סדר ליל ראש השנה

Seder for Rosh Hashanah

"Abaye said: Now that you have said that omens can be significant, on Rosh Hashanah one should eat gourds, fenugreek, leeks, beets, and dates."
~Bablyonian Talmud, Keritot 6a

This Talmud teaching forms the basis of our Rosh Hashanah seder with its simanim (symbolic foods) and blessings, though over time, different Jewish communities have added their own traditions and interpretations.

While some foods, such as apples with honey or pomegranates, have become near universal, we have also included other Ashkenazi, Sefardi, and Mizrahi customs, creating a ritual that reflects the diversity of modern Judaism.

With each symbolic food, a prayer is recited. Many use a play on words related to the Hebrew, but other traditions contain puns using Aramaic, Yiddish, or Farsi.

Enjoy interacting with the simanim and their blessings, and may we all have a sweet new year.



VERSES RECITED ON ROSH HASHANAH

Some Mizrahi communities recite/sing these verses multiple times before Kiddush, based on a tradition of the Ben Ish Chai (19th century Iraq).

12 times:

. וְנֹחַ מְצָא חֵן בְּעֵינֵי יְהְוָה. VeNoach matza chen be'einei Adonai.

And Noach found favor in the eyes of Adonai.

Genesis 6:8

12 times:

עיִיבְא הַהִוא וַיִּמְצָא Vayizra Yitzhak ba'aretz hahi vayimtza.

בּשַּׁנָה הַהָוֹא מֵאָה שָׁעַרִים וַיְבַרֶכָהוּ יְהוָה. bashana hahi me'a se'arim vayevaracheihu Adonai.

And Isaac sowed the land, and reaped a hundredfold in that year, and Adonai blessed him.

Genesis 26:12

10 times:

. פִּי עִמְּדְ מְקוֹר חַיִּים, בְּאוֹרְדְ נִרְאָה אוֹר. אוֹר הַיִּים, נּבְאוֹרְדְ נִרְאָה אוֹר.

For with you is the source of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalms 36:10

17 times:

אור זָרַעַ לַצַּדִּיק וּלְיִשְׂרֵי לֵב שִּׂבְּחָה. Or zaru'a latzadik uleyishrei lev simcha.

Light is sown for the righteous; and joy for the upright of heart.

Psalms 97:11

10 times:

וֹאֲבַּרְתֶּם כּה לֶחָי וְאַהָּנה שָׁלוֹם Va'amartem ko lechai ve'ata shalom וביתף שׁלוֹם וכֹל אשׁר לף שׁלוֹם. uveitcha shalom vechol ashel lecha shalom.

And you shall say "Thus to the living - peace to you, and peace to your house, and peace to all that you have."

I Samuel 25:6



"Rosh Hashanah is the birthday of the world, the day on which the world was conceived and born." - Nachmanides

ROSH HASHANAH KIDDUSH

On Friday Night:

יוֹם הַשְּׁשִׁי. וַיְבַלוּ הַשָּׁמֵים וְהַאָּרִץ וְבַל צָבַאָם: The sixth day. And the heavens and the earth were ויכל אלהים ביום השביעי, מלאכתו אשר עשה, וַיִשְׁבֹת בָּיוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מִכָּל מְלַאַכְתוֹ אֲשֵׁר עֲשַׁה: וַיָּבָרֶדְ אֱלֹהִים אֱת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, וַיִּקַדֵּשׁ אֹתוֹ, פי בו שבת מכל מלאכתו אשר ברא אלהים לעשות:

finished, and all their host. And on the seventh day God finished the work that was done, and rested on the seventh day from the work that was done. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, having rested from the work that God had done.

