

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.

יהי רצון מלפניך יי
אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמותנו
שתתחדש עלינו
שנה טובה ומתוקה
מראשית השנה ועד אחרית השנה

For the *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 were especially prized in the Shmita year, because new figs would become ripe each month, always providing food. And some say that the fig was the fruit of the tree of knowledge, and that Shmitah is our time to receive knowledge from Eden in the right way and the right time, when all is 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 during this year of *Shmitah*,
so that we may also turn our faces,
ripe with justice and love
toward this world and all creatures.

יהי רצון מלפניך
יי אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמותנו
שכשם שתשא הארץ פניה
אלינו ואל כל בריותיה
להוציא מזון לכל בשוון
ותבשיל פרות חדשים
חודש אחר חודש הפקר לכולם
כו נקבל בהודאה
כל מה שנדבה בשנת השמיטה הזאת
ולכו נפנה בשלים בצדק ובאהבה
אל הארץ ואל כל הבריות

Y'hi ratson milfanekha YHVH Eloheinu v'Elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, shek'shem shetisa ha'arets paneha eleinu v'el kol b'riyotaha 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 the *Shmitah* year you can also add to candlelighting:

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

For *Shehechyanu* you can add:

“...*Jaz’man hazeh ul’shanah hazot*” ולשנה הזאת “...*who let us reach this season and this year.*”

For the climate crisis, also 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!

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁנִּתְעוֹרֵר מִן הַתְּרֵדָמָה שְׁלָנוּ
לְהִקְשִׁיב אֶל הָאָרֶץ
וּלְכַל 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: קָרָא
Squash - Pumpkin, Zucchini (*Kara or K’ra*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁתִּקְרַע רוּעַ גָּזֵר דִּינָנוּ וְיִקְרָאוּ לְפָנֶיךָ זְכוּיֵינוּ:

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: רוּבִיָּא
Beans, Black-eyed peas (*Rubiya*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁיִּרְבוּ זְכוּיֵינוּ וְתִלְבְּבוּ:

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

שנת שמיטה מתוקה ומתקנת *To a sweet and healing year Sh’nat Shmitah m’tukah um’takenet*

For refugees: שזיב
Plum (*Sh'ziv*)

יהי רצון מלפניך יי אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמותנו
לתת לנו כח להכין שיזבא בעד פליטי אקלים ורעב ומלחמה

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 the pandemic/Traditional/Renewal: סלקא
Beets or Swiss Chard (*Salka*)

יהי רצון מלפניך יי אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמותנו
שיסתלקו* כל נגע ומגפה מגופינו
ואיבה ושנאה מעלינו ומלבבינו
וכל מבקשי רעתנו מסביבנו

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 not directed toward us and leave our hearts,
along with all around us who seek our harm.

*for Date (*Tamar* תמר) substitute *yitamu/cease*; for Leek (*Karti* כרתי), *yikartu/* be cut off



Traditional: רמון
Pomegranate (*Rimon*)

יהי רצון מלפניך יי אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמותנו
שנהיה מלאים מצות כרמון:

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: olive ~ “May it be Your will that we live long on the earth”; raisin ~ “May we rise up for justice”; parsnip ~ “May our purse be full”; rapini (rabe)/ maple syrup ~ “May we be healed - *r'fa'einu v'neirapei*”; radish (*ts'non*) ~ “May hatred be cooled *m'tsunan* and may persecution *r'difut* end”; berries ~ “May our labors bear fruit”; almonds ~ “May we provide alms with ease”

שנת שמיטה מתוקה ומתקנת *To a sweet and healing year* *Sh'nat Shmitah m'tukah um'takenet*