

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.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵנוּ
שְׁתַּחֲדֵד עָלֵינוּ
שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה
מֵרֵאשִׁית הַשָּׁנָה וְעַד אַחֲרִית הַשָּׁנָה

For the climate crisis (also works for *Shmitah*): תרדSpinach, Chard (*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
שְׁנַתְעוֹרֵר מִן הַתְרַדְמָה שְׁלָנוּ
לְהַקְשִׁיב אֶל הָאָרֶץ
וּלְכָל הַבְּרִיּוֹת בְּסִכְפַּת הַכְּחָדָה
לְגָרוֹת בָּנוּ כְּחַ 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 וְאִמּוֹתֵנוּ
שְׁתַּקְרַע רוּעַ גָּזַר 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: רוביָא Beans, Black-eyed peas (*Rubiya*)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שְׂיָרְבוּ זְכוּתֵינוּ וּתְלַבְּבוּ:

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 שְׂזִיבָא בְּעֵד פְּלִיטֵי אֲקָלִים וְרָעָב 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, liberation, and ending war: צָנוֹן Radish (English to Hebrew pun)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
לְעֻקּוֹר רוֹדְנוּת וּרְדִיפוֹת 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.

Traditional - “head” (of fish, lamb, cabbage, cauliflower)

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שְׂנֵהֶיָה לְרֹאשׁ וְלֹא לְזָנָב

May it be Your will that we be at the head and not the tail.

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*)

יהי רצון מלפניך יי אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמותנו
שיתלקו כל נגע ומגפה מגופינו
וכל איבה ושנאה מעלינו ומלבינו
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 removed from us and from within our hearts,
and all who seek our harm be removed from all around.

*this can also be done with Date (*Tamar* תמר) — substitute **yitamu* / “cease”;
and Leek (*Karti* כרתי) — substitute **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.

Inspired by the Rosh Hashanah after *Shmitah*
(when debts are canceled): שומר
Fennel (*Shumar*) (or Garlic, *Shum*)

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

יהי רצון מלפניך
יי אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמותנו
לשמוט חובותינו ולהחזיק לבינו
להשמיט חבות ואשום ומרירות
מלב כל אחד אל רעהו

*Y'hi ratson mil'fanekha, YHVH Eloheinu v'Elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, lishmot chovoteinu
v'lait lanu ratson l'hashmit miyadeinu chavut v'ashum um'rirut kol echad el re'ehu*



Inspired by the *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,
that the Earth lift her face toward us and all her
creatures, to nourish all equally,
and ripen new fruit month by month (free to
all), and may we receive in gratitude
what is offered, so that we may also
turn our faces, ripe with justice and love,
toward this world and all the creatures.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁתִּשָּׂא הָאָרֶץ פָּנֶיהָ אֵלֵינוּ וְאֵל כָּל בְּרִיּוֹתֶיהָ
לְהוֹצִיא מְזוֹן לְכָל בְּשׂוּיוֹן וְתִבְשִׁיל
פְּרוֹת הַדְּשִׁים חֹדֶשׁ אַחֵר חֹדֶשׁ (הַפֶּקֶר לְכוֹלִים)
וְכֵן נִקְבֵּל בְּהוֹדָאָה כָּל מָה שֶׁנִּדְבָּה
וְלִכֵּן נִפְנֶה פָּנֵינוּ בְּשָׁלִים בְּצֶדֶק וּבְאַהֲבָה
אֶל הָאָרֶץ וְאֵל כָּל הַבְּרִיּוֹת

Y'hi ratson milfanekha YHVH Eloheinu v'Elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, 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), v'ken n'kabeil b'hoda'ah kol mah shenadvah bishnat hashmitah hazot ul'khen nifneh p'neinu b'sheilim b'tsedek uv'ahavah el ha'arets v'el kol hab'riyot

For long life and sustainability Olive (English pun) or Rabe (English to Hebrew pun)

May it be Your will, *YHVH*,
our God and God of our ancestors
that the days of our lives upon the earth be
as great in number as the days of the skies
over the land

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵנוּ
שֶׁיִּרְבוּ יְמֵי חַיֵּינוּ עַל הָאָדָמָה
כִּימֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם עַל הָאָרֶץ

Y'hi ratson mil'fanekha, YHVH Eloheinu v'Elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, sheyirbu yameinu al ha'adamah kimei hashamayim al ha'aretz

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 וְלִשְׁנָה הַזֹּאת