

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 — any fruit or vegetable will do. Each seder food is eaten after its invocation, before or after *hamotsi* (bread) in the evening. Though it's called a seder, the foods can be eaten in any order. *Simanim* especially for the *Shmitah* year come at the end.

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.

יְהי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ
שְׁתַּחֲדֵשׁ עֲלֵינוּ
שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה
מֵרֵאשִׁית הַשָּׁנָה וְעַד אַחֲרִית הַשָּׁנָה

For the climate crisis (also works for *Shmitah*): תָּרַדSpinach (*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!

יְהי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁנִּתְעוֹרֵר מִן הַתַּרְדֵּמָה שֶׁלָּנוּ
לְהַקְשִׁיב אֶל הָאָרֶץ
וּלְכָל הַבְּרִיּוֹת בְּסִכְפַּת הַכְּחָדָה
לְגֵרוֹת בָּנוּ כַּח לַעֲשׂוֹת
וּלְתַקֵּן גּוֹרְלֵנוּ

*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: קָרָא

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

יְהי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁתִּקְרַע רוּעַ גָּזֵר דִּינָנוּ 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: רוביָא
Beans, Black-eyed peas (*Rubiya*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שְׂיָרְבוּ 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: שְׂזִיף
Plum (*Sh'zif*)



יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
לִיתֵת לָנוּ כֹּחַ לְהַכִּין שְׂיִזְבָּא בְּעַד פְּלִיטֵי אֲקִלִּים 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 and ending war: צָנוֹן
Radish (English to Hebrew pun)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
לְעֻקֹּר רוֹדְנוֹת וְרוֹדִיפוֹת וּמִלְחָמָה מִן הָעוֹלָם

May it be Your will, our God and God of our ancestors
to uproot tyranny *rodanut* and persecution *r'difut* and war from the world.

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** or **rabe** or **syrup** ~ “that we be healed - *r'fa'einu v'neirapei*”; **almonds** ~ “that we provide alms with ease”

For overcoming enmity, and for healing (Traditional and new): סלקא
Beets or Swiss Chard (*Salka*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שִׁיסְתַּלְקוּ כָּל נֶגַע וּמִגָּפָה מִגּוּפֵינוּ
וְכָל אִיבָה וְשִׁנְאָה מֵעֲלֵינוּ וּמִלְבָּבֵינוּ
וְכָל מִבְקָשִׁי רָעֵתֵנוּ 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 our hearts,
and remove all who seek our harm from all around.

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



Traditional: רִמּוֹן
Pomegranate (*Rimon*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁנִּהְיָה 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.

For overcoming grudges any year, and for the Rosh Hashanah after *Shmitah*
(when debts are canceled): שׁוּמָר

Fennel (*Shumar*)

May it be Your will, *YHVH*,
our God and God of our ancestors
to cancel our debts (to You)
and to give us determination to release
debts, accusations, and bitterness
from the heart that each holds against
their neighbor.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
לְשִׁמוֹט חֻבוֹתֵינוּ וְלִהְיוֹת לִפְנֵינוּ
לְהַשְׁמִיט חֻבוֹת וְאֲשׁוּם וּמְרִירוֹת
מִלֵּב 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 v'ashum um'rirut kol echad el re'ehu*



For a *Shmitah* year: תַּאֲנִים
Figs (*T'einim*)

In the year of Shmitah, the sabbatical year, our ancestors let the land rest from their plows, receiving and eating whatever grew and ripened by itself from the land. Fig trees were prized because figs can yield ripe fruit over many months. And some say that the fig was the fruit of the tree of knowledge, and on Shmitah we can receive that fruit in the right way and the right time, when we are ripe 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
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁתִּשָּׂא הָאָרֶץ פָּנֶיהָ אֵלֵינוּ וְאֶל כָּל
בְּרִיּוֹתֶיהָ לְהוֹצִיא מְזוֹן לְכָל בְּשׂוּיוֹן
וְתַבְשִׁיל פְּרוֹת חֲדָשִׁים
חוֹדֶשׁ אַחֵר חוֹדֶשׁ הֶפְקֵר לְכוֹלָם
כֵּן נִקְבֵּל בְּהוֹדָאָה כָּל מָה שְׁנִדְבָּה וּלְכוֹ
נִפְנָה בְּשָׁלִים בְּצֶדֶק וּבְאַהֲבָה
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'khen nifneh b'sheilim b'tsedek uv'ahavah el ha'arets v'el kol hab'riyot*

For *Shmitah* year add to candlelighting:

“...to light the lamp of Shabbat/the holy day in this *Shmitah* year of holiness”
l'hadlik ner shel shabbat/yom tov bish'nat hak'dushah shel sh'mitah

בְּשַׁנַּת הַקְּדוּשָׁה שֶׁל שְׁמִיטָה

For *Shehechyanu* in a *Shmitah* year you can add:

“...who brought us to this season and this year”
shehechyanu v'kiymanu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh ul'shanah hazot

וּלְשָׁנָה הַזֹּאת