



Seder HaSimanim A series of symbolic blessings for the new year



Merit זכות

ברכת הזמן Blessing the time (Shehechianu)

(In order to justify saying "shehechianu" on the second night of Rosh HaShana, some families add a new fruit they have not eaten).

Blessed are you Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, who has enlivened us, and sustained us, and brought us to this day.

Blessing over Netilat Yadayim (ritual of handwashing).

Blessed are you Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, who consecrates us with commandments and commands us to raise up our hands.



Abundance שפע

Blessing the bread that we dip in honey

The eyes of all look to You expectantly, and You give them their food when it is due. (Psalm 145:15)

Blessed are you Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Bless us, Adonai our God, this year and all its abundance, for good. And grant blessing on the face of the earth, that we may be satisfied by its goodness, and bless our year among the best of years.



Renewal התחדשות

Blessing the apple in honey

May it be your will Adonai our God and God of our fathers and mothers, to renew for us a good and sweet year, from the beginning of the year until the end of the year.

Blessed are you Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, who brings forth fruit from trees.



Fulfillment הגשמה

Blessing the pomegranate

May it be your will Adonai our God and God of our fathers and mothers, that we be as full of mitzvot as a pomegranate is full of seeds.



Sweetness חתיקות

Blessing the dates

May it be your will Adonai our God and God of our fathers and mothers, to make our year as sweet as dates.

(The traditional blessing asks that our enemies be vanquished using a word that sounds like the Hebrew word date - Tamar.



Peace שלום

May it be your will Adonai our God and God of our fathers and mothers, that we merit speedily in our days to see the fulfillment of your prophecy: "They shall sit each underneath their own vine and fig tree and they shall not be afraid, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it." (Micah 4:4)



Forgiveness מחילה

Blessing the carrot

(Some use pumpkin that is called *kar'a*)

May it be your will Adonai our God and God of our fathers and mothers, that evil decrees against us be shredded, and only our merits be read before you.

Blessed are you Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, who brings forth fruit from the soil.



Protection שמירה

Blessing the fennel

(In Hebrew fennel is called *Shumar*, similar to shomer, which means protect.)

May it be your will Adonai our God and God of our fathers and mothers, that we be protected and guarded, along with all your creation. "May God protect your coming in and your going out, from now and forever." (Psalm 121:8)

In the Sephardic nusach we find two more blessings:



Awareness מודעות

Blessing the leek (called *Kartei*)

May it be your will Adonai our God and God of our fathers and mothers, that we be aware and know that we haven't come into this world in order to disagree and fight. (The traditional blessing says "that our enemies and all who wish us ill be cut down.")



Flourishing לבלוב

Blