

Dayenu - It would have been enough!

Dayenu is a traditional Jewish song sung at Passover. It's purpose is to remember how it would have been enough had God blessed them with any one of the many blessings sung about in the 15 verses.

Dayenu has 15 stanzas representing the 15 gifts God bestowed. The first five involve freeing the Jews from slavery, the next describe the miracles He did for them, and the last five for the closeness to God He gave them. Each of the stanzas is followed by the word "Dayenu" (it would have been enough) sung repeatedly. The 15 stanzas are as follows:

Five Stanzas of Leaving Slavery

- 1) If He had brought us out of Egypt.
- 2) If He had executed justice upon the Egyptians.
- 3) If He had executed justice upon their gods.
- 4) If He had slain their first-born.
- 5) If He had given to us their health and wealth.

Five Stanzas of Miracles

- 6) If He had split the sea for us.
- 7) If He had led us through on dry land.
- 8) If He had drowned our oppressors.
- 9) If He had provided for our needs in the wilderness for 40 years.
- 10) If He had fed us manna (literally meaning, "What is it?")

Five Stanzas of Being With God

- 11) If He had given us Shabbat.
- 12) If He had led us to Mount Sinai.
- 13) If He had given us the Torah.
- 14) If He had brought us into the Land of Israel.
- 15) If He built the Temple for us.

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Translation:

Verse 1:		
English translation	Transliteration	Hebrew
If He had brought us out from Egypt,	<i>llu hotzianu mimitzrayim,</i>	אלו הוציאנו ממצרים
and had not carried out judgments against them	<i>v'lo asah bahem sh'fatim,</i>	ולא עשה בהם שפטים
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דינו
Verse 2:		
If He had carried out judgments against them,	<i>llu asah bahem sh'fatim</i>	אלו עשה בהם שפטים
and not against their idols	<i>v'lo asah beloheihem,</i>	ולא עשה באלהיהם
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דינו
Verse 3:		
If He had destroyed their idols,	<i>llu asah beloheihem,</i>	אלו עשה באלהיהם
and had not smitten their first-born	<i>v'lo harag et b'choreihem,</i>	ולא הרג את בכוריהם
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דינו
Verse 4:		
If He had smitten their first-born,	<i>llu harag et b'choreihem,</i>	אלו הרג את בכוריהם
and had not given us their wealth	<i>v'lo natan lanu et mamonam,</i>	ולא נתן לנו את ממונם
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דינו
Verse 5:		
If He had given us their wealth,	<i>llu natan lanu et mamonam,</i>	אלו נתן לנו את ממונם
and had not split the sea for us	<i>v'lo kara lanu et hayam,</i>	ולא קרע לנו את הים
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דינו
Verse 6:		
If He had split the sea for us,	<i>llu kara lanu et hayam,</i>	אלו קרע לנו את הים
and had not taken us through it on dry land	<i>v'lo he'eviranu b'tocho becharavah,</i>	ולא העבירנו בתוכו בתרבה
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דינו
Verse 7:		
If He had taken us through the sea on dry land,	<i>llu he'eviranu b'tocho becharavah,</i>	אלו העבירנו בתוכו בתרבה
and had not drowned our oppressors in it	<i>v'lo shika tzareinu b'tocho,</i>	ולא שקע צרינו בתוכו
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דינו
Verse 8:		
If He had drowned our oppressors in it,	<i>llu shika tzareinu b'tocho,</i>	אלו שקע צרינו בתוכו

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and had not supplied our needs in the desert for forty years	<i>v'lo sipeik tzorkeinu bamidbar arba'im shana,</i>	וְלֹא סִפַּק צָרְכֵינוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיְנוּ
<i>Verse 9:</i>		
If He had supplied our needs in the desert for forty years,	<i>Illo sipeik tzorkeinu bamidbar arba'im shana,</i>	אֵלּוּ סִפַּק צָרְכֵינוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה
and had not fed us the manna	<i>v'lo he'echilanu et haman,</i>	וְלֹא הֶאֱכִילָנוּ אֶת הַמָּן
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיְנוּ
<i>Verse 10:</i>		
If He had fed us the manna,	<i>Illo he'echilanu et haman,</i>	אֵלּוּ הֶאֱכִילָנוּ אֶת הַמָּן
and had not given us the Shabbat	<i>v'lo natan lanu et hashabbat,</i>	וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיְנוּ
<i>Verse 11:</i>		
If He had given us the Shabbat,	<i>Illo natan lanu et hashabbat,</i>	אֵלּוּ נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת
and had not brought us before Mount Sinai	<i>v'lo keirvanu lifnei har sinai,</i>	וְלֹא קָרְבָנוּ לְפָנֵי הַר סִינַי
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיְנוּ
<i>Verse 12:</i>		
If He had brought us before Mount Sinai,	<i>Illo keirvanu lifnei har sinai,</i>	אֵלּוּ קָרְבָנוּ לְפָנֵי הַר סִינַי
and had not given us the Torah	<i>v'lo natan lanu et hatorah,</i>	וְלֹא נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַתּוֹרָה
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיְנוּ
<i>Verse 13:</i>		
If He had given us the Torah,	<i>Illo natan lanu et hatorah,</i>	אֵלּוּ נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַתּוֹרָה
and had not brought us into the land of Israel	<i>v'lo hichnisanu l'erez yisra'eil,</i>	וְלֹא הִכְנִיסָנוּ לְאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיְנוּ
<i>Verse 14:</i>		
If He had brought us into the land of Israel,	<i>Illo hichnisanu l'erez yisra'eil,</i>	אֵלּוּ הִכְנִיסָנוּ לְאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל
and not built for us the Holy Temple	<i>v'lo vanah lanu et beit hamikdash,</i>	וְלֹא בָנָה לָנוּ אֶת בַּיִת הַמִּקְדָּשׁ
— Dayenu, it would have sufficed!	<i>dayeinu!</i>	דַּיְנוּ