For the Miracles

עַל הַנִּיסִים וכרי

by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

בִּימֵי מַתִּיתְיָהוּ	In the days of Matityahu
כֹהֵן גָדוֹל חַשְּׁמוֹנָאִי וּבָנָיו	High priest and his sons
כְשִׁעָמְדָה עֲלֵיהֶם	When there arose against them
מַלְכוּת	The reign
אַנְטִיוֹכוֹם הָרָשָׁע	of wicked Antiochus
וּבָקשׁ לַּעֲקוֹר	seeking to uproot
אֶת אֱמוּנָתֵינוּ וְדָתֵינוּ	our faith and law
וְהֵצֵרוּ לָנוּ	oppressing us
וְכָבְשׁוּ אֶת הֵיכָלֵנוּ	they conquered our Temple
ּוְטִמְאוּ אֶת מִקְדָשֵׁנוּ:	and desecrated our sanctuary
אָז לָמוּ נֶגְדָם	Then there arose against them,
הַסִידֶיה וְכֹהֲנֵיה	Your devout priests,
וְאֵתָה	and You
בְּרַחֲמֶיךּ הָרַבִּים	in Your great compassion
بْمَنْهُ رُبُم	stood by them
בְּעֵת צָרָתָם,	in their troubles
רַבְּתָּ אֶת רִיבָם,	waging their wars
נָצַמְּתְּ אֶת נִלְּמְתָּם	avenging their pain
וְהָיִיתָ בְּעֶזְרָתָם	helping them
לְהִתְגַבֵּר עֲלֵיהֶם	to overcome them
וּלְטַהֵר אֶת הַמִּקְרָשׁ.	and to purify the sanctuary
מתוך בעבועים	Amidst longing
לְהַשְּׁרָאֲרְהָ	for Your Presence among them
רָצוּי לְהַדְּלִיק	they sought to kindle
אֶתַ הַמְּנוֹרָה הַטְּהוֹרָה	the pure lamps
וְלֹא מָצְאוּ שֶׁמֶן	and not finding enough pure oil
עַד שֶׁהוֹבֵתָ לָהֶם שֶׁמֶן טָהוֹו	You led them to find some
לְיוֹם אֶחֶד.	Just enough for one day
فخفالا فنكروا	In trust they kindled
אֶת הַמְנוֹרָה	the Lamp
וְאַתָּה עָשִׂיתָ לָהֶם גַס וָפֶלֶא	And You miraculously
וְהַשֶּׁמֶן לֹא הִפְּסִיק	made the oil last
ער שֶׁעָשׂר	until they could

make some afresh

דקבער שמונת ימי Then did they set these days

of Hanukkah

to lighting candles

to proclaim the miraculous order,

the Hallel in gratitude

to Your great reputation

for Your miracles

Your wonders

and Your salvation

to give Tzedakkah

to the poor

and toys to the children