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Attchmnt:

Subject : dark dark dark.....welcome to Chanukah...!!

----- Message Text -----

winter solstice, december 21, 2000

ok, here's the deal. it's dark outside. I mean really dark. Shortest day of the year. no moon at all. yech!!! darkest night of the year, least light of all. arrgh...

so, what to do? why not have a holiday celebrating the miracle of light! in the midst of the darkest time, when we can be the grumpiest possible, our tradition instructs us to re-dedicate to the sacred. It further says that one of the best ways to do that is, amidst the darkness is to work toward a grateful mentality! For what we have, right now...to take joyous delight in every detail of our life we can find to appreciate...to bless the gifts of life that we DO have.....

Rebbe Zalman Schacter asks us to ask ourselves "how the high priest of our own inner ideals would advise us to look at our life and those around us...and to let that part of ourselves bless both our "self" and those around us.

Nana and Grandpa Ben have similar advice: when there is good news, you need to have a party. When there is bad news, you also need to have a party!!!

"Rejoice in all the good that God has given you" (Deuteronomy 26:11)

So, at the darkest and coldest time of the year, we light a light, on this, the first night of Chanukkah. We bless the light outside us, and the light we re-light within us, and our thankful for the warmth that comes from the lights of those we love and cherish....

with love and blessings

Poppers deane

PS to grandpa Ben: we also bask in the light of the 81 candles on your cake!!!! Love and Happy Birthday!!!