סדר של ראש השנה Seder for Rosh HaShanah

"Now that you have said that omens can be significant, at the beginning of each year, each person 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.



Rosh HaShanah Kiddush

On FRIDAY NIGHT:

יוֹם הַשִּׁשִּׁי. וַיְכֵלוּ הַשָּׁמֵים וְהָאֶרֶץ וְכָל צְּבָאָם: וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בִּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עֲשָׁה, וַיִּשְׁבֹּת בִּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מִבָּל מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עֲשָׂה: וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, וַיְקַבָּשׁ אֹתוֹ, כִּי בוֹ שָׁבַת מִבְּל מלאכתוֹ אשׁר ברא אלהים לעשוֹת:

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:

בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יי אֱלהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלֶם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִבָּל עָם וְרוֹמְמָנוּ מִבָּל לָשׁוֹן וְקִדְשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,

וַתִּתֶּן לְנוּ יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּאַהֲבָה אֵת יוֹם (הַשָּבַת הַזָּה וָאָת יוֹם) הַזּבְּרוֹן הַזָּה,

אֶת יום (הַשַּבָּת הַזֶּה וְאֶת יום) הַזִּבְּרוּן הַזֶּ יוֹם (זַכְרוֹן) תָּרוּעָה (בִּאַהַבָּה)

מִקְרֵא קֹדֶשׁ זֵכֶר לִיצִיאַת מִצְרִים, כִּי בָנוּ בָחַרְתָּ וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדִּשְׁתָּ מִכֶּל הָעַמִּים, וּדְבַרְדְּ מֵּלְכּנוּ אֵמֶת וְקַיַּם לַעַד.

> > וְיוֹם הַזְּכֵּרוֹן:

Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of the universe who has chosen us from all people,

and exalted us from all tongues,

and santified 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 santified 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 santifies (the Sabbath and) Israel,

and the Day of Remembrance.

PARTIAL HAVDALAH RECITED ON SATURDAY NIGHT:

בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלְם בּוֹרֵא מְאוֹרֵי הָאֵשׁ: בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלְם, הַמַּבְּדִּיל בֵּין לְדֶשׁ לְחוֹל, בֵּין אוֹר לְחשֶׁך, בֵּין יִשְׂרָאֵל לָעִמִּים, בֵּין יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לְשֵׁשֶׁת יְמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה, בַּין קְדַשֵּׁת שַׁבָּת לְקְדָשָׁת יוֹם טוֹב הִבְּדַלְתָ, וְאֶת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מִשֵּׁשֶׁת יְמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה קִדְּשְׁתָּ, הִבְּדַלְתָ וְלָּהְשִׁתָּה יְהֹוָה, הַמַּבְדִּיל בִּין קֹדִשׁ לְקְדָשׁ:

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:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְּ הָעוֹלֶם, שָׁהָחֵינוּ וְקִיִּמֵנוּ וְהִגִּיענוּ לְזָמֵן 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:

בּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלְם,

Barukh ata adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam

borei pri 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 מִלְּפָנֶיךְ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha adonai elohei veilohei avoteinu אַלְינוּ שָּׁנְה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה. 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.







FOR POMEGRANTES:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיףּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, Yehi ratzon milfanecha adonai elohei veilohei avoteinu שֵׁנָהְיָה מָלְאִים מָצִוֹת כַּרְמוֹן. 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.

A reference to the number of seeds in a pomegranate

FOR DATES:

יָהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, Yehi ratzon milfanecha a יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְפָנֶיךּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, sheyitmu oyveinu vesone שָׁיִּתַּמוּ אוֹיְבֵינוּ וְשׁוֹנְאֵינוּ וְכָל מְבַקְשֵׁי רָעָתֵנוּ.

Yehi ratzon milfanecha adonai elohei veilohei 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.

Sounds similar to the word for "to end" (vitrul)

BLESSING BEFORE FISH, MEAT, AND OTHER ITEMS:

ברוּךְ אַתְּה יי אֱלֹהִינוּ מֶלֶךְ הְעוֹלְם,

Barukh ata adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam

shehakol niheyeh bidvaro

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

For Fish:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיףּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
Yehi ratzon milfanecha adonai elohei veilohei avoteinu
אַבוֹתִינוּ,
shenifreh vinirbeh kadagim.

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

FOR A FISH (OR RAM'S) HEAD:

יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha adonai elohei veilohei avoteinu שׁנָּהִיֵה לְרֹאשׁ וּלֹא לְזָנָב. 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 VEGETABLES:

בּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הְעוֹלְם,

Barukh ata adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam

בוֹרֵא פְּרִי הָאֲדְמָה:

borei pri ha'adamah.

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

FOR BLACK-EYED PEAS:

יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךְ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha adonai elohei veilohei avoteinu שִּיִּרְבּוּ זָכִיּוֹתֵינוּ וּתְלַבְּבֵנוּ. 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.

FOR LEEKS:

יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְפָנֶיףְ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי Yehi ratzon milfanecha adonai elohei veilohei avoteinu sheyikartu oyveinu vesoneinu אַיִּבְּרְתוּ אוֹיְבֵינוּ וְשׂוֹנְאֵינוּ וְכָל מְבַקְשֵׁי רְעָתֵנוּ. 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.

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FOR PUMPKINS OR GOURDS:

יָהי רֵצוֹן מלפַנידּ יי אלהינוּ ואלהי אבותינוּ, שָּׁתִקְרַע רוֹעַ גְּזַר דִּינֵנוּ וִיִּקָרְאוּ לְפָנֵידְּ זַכִיּוֹתֵינוּ.

