

Simanim: Signs And Blessings Of The New Year

Originally a Sephardi tradition, in Israel many Ashkenazi families have adopted the Rosh HaShanah Simanim Seder of making blessings and sweet wishes on special foods connected to the New Year. The popularity of this ritual is a physical expression of welcoming the New Year with hope of peace for all of Israel and to help people relate to the celebration on a more personal level. Even better, it gives us a chance to appreciate the bounty of the Land of Israel, helping us to feel connected from our own corner of the world, while uniting us with our fellow Children of Israel around the world who share this hope for our future. We are pleased to share these blessings for Israel with you and invite you to make them a part of your holiday celebration. Each prayer can serve as a reminder of our collective mission to protect Israel forever - her people, her history, her land and her culture.

End - תם (*tam*) ----- Dates - תמר (*tamar*)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ

Blessed are You, Lord our G d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree.

יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְפָּנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שְׂיִתְמוּ אוֹיְבֵינוּ וְשׂוֹנְאֵינוּ וְכָל מִבְּקָשֵׁי רַעֲתָנוּ

May it be Your will, Lord our G d and the G d of our fathers, that there come an end to our enemies, haters and those who wish evil upon us the People of Israel.

abundance - רוביא (*rubiya*) ---- Small Beans - לוביא (*luviya*)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה

Blessed are You, Lord our G d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְפָּנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שְׂיִרְבוּ זְכוֹתֵינוּ וְיִתְלַבְּבוּ

May it be Your will, Lord our G d and the G d of our fathers, that our merits as the People of Israel shall increase and that You hearten us as a united community.

cut - כרת (kar-at)----- Leek - כְּרֶשֶׁה (krasha)

(chives or scallions can be used, too!)

יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְפָּנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שְׂיִכָּרְתוּ אוֹיְבֵינוּ וְשׂוֹנְאֵינוּ וְכֹל מִבְּקִשֵׁי רַעֲתָנוּ.

May it be Your will, Lord our G d and the G d of our fathers, that our enemies, haters, and those who wish evil upon the People, the Land and the State of Israel shall be cut down [in their attempts to destroy us].

depart - סלק ----- Beets - סלקא (selek)

יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְפָּנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שְׂיִסְתַּלְקוּ אוֹיְבֵינוּ וְשׂוֹנְאֵינוּ וְכֹל מִבְּקִשֵׁי רַעֲתָנוּ.

May it be Your will, Lord our G d and the G d of our fathers, that our enemies, haters and those who wish evil upon Israel shall depart, be exiled, removed and invalidated.

rip apart - קרע, to announce - קרא ----- Gourd - קרא (karah)

pumpkin is most people's substitute

יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְפָּנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שְׂתִקְרַע רוּעַ גְּזַר דִּינֵנוּ, וְיִקְרָאוּ לְפָנֶיךָ זְכוֹתֵינוּ.

May it be Your will, Lord our G d and the G d of our fathers, that the evil of our verdicts be ripped away, and our merits [of Am Yisrael collectively and individually] be announced before you.

Pomegranate - רימון (rimon)

יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְפָּנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שְׂנִהֶיָה מְלֵאִים מִצְוֹת כְּרִמּוֹן.

May it be Your will, Lord our G d and the G d of our fathers, that we be filled with mitzvot like a pomegranate [is filled with seeds].

Apple and Honey - תפוח ודבש (*tapuach u'dvash*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְפָנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שֶׁתְּחַדֵּשׁ עֲלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה כְּדָבֶשׁ

May it be Your will, Lord our G d and the G d of our fathers, that You renew for us a year good and sweet like honey (from the Land of Israel!)

Fish Head - ראש דג (*rosh dag*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְפָנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, שֶׁנִּהְיֶה לְרֹאשׁ וְלֹא לְזָנָב

May it be Your will, Lord our G d and the G d of our fathers, that we be a head and not a tail [in our efforts for peace, community, security, prosperity, and unity for Israel from every corner of the world.