

The Dreidel



The *dreidel* was introduced as a special treat for children. The game of Dreidel was started when the Syrian Greeks said that the teaching or studying of *Torah* was a crime punishable by death or imprisonment. But the children studied in secret; and when Syrian-Greek patrols were spotted, they would pretend to be playing an innocent game of *dreidel*.

The *dreidel* is a four-sided spinning top, also called a "*s'vivon*," in Hebrew. The *dreidel* has on its four sides, letters that tell the *Hanukkah* message: a great miracle happened there -

"In *Eretz Yisroel* (Israel), the *dreidel* bears the letters *Nun*, *Gimel Hay*, and *Pay* standing for "*Nes Gadol Hayah Po*", a great miracle happened here. Outside of Israel however, the *dreidel* says the letters *Nun*, *Gimel Hay*, and *Shin* meaning "*Nes Gadol Hayah Shom*", a great miracle happened there .

HOW TO PLAY DREIDEL

Each player places some dollars, quarters, dimes, or would you believe pennies, candies, raisins, or nuts into the middle, and each player takes a turn spinning the *dreidel*.

"Nun" means nothing, you win nothing, you lose nothing.

"Gimel" means you take the whole pot.

"Hay" means you win half of what's in the pot.

"Shin" (or in Israel - "Pay") means "put in" - you lose, and must put one ...more into the pot.

Source: www.Torahtots.com