Yehi ratzon milfanecha adonai elohei veilohei avoteinu shetikra ro'a qezar 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 verdit and that our merits be proclaimed before You.

The Hebrew for gourd (kar'a) "to tear up" and "to proclaim"

FOR BEETS:

יָהִי רֵצוֹן מִלְפַנֵיך יי אֱלֹהִינוּ וָאלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שַׁיִּסְתַּלְקוּ אוֹיָבֵינוּ וְשׁוֹנָאֵינוּ וְכַל מְבַקְשֵׁי רַעָתֵנוּ.

Yehi ratzon milfanecha adonai elohei veilohei 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:

יָהִי רַצוֹן מִלְפַנֵיך יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וָאלֹהֵי אֱבוֹתֵינוּ, Yehi ratzon milfanecha adonai elohei veilohei 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.

sounds similar to the word for decrees (gezeirot)

BLESSING BEFORE A NEW FRUIT

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

בַרוּך אַתַה יי אֵלהֵינוּ מֵלֵךְ הַעוֹלַם,

Barukh ata adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam

אָהֶחֶיָנוּ וְקִיְמְנוּ shehechiyanu vekiyemanu

יָהָגִיעָנוּ לַזִּמֵן הַזָּה. vehigi'anu lazman hazeh

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 Shehechiyanu on the 2nd night.

Verses Recited on Rosh HaShanah

These verses are customarily recited before Kiddush by some Mizrahi (Middle Eastern) communities.

וְנֹחַ מָצָא חֵן בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה venoach matza chen be'einei adonai And Noach found favor in the eyes of Adonai	Genesis ???
יַנְיִבְע יִצְחָק בָּאָרֶץ הַהָּוֹא וַיִּמְצָא בַּשְּׁנְה הַהִוּא וַיִּבְרֵע venoach matza chen be'einei adonai בואָה שְׁעָרִים וַיִבְרֵבֵהוּ יְהוָה And Isaac sowed the land, and in that year he reaped a hundredfold, and Adonai blessed him	Genesis ???
פי עִמְדּ מְקוֹר חַיִּים, בְּאוֹרְדּ נִרְאֶה אוֹר venoach matza chen be'einei adonai For with you is the source of life; in Your light we see light	Genesis ???
אוֹר זֶרַעַ לַצַּדִּיק וּלְיִשְׁרֵי לֵב שִּׁמְחָה venoach matza chen be'einei adonai Light is sown for the righteous; and joy for the upright of heart	Genesis ???
עבּירְהֶּם כּה לֶחָי וְאַהָּה שָׁלוֹם venoach matza chen be'einei adonai ובִיתְךּ שָׁלוֹם וְכל אֲשֶׁר לְךּ שָׁלוֹם And you shall say "Thus to the living - peace to you, and peace to your house, and peace to all that you have	Genesis ???
יָּבְחֶל שָׁנָה וּבִרְכוֹתֶיהְ venoach matza chen be'einei adonai Let the year begin with its blessings	Genesis 777

Concluding Prayers

As we conclude our seder, we turn our thoughts to the wider world. We pray for peace, prosperity, and healing for all of humanity, and especially for the land and people of Israel.

יהי רצון מלפניד יי אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our שַׁתַחַדָשׁ עַלֵּינוּ שַׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה. ancestors, that You renew us for a sweet new year. שתכתבנו בספר חיים טובים, May you inscribe us in the Book of Life, בָּסֶפֶר גָּאָלַה וִישׁוּעָה, in the Book of Redemption and Salvation, בְּסֵפֵר פַּרְנָסָה וְכַלְבַּלַה, in the book of Livelihood and Sustenance, בַּסֵפֵר זְכִיּוֹת, in the book of Merits. בְּסֵפֵר סִלִיחָה וּמִחִילֶה. אָמֵן. in the book of Forgiveness and Pardon. Amen. שַּתָהֵא הַשַּׁנַה הַזֹּאת הַבָּאָה עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל עַמְּדְ May this coming year be for us and for all Your בית ישראל, בכל מקום שהם: people Israel, wherever they may be: שָׁנַת אוֹרָה, a year of light שָׁנַת בָּרֶכָה, a year of blessing שׁנַת גִּילַה, a year of joy שְׁנַת דִּיצָה, a year of gladness a year of glory and splendor שָׁנַת הוֹד וְהַדַר, a year of good assembly שנת ועד טוב, שנת זכיות, a year of merits a year of rejoicing שָׁנַת חֵדְוַה, a year of goodness שׁנַת טוֹבַה, a year of salvation and comfort שנת ישועה ונחמה, שׁנַת כַּלכַּלָה וְכַלכַּלָה טוֹבה, a year of good livelihood and sustenance שַׁנַת למוד תוֹרַה בּקדַשֵּׁה, a year of holy Torah study a year of rest שנת מנוחה, a year of consolation שָׁנַת נֶחַמַה, שָׁנַת שִׂמְחַה, a year of happiness שָׁנַת עשֵׁר וְכַבוֹד, a year of wealth and honor a year of redemption a year of exultation שַׁנַת קוֹמְמִיּוּת, a year of uprightness שנת שלום ושלוה, a year of peace and tranquility שנה אשר תעלנו שמחים לאַרצנו. a year in which You bring us rejoicing to our land.

Handwashing

HaMotzi -Blessing over Bread

