

A Rosh Hashanah Seder — *simanim* (augurs/blessing spells) for the New Year

The blessings we wish for are recited over foods using puns on their names or metaphors based on their characteristics. Make up your own blessings in any language — almost any fruit or vegetable will do. Each seder food is eaten after its invocation, before or after *hamotsi* (bread) in the evening.

Traditional: תפוח ודבש

Apple and Honey (*Tapuach ud'vash*)

May it be Your will,
our God and God of our ancestors,
that You make new for us
a year good and sweet,
from the beginning of the year to its end.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁתַּחַדֵּשׁ עָלֵינוּ
שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה
מֵרַשִׁית הַשָּׁנָה וְעַד אַחֲרִית הַשָּׁנָה

For a *Shmitah* year: תאניםFigs (*T'einim*)

In the year of Shmitah, the sabbatical year, our ancestors would let the land rest from their plows, receiving and eating whatever grew and ripened by itself from the land. Fig trees would be especially prized because figs can yield ripe fruit over several months, providing food for a long stretch. And some say that the fig was the fruit of the tree of knowledge, and that Shmitah is our time to receive that fruit in the right way and the right time, when we are ripened for understanding. Therefore...

May it be Your will YHVH,
our God and God of our ancestors,
as the Earth lifts her face
toward us and all her creatures
to nourish all equally,
and as she ripens new fruit month by month,
free to all, that we may receive in gratitude
what is offered, so that we may also
turn our faces, ripe with justice and love
toward this world and all creatures.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁכֶּשֶׁם שֶׁתִּשָּׂא הָאָרֶץ פָּנֶיהָ
אֵלֵינוּ וְאֶל כָּל בְּרִיּוֹתֶיהָ
לְהוֹצִיא מְזוֹן לְכָל בְּשׂוּיוֹן
וּתְבַשִּׁיל פְּרוֹת חֲדָשִׁים
חֹדֶשׁ אַחֵר חֹדֶשׁ הַפֶּקֶר לְכוֹלִים
כִּן נִקְבַּל בְּהוֹדָאָה כָּל מָה שֶׁנִּדְבָּה וּלְכוֹ
נִפְנָה בְּשָׁלִים בְּצֶדֶק וּבְאֵהָבָה
אֶל הָאָרֶץ וְאֶל כָּל הַבְּרִיּוֹת

Y'hi ratson milfanekha YHVH Eloheinu v'Elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, shek'shem shetisa ha'arets paneha eleinu v'el kol b'riyoteha l'hotsi mazon lakol b'shivyon, v'tavshil peirot chadashot chodesh achar chodesh hefker l'kulam, ken n'kabeil b'hoda'ah kol mah shenadvah bishnat hashmitah hazot ul'ken nifneh b'sheilim b'tsedek uv'ahavah el ha'arets v'el kol hab'riyot

For a *Shmitah* year you can also add to candlelighting:

“...l’hadlik ner shel yom tov bish’nat hak’dushah shel sh’mitchah”
 “...to light the lamp of the holy day in this *Shmitah* year of holiness.”

For *Shehechyanu* you can add:

“...l’az’man hazeh ul’shanah hazot” “...who let us reach this season and this year.”

For the Rosh Hashanah after *Shmitah* (when debts are canceled): שומר

Fennel (*Shumar*)

May it be Your will, *YHVH*,
 our God and God of our ancestors
 to cancel our debts and sins
 and to give us determination
 to release debts, accusations,
 and bitterness one holds
 against their neighbor.

יהי רצון מלפניך
 יי אלהינו ואֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ
 לְשַׁמּוֹט חֻבּוֹתֵינוּ וְלַתֵּת לָנוּ רָצוֹן
 לְהַשְׁמִיט חֲבוּת וְאָשׁוּם וּמְרִירוֹת
 כָּל אֶחָד אֶל רֵעֵהוּ

*Y’hi ratson mil’fanekha, YHVH Eloheinu v’Elohei avoteinu v’imoteinu, lishmot chovoteinu
 v’lateit lanu ratson l’hashmit miyadeinu chavut kol echad el re’ehu*

For the climate crisis (can also be for *Shmitah*): תָּרַד

Spinach (*Tered*)



May it be Your will, *YHVH*,
 our God and God of our ancestors
 that we awaken
 from our deep slumber (*tardeimah*),
 to listen to the Earth,
 and species in danger of extinction,
 and may this give us strength to act,
 and to repair our future!

