
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."
~*Babylonian Talmud, Keritot 6a*

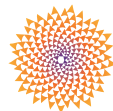


This Talmud teaching forms the basis of our Rosh Hashanah seder with its simanim (symbolic foods) and blessings, though over time, different Jewish communities have added their own traditions and interpretations.

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.



Adamah
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ROSH HASHANAH KIDDUSH

On Friday Night:

יום הששי. ויכלו השמים והארץ וכל צבאם: ויכל אלהים ביום השביעי, מלאכתו אשר עשה, וישבת ביום השביעי מכל מלאכתו אשר עשה: ויברך אלהים את יום השביעי, ויקדש אתו, כי בו שבת מכל מלאכתו אשר ברא אלהים לעשות:

The sixth day. And the heavens and the earth were 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:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, בורא פרי הגפן:

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

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר בחר בנו מכל עם ורוממנו מכל לשון וקדשנו במצותיו,

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;



ותתן לנו יהוה אלהינו באהבה את יום (השבת הזה ואת יום) הזכרון הזה, יום (זכרון) תרועה (באהבה)

And you have given us, Adonai our God, with love, this (Sabbath Day and this) Day of Remembrance, a day (in memory) of Shofar sounding, (with love)

מקרא קדש זכר ליציאת מצרים, כי בנו בחרת ואותנו קדשת מכל העמים, ודברך מלכנו אמת וקיים לעד.

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.



ברוך אתה יי, מלך על כל הארץ מקדש (השבת ו) ישראל ויום הזכרון:

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 לחשך, בין ישראל לעמים, בין יום השביעי לששת ימי המעשה, בין קדשת שבת לקדשת יום טוב הברכה, ואת יום השביעי מששת ימי המעשה קדשת, הברכה וקדשת את עמך ישראל בקדשתך, ברוך אתה יהוה, המבדיל בין קדש לקדש:

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 Shehechyanu:

ברוך אתה יי, אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה:

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:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, *Ba-rukh a-ta a-do-nai e-lo-hei-nu me-lech*
בוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ: *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 רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, *Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei*
שְׁתַּחֲדֵשׁ עֲלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה. *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:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, *Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei*
שְׁנֵהִיָּה מְלֵאִים מִצְּוֹת בְּרַמּוֹן. *avoteinu mele'im mitzivot 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:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, *Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei*
שְׂיִתְמוּ אוֹיְבֵינוּ וְשׂוֹנְאֵינוּ וְכֹל מְבַקְשֵׁי רַעְתָּנוּ. *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 (tamar) sounds similar to the word "to end" (yitmu)

"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:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, Ba-ruk h a-ta a-do-nai e-lo-hei-nu me-lech
בוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָאָדָמָה: 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 מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei
שִׁירְבוּ זְכוֹתֵינוּ וְתִלְבְּבוּנוּ. 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:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei
שִׁיכַרְתּוּ אוֹיְבֵינוּ וְשׂוֹנְאֵינוּ וְכֹל מְבַקְשֵׁי רַעְתָּנוּ. avoteinu sheyikartu 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 cut off.

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

For Pumpkins or Gourds:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei
שֶׁתִּקְרַע רוּעַ גְּזֵר דִּינֵנוּ וְיִקְרָא לְפָנֶיךָ זְכוֹתֵינוּ. avoteinu shetikra ro'a gezar dineinu veyikaru 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:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei
שִׁיִּסְתַּלְקוּ אוֹיְבֵינוּ וְשׂוֹנְאֵינוּ וְכֹל מְבַקְשֵׁי רַעְתָּנוּ. 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" (yistalku)

For Carrots:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei
שֶׁתִּגְזֹר עָלֵינוּ גְּזֵרוֹת שׂוֹבוֹת. 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:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, *Ba-rukh a-ta a-do-nai e-lo-hei-nu me-lech*

שֶׁהַכֹּל נִהְיָה בְּדַבְּרוֹ: *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 מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, *Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei*
שְׁנֵפֶרֶה וְנִרְבֶּה בְּדָגִים. *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:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, *Yehi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu vEilohei*
שְׁנֵהִיָּה לְרֹאשׁ וְלֹא לְזָנָב. *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:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, *Ba-rukh a-ta a-do-nai e-lo-hei-nu me-lech*

שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ *ha-o-lam she-he-chi-ya-nu ve-ki-ye-ma-nu*

וְהִגִּיעַנוּ לְזִמְנֵי 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 "elongated day".
By eating a new fruit, we ensure
that we have reason to recite
Shehechyanu 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.

יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שֶׁתְּחַדֵּשׁ עֲלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוֹקָה.

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

שֶׁתְּכַתֵּבֵנוּ בְּסֵפֶר חַיִּים טוֹבִים

May you inscribe us in the Book of Life

בְּסֵפֶר גְּאֻלָּה וְיִשׁוּעָה

in the Book of Redemption and Salvation

בְּסֵפֶר פְּרֻסָּה וְכִלְכֻלָּה

in the book of Livelihood and Sustenance

בְּסֵפֶר זְכוּת

in the book of Merits

בְּסֵפֶר סְלִיחָה וּמַחִילָה. אָמֵן.

in the book of Forgiveness and Pardon. Amen.

שֶׁתְּהֵא הַשָּׁנָה הַזֹּאת הַבָּאָה עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל עַמְּךָ
בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּכֹל מְקוֹם שָׁהִם:

May this coming year be for us and for all Your people Israel, wherever they may be:

שָׁנַת אוֹרָה

a year of light

שָׁנַת בְּרָכָה

a year of blessing

שָׁנַת גִּילָה

a year of joy

שָׁנַת דִּיצָה

a year of gladness

שָׁנַת הוֹד וְהַדָּר

a year of glory and splendor

שָׁנַת וְעַד טוֹב

a year of good assembly

שָׁנַת זְכוּת

a year of merits

שָׁנַת חֲדוּה

a year of rejoicing

שָׁנַת טוֹבָה

a year of goodness

שָׁנַת יִשׁוּעָה וְנַחְמָה

a year of salvation and comfort

שָׁנַת כִּלְכֻלָּה וְכִלְכֻלָּה טוֹבָה

a year of good livelihood and sustenance

שָׁנַת לְמוֹד תּוֹרָה בְּקִדְשָׁה

a year of holy Torah study

שָׁנַת מְנוּחָה

a year of rest

שָׁנַת נַחְמָה

a year of consolation

שָׁנַת שְׂמֵחָה

a year of happiness

שָׁנַת עֶשֶׂר וְכָבוֹד

a year of wealth and honor

שָׁנַת פְּדוּת

a year of redemption

שָׁנַת צְהִלָּה

a year of exultation

שָׁנַת קוּמְמִיּוּת

a year of uprightness

שָׁנַת שְׁלוֹם וְשִׁלְוָה

a year of peace and tranquility

שָׁנָה אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲלֵנוּ שְׂמֵחִים לְאַרְצֵנוּ.

a year in which You bring us rejoicing to our land.



NETILAT YADAIM - HANDWASHING

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל נְטִילַת יָדַיִם.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu me-lech

ha-olam a-sheer ki-de-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav

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

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu me-lech

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.

*The challah's round shape
symbolizes the cyclical nature
of the year and a king's crown*

תְּכַלֵּה שָׁנָה וְקִלְלוֹתֶיהָ

Tich-leh sha-na ve-ki-le-lo-te-ha

תַּחֲלֵל שָׁנָה וּבִרְכוּתֶיהָ

Tach-el sha-na u-vir-cho-te-ha

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

שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה

Sha-na to-va u-me-tu-ka

HAVE A HAPPY AND SWEET NEW YEAR!