

JIM. Great! So now you've opened the presents. Story time. The story of Chanukah. Right?

(Pause.)

RABBI. If I am expected to do this, I think I will lie down.

(He lies down on the floor. He rests the Gameboy on his chest.)

Ah. That's taken the edge off. Long ago, a Syrian king decreed that all the Jewish people should reject Yahweh and worship Zeus or something like that. Some of them did it and wound up...I don't know...in the movie *300*. But there were some, called the Macabees, that resisted. They fought the Syrians for three years, drove them out of Israel. There were like six Macabees and twenty million Syrians and the Macabees defeated them with the equivalent of dental floss and fervent prayer.

(Pause.)

After that, the Macabees wanted to reclaim the Temple for the Jewish people and wash off all the graffiti and Greek garbledgook about Hercules. So they did that for a while, it took something around a month, and at the end, they wanted to light a candle, an eternal fire, to celebrate their victory. They only had enough oil for one day, but lo and behold, the fire glowed for eight days. Minor miracle that. One day of oil lasting more than a week. So Chanukah is a way to say "We win wars." Or at least we won that one.

(Pause.)

It's not quite as bloody or fun as Passover, but it does the trick as an excuse for yuletidey behavior.

JIM. So no Santa Claus?

RABBI. Not at all.

JIM. Ha. I just realized that. Wow. Man, what a thing.

(The RABBI gets up.)

RABBI. Now you know, James. What you're in for.

(Pause.)

JIM. Oy! Oy! Oy and a half, right? Oy!

(Pause.)

So let's light the candles. Or candle. Or turn the screw. Or...the bulb. Here...wait. I know the prayer.

(JIM goes to the table and winks at the RABBI. Then he says...)