On All Nights:

בורא פרי הגפן:

בָּרוּדְ אַתַּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מלדְ העוֹלם,

אַשֵּׁר בַּחַר בַנוּ מִכַּל עַם וְרוֹמְמֵנוּ מְבֵּל לשׁוּז

וקדשנו במצותיו,

וַתָּתֵּן לָנוּ יָהוַה אֱלֹהֵינוּ בַּאהַבה

אָת יוֹם (הַשָּׁבַּת הַזָּה וָאָת יוֹם) הזְּכַרוֹן הַזָּה, יוֹם (זָכַרוֹן) תַּרוֹעָה (בַּאַהֵבָה)

מָקרא קדש זֶכֶר לִיצִיאַת מצרים,

ָבִּי בָנוּ בַחַרָתַ וָאוֹתַנוּ קְדַשְׁתַ מְכָּל הַעַמִּים, וּדְבַרָדְ מַּלְכַנוּ אֲמֶת וָקַיֵּם לַעֲד.

בַרוּדְ אַתַּה יי, מֵלֵדְ עֵל כַּל הַאַרִץ

מָקַדָּשׁ (הַשַּׁבָּת וְ)יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיוֹם הַזְּכָּרוֹן:

ברוּך אַתָּה יִיָ אֵלֹהֵינוּ מֵלֵך הַעוֹלַם, Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe creator of the fruit of the vine.

Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe

who has chosen us from all people,

and exalted us from all tongues,

and sanctified us with commandments;

And you have given us, Adonai our God, with love,

this (Sabbath Day and this) Day of Rememberance,

a day (in memory) of Shofar sounding, (with love)

a holy calling, in memory of the Exodus from Egypt.

For you have chosen and sanctified us from all people,

and your work, our ruler, is true and endures for ever.

Blessed are you Adonai, ruler over all the earth,

who sanctifies (the Sabbath and) Israel, and the Day of Remembrance.

Partial Havdalah Recited on Saturday Night:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם בורא מאורי האש: ברוך אתה יי, אלהינו מלך העולם, המבדיל בין קדש לחול, בין אור לחשה, בין ישראל לעמים, בין יום השביעי לששת ימי המעשה, בֵּין קַדָשָׁת שַׁבַּת לְקָדָשָׁת יוֹם טוֹב הָבַדֵּלְתַּ, וָאָת יוֹם הַשָּׁבִיעִי מִשָּׁשֶׁת יָמֵי הַמַּעֲשָׂה קַדַּשְׁתַּ, ָהָבַדַּלְהָ וִקְדַשִּׁהָ אֶת עַמִּדְ יִשִּׂרָאֵל בִּקְדַשְּׁתֶדְ, בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יִהֹנָה, הַמַּבְדִּיל בֵּין קֹדֵשׁ לִקְדַשׁ:

Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, creator of the lights of fire. Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe who separates between sacred and profane, light and dark, Israel and the nations, the seventh day and the six days of work; You have separated the holiness of the Sabbath and the holiness of the Festival day, and the seventh day from the six days of work - You have separated and sanctified Your people Israel in Your holiness. Blessed are you Adonai, who separates between holiness and holiness.

Always Conclude with Shehechiyanu:

בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יִיָּ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֵלֶדְ הָעוֹלֶם, שָהָחֵינוּ וְקִיִּמְנוּ וְהָגִּיעֵנוּ לַזְּמֵן הַזָּה:

Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, who has granted us life, who has sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment.

SIMANIM: SYMBOLIC FOODS

Each symbolic food has a prayer to be recited before eating it. The general blessings should be said before eating your first food from each section.

Blessing Before Fruit:

שּלָם, Ba-rukh a-ta a-do-nai e-lo-hei-nu me-lech בורא פרי העץ: ha·o·lam bo·rei p·ri ha·etz

Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, creator of the fruit of the tree.

For Apples Dipped in Honey:

יְהִי רַצוֹן מִלְּפַנֵיךּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei מית שנה טובה ומתוקה. avoteinu shetichadesh aleinu shana tova umetuka.

> May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors that you renew us for a sweet new year.

