



סדר ראש השנה - Seder for Rosh HaShana

On the first night of rosh Hashana, it is customary for many families to hold a "Seder" in honor of the new year.

Apple and Honey - תפוח בדבש - Tapuach B'Dvash

"ברוך אתה ה' א-להינו מלך העולם בורא פרי העץ:

"Blessed are you Hashem our G-d, King of the universe, Who created the fruit of trees"

"יהי רצון מלפניך ה' א-לוהנו וא-לוהי אבותינו, שתחדש עלינו שנה טובה ומתוקה"

"May it be your will, Hashem our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, that you renew for us a good and sweet new year"

Date - תמר - Tamar

" יהי רצון מלפניך ה' א-לוהנו וא-לוהי אבותינו, שיתמו שונאינו"

"May it be Your will, Hashem our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, that our enemies meet their end"

Pomegranate - רימון - Rimon

"יהי רצון מלפניך ה' א-לוהנו וא-לוהי אבותינו, שנהיה מלאים מצות כרמון:"

"May it be Your will, Hashem our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, May we produce as many good deeds as a pomegranate has seeds"

Black eyed peas - רוביא - Rubiya

"ברוך אתה ה' א-להינו מלך העולם בורא פרי האדמה:"

"Blessed are you Hashem our G-d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the ground"

"יהי רצון מלפניך ה' א-לוהנו וא-לוהי אבותינו, שירבו זכיותינו"

"May it be Your will, Hashem our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, that our merits grow abundant"

Leek - כרישה - Krisha

"יהי רצון מלפניך ה' א-לוהנו וא-לוהי אבותינו, שיכרתו שונאינו"

"May it be Your will, Hashem our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, that our enemies be cut off"

Beet - סלק - Selek

"יהי רצון מלפניך ה' א-לוהנו וא-לוהי אבותינו, שישתלקו אויבנו ושונאינו"

"May it be Your will, Hashem our G-d and G-d of our ancestors that our enemies and those who hate us vanish"

Squash - קרא - Kara

"יהי רצון מלפניך ה' א-לוהנו וא-לוהי אבותינו, שתקרע רע גזר-דיננו, ויקראו לפניך זכיותינו::"

"May it be Your will, Hashem our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, that the evil decree against us be torn apart, and our merit be read out before you"

Fish Head - ראש דג - Rosh Dag

"יהי רצון מלפניך ה' א-לוהנו וא-לוהי אבותינו, שנהיה לראש ולא לזנב"

"May it be Your will, Hashem our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, that we be the head, and not the tail"



Did you know?

- Eating apple and honey hasn't been around forever...during the time of the prophets Ezra and Nechemia, as the torah portion was being read on Rosh Hashana, Am Yisrael began to weep. As this happened, Ezra commanded them to eat some sweet honey- as a reminder of sweet times and a sweet year. Only many years later, in France, did the famous apple- honey combo come to be.
- Foods that are customarily avoided on Rosh Hashana- anything sour, black coffee and nuts. Why nuts? They can cause phlegm, which will make blowing the shofar a bit difficult.
- In Morocco it was customary to eat couscous or sesame seeds as one of the simanim, to symbolize many merits in the year ahead.
- In Southern France it was customary to eat white or light colored foods- grapes, light figs and a sheep's head (instead of a fish head)- to symbolize a year of purity.
- In North Africa it is customary to eat garlic as one of the simanim.
- On the second night of Rosh Hashana, it is customary to bring a new fruit to the table, so that we can say the bracha of "Shehechyanu" again. For this very reason, the Israeli markets stock up on dragon fruit, which is only sold around the time of Rosh Hashana!

Food for thought

- When we conduct the Rosh Hashana seder with the simanim, we say blessings that send ill wishes to our enemies. Is this a moral thing to do?
- Does it make a difference if we use regular honey or silan (date honey) to dip our apples into?
- What differences are there between the Jewish new year and the secular new year?
- We eat a fish head to symbolize that we should be at the head and not at the tail. Should we be at the "head"? Is it really a bad thing to be at the "tail"?
- Are we aloud to add our own simanim to the Seder? Or would it be considered making up our own mitzvot and brachot?

Just for fun...

- Run an alternative Simanim Seder- each person at the table needs to bless the new year according to something on the table aside from the regular simanim (a cup, a vase of flowers, meatballs, etc.)
- A pomegranate is said to contain 613 seeds, the same amount as the number of mitzvot in the Torah. Start counting!
- Each person at the table must tell a Rosh Hashana memory that they have
- Have all the people at the table sing "dip the apple in the honey" in rounds at the table. See how long you can last.

Shana Tova U'Metuka from World Bnei Akiva

