִׁמְחָה וְשִׁשְׁן וְקָר: וְכַתִּיב וַיְהִי**

**דָּוִד לְכָל־דַּרְכּוֹ מִשְׁכִּיל וַיְהוֶה עִמּוֹ: כֵּן יְהִי עִמָּנוּ**

Hašliḥenu, hašliaḥ deracheinu, hašliaḥ limudeinu, ushelaḥ  
berachah revaḥah vebašlaḥah bechol-ma'aseh yadeinu,  
kedichtiv yissa verachah me-et Adonai ušdaqah me-elohei  
yish'o: layyehudim haytah orah vesimḥah vesason viqar:  
ukhtiv vayehi david lechol-derachav maskil vAdonai 'immo:

**everybody says:**

**ken yihyeh 'imanu**

**Thus should be with us always.**

Give us success and make prosper our matters and our learning and send blessing, abundance and success to all our undertakings. As it is written "They shall receive a blessing from Adonai, and benevolence from the Divine of their Salvation." "To the Jews there was light and joy, happiness, and honour." And as it is written "And David was prosperous in all his matters and Adonai was with him."

סְבָרֵי מָרָן.

Savri maranan

Hearken, wise ones:

**Everybody says:**

לְחַיִּים

Leḥayyim!

To Life

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה

**Baruch** atah Adonai

Blessed are You Adonai

**everybody says:**

בָּרוּךְ שְׁמוֹ

Baruch Shemo!

Blessed is Their name!

אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגָּפֶן

Eloheinu melech ha'olam, bore peri hagefen

Our Divine One, Sovereign of the Universe, Who creates fruit  
of the vine.

**everybody says: Amen**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַמְבַדֵּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחוֹל, וּבֵין  
אוֹר לְחֹשֶׁךְ, וּבֵין יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעַמִּים, וּבֵין יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לְיַמֵּי  
הַמַּעֲשֵׂה. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, הַמְבַדֵּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחוֹל

Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam, hamavdil bein  
qodesh lehol, uvein or lehoshech, uvein Yisrael la'amim, uvein  
yom hashvi'i lesheshet yemei hama'aseh. Baruch atah Adonai,  
hamavdil bein qodesh lehol

Blessed are You, Adonai, Our Divine One, Sovereign of the  
Universe, Who distinguishes between the holy and the mundane,  
between light and dark, between Yisrael and all the Nations, between  
the Seventh Day and the Six work days. Blessed are You, Adonai,  
Our Divine One, Sovereign of the Universe, Who distinguishes  
between the Holy and the mundane.



**We greet each other with:**

**תרבתו וצסעדו**

**Tirbehu Utis'adu!**

**Success and good luck!**



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