The custom of dipping an apple in honey is thought to have originated in 13th century Germany









For Pomegranates:

יהי רצון מלפניד יי אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei מינהיה מלאים מצות ברמון. avoteinu melei'im mitzvot karimon.

> May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that we be full of commandments like a pomegranate.

The number of seeds in a pomegranate symbolically represent the 613 commandments

For Dates:

יִהִי רַצוֹן מִלְּפָנֵיךְ יִי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei שָׁיִתַמוּ אוֹיִבֵינוּ וְשׁוֹנְאֵינוּ וְכָל מְבַקְשֵׁי רְעָתֵנוּ.

avoteinu sheyitmu oyveinu vesoneinu vechol mevakshei ra'ateinu.

May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that our enemies, haters, and those who wish us evil come to an end.

The Hebrew for date the word "to end" (vitmu)

"The day of Rosh Hashanah is the day on which we coronate God as ruler of the Universe." - RABBI TZADOK HAKOHEN OF LUBLIN

Blessing Before Vegetables:

שלהינוּ מֵלֵךְ הָעוֹלֶם, Ba-rukh a-ta a-do-nai e-lo-hei-nu me-lech בּוֹרֵא פָּרִי הַאָּדַמַה: ha·o·lam bo·rei p·ri ha·a·da·mah.

Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, creator of the fruit of the earth.

For Black-Eyed Peas:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei מיַרבּוּ זָכִיוֹתֵינוּ וּתְלַבְּבֵנוּ. avoteinu sheyirbu zachiyoteinu utelabebeinu.

> May it be Your will. Adonai our God and God of our ancestors. that our merits increase and that you hearten us.

The Hebrew for black-eyes peas (lubia) sounds similar to the word for "hearten" (telabebeinu)

For Leeks:

יָהִי רָצוֹן מִלְפָנֶיךּ יִיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei מילָּבֶּרְתוּ אוֹיְבֵינוּ וְשׁוֹנְאֵינוּ וְכָל מְבַקְשֵׁי רָעָתֵנוּ. avoteinu sheyikartu oyveinu vesoneinu vechol

May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that our enemies, haters and those who wish us evil be cut off.

The Hebrew for leeks (karti) sounds similar to the word for "cut off" (yikartu)

For Pumpkins or Gourds:

יִהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֵיךּ יִי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei מיס avoteinu shetikra ro'a gezar dineinu veyikaru שֶּׁתְּקְרַע רוֹעַ גְּזַר דִּינֵנוּ וְיִקְרְאוּ לְפָנֶיךְ זָכִיוֹתֵינוּ.

lefanecha zahiyoteinu.

May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that You tear up the evil of our verdict and that our merits be proclaimed before You.

The Hebrew for gourd (kara) sounds similar to the words for "to tear up" (tikra) and "to proclaim" (kara)

For Beets:

יִהִי רַצוֹן מִלְּפָנֵיךְ יִי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei מיספת לקו אוֹיבֵינוּ וְשׁוּנְאֵינוּ וְכָל מְבַקְשֵׁי רָעָתֵנוּ. avoteinu sheyistalku oyveinu vesoneinu vechol mevakshei ra'ateinu

May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that our enemies, haters, and those who wish us evil be removed.

The Hebrew for beet (selek) sounds similar to the word for "remove" (vistalku)

For Carrots:

יָהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֵיךּ יִיַ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei . מיתגזר עלינו גזרות טובות avoteinu shetikzor aleinu gezeirot tovot.

> May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that you decree upon us good deeds.

The Hebrew for carrot (gezer) sounds similar to the word for "decrees" (gezeirot)

Blessing Before Fish, Meat, and Other Items:

Ba-rukh a-ta a-do-nai e-lo-hei-nu me-lech בַּרוּךְ אֲתַה יִי אֱלֹהִינוּ מֵלֶךְ הַעוֹלֶם, ha·o·lam she·ha·kol ni·he·yeh bid·va·ro.

Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, by whose word everything exists.

For Fish:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךּ יִיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei . שֶׁנְּפְרֶה וְנְרְבֶּה כַּדְּגִים avoteinu shenifreh vinirbeh kadagim.

May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that we be fruitful and multiply like fish.

For a Fish (or Ram's) Head:

יָהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֵיךּ יִיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei משנהיה לראש ולא לזַנַב. avoteinu shenihiyeh lerosh velo lezanav.

May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors, that we be as the head and not as the tail.



Blessing Before a New Fruit

On the second night of Rosh Hashanah there is a tradition to eat a new fruit and recite:

ברוּך אַרָּה יִיָּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ כֶּיֶלֶּךְ הָעוֹלְם, Ba·rukh a·ta a·do·nai e·lo·hei·nu me·lech ha·o·lam she·he·chi·ya·nu ve·ki·ye·ma·nu יָהָגִיעָנוּ לַזִּמַן הַזֶּה. ve·hi-gi-a·nu la·zman ha·zeh.

> Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, who has granted us life, who has sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment.

The two days of Rosh Hashanah are said to be one "elonaated day". By eating a new fruit, we ensure that we have reason to recite Shehechiyanu on the 2nd night.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

We conclude by turning our thoughts to the wider world, praying for peace and healing for all of humanity, and especially for the land and people of Israel.

יָהִי רַצוֹן מִלְפַנִיךּ יִי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וַאַלֹהֵי אָבוֹתֵינוּ, May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our שַתְחַדֵּשׁ עַלֵּינוּ שַׁנָה טוֹבַה וּמִתוּקָה.

ancestors, that You renew us for a sweet new year.

שַׁתְּכָתְבֵנוּ בְּסֵפֵר חַיִּים טוֹבִים

May you inscribe us in the Book of Life

בספר גאלה וישועה

in the Book of Redemption and Salvation

in the book of Livelihood and Sustenance

in the book of Merits

בספר סליחה ומחילה. אמן.

in the book of Forgiveness and Pardon. Amen.

שַּתְהָא הַשַּׁנָה הַזֹּאת הַבַּאָה עַלֵינוּ וְעַל כַּל עַמִּדְּ

May this coming year be for us and for all Your

בית ישראל, בכל מקום שהם: people Israel, wherever they may be:

a year of light

a year of blessing

a year of joy

a year of gladness

a year of glory and splendor

a year of good assembly

a year of merits

a year of rejoicing

a year of goodness

a year of salvation and comfort

a year of good livelihood and sustenance

a year of holy Torah study

a year of rest

a year of consolation

a year of happiness

a year of wealth and honor

a year of redemption

a vear of exultation

a year of uprightness

a year of peace and tranquility

a year in which You bring us rejoicing to our land. שנה אשר תעלנו שמחים לארצנו.

NETILAT YADAIM - HANDWASHING

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu me-lech בָּרוּךְ אַהָּנה יִיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֵלֶךְ הַעוֹלֶם

ha·olam a·sher ki·de·sha·nu be·mitz·vo·tav

יוְצִיָּנוּ עֵל נִטִילַת יַדִים. ve·tzi·vanu al ne·ti·lat ya·da·yim.

Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with commandments and has commanded us on the washing of hands.

HAMOTZI - BLESSING OVER BREAD

Ba·ruch a·ta A·do·nai E·lo·hei·nu me·lech בָּרוּךְ אַרְּהַינוּ מֶלֶדְ הַעוֹלְם ha·olam ha·mo·tzi le·chem min ha·a·retz.

> Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

symbolizes the cyclical nature of the year and a king's crown

Tich-leh sha·na ve·ki-le·lo·te·ha הִכְלֵה שָׁנָה וִקְלְלוֹתֶיהָ, Tach·el sha·na u·vir·cho·te·ha

Let the year and its curses end; Let the year and its blessings begin!

Sha·na to·va u·me·tu·ka

HAVE A HAPPY AND SWEET NEW YEAR!