יהי רצון מלפניך
 יי אלהינו ואֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵנוּ
 שְׁנִתְעוֹרֵר מִן הַתְּרִדְמָה שְׁלָנוּ
 לְהַקְשִׁיב אֶל הָאָרֶץ
 וּלְכָל הַבְּרִיּוֹת בְּסִכְפַּת הַכְּחָדָה
 לְגָרוֹת בָּנוּ כַּח לַעֲשׂוֹת
 וּלְתַקֵּן גּוֹרְלֵינוּ

*Y’hi ratson mil’fanekha, YHVH Eloheinu v’Elohei avoteinu v’imoteinu, shenit’orer min
 hatardeimah shelanu l’hakshiv el ha’arets, ul’khol minei hab’riyot b’sakanat hakh’chadah,
 l’garot banu ko’ach la’asot ul’takein goraleinu*



Traditional: קרא

Squash - Pumpkin, Zucchini (*Kara or K'ra*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁתְּקַרַע רוּעַ גָּזֵר דִּינֵנוּ וְיִקְרָאוּ לְפָנֶיךָ זְכוּתֵינוּ:

May it be Your will, our God and God of our ancestors,
to tear up (*tikra`*) the evil decrees against us and proclaim (*yikr'u*) our merits!

Traditional: רוביא

Beans, Black-eyed peas (*Rubiya*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁיִּרְבוּ זְכוּתֵינוּ וְתִלְבְּנוּ:

May it be Your will, our God and God of our ancestors,
that our righteousness will multiply (*yirbu*) and that you will love us.

For refugees: שזיף

Plum (*Sh'zif*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
לִתֵּת לָנוּ כֹּחַ לְהַכִּין שִׁיזָבָא בְּעַד פְּלִיטֵי אֲקָלִים וְרָעַב וּמִלְחָמָה

May it be Your will, our God and God of our ancestors,
to give us strength to prepare safe harbor (*sheizava*)
for climate refugees and refugees from famine and war.

*Y'hi ratson mil'fanekha, YHVH Eloheinu v'Elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu,
lateit lanu ko'ach l'hakhin sheizava ba'ad p'litei aklim umilchamah v'razon*

For democracy and liberation: צָנוֹן
Radish (English to Hebrew pun)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
לְעֻקּוֹר רוֹדְנוֹת וְרִדְפוֹת מִן הָעוֹלָם

May it be Your will, our God and God of our ancestors
to uproot tyranny and persecution from the world.

For enmity and for pandemic (Traditional and new): סֶלְקָא
Beets or Swiss Chard (*Salka*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שִׁיסְתָּלְקוּ* כָּל נֶגַע וּמִגָּפָה מִגּוֹפֵינוּ
וְאִיבָה וְשִׁנְאָה מֵעֲלֵינוּ וּמִלְּבָבֵינוּ
וְכָל מְבַקֵּשׁ רָעָתֵנוּ מִסְבִּיבֵנוּ

May it be Your will, our God and God of our ancestors,
that plague and epidemic be removed *yistalku** from our bodies,
that enmity and hatred be removed from us and from within us,
and remove all who seek our harm.

*this can also be down with Date (*Tamar* תָּמָר) substitute *yitamu*/cease;
and Leek (*Karti* כֶּרְתִּי), *yikartul*/ be cut off



Traditional: רִמּוֹן
Pomegranate (*Rimon*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שְׁנֵהֶיָּה מְלֵאִים מִצְּוֹת כְּרִמּוֹן:

May it be Your will, our God and God of our ancestors,
that we be full of *mitsvot* (commandments/righteous deeds) like a pomegranate.

Some examples of other food puns: “May it be Your will...” olive ~ “that we live long on the earth”; raisin ~ “that we rise up for justice”; parsnip ~ “that our purse be full”; rapini (rabe)/syrup ~ “that we be healed - *r’fa’einu v’neirapei*”; almonds ~ “that we provide alms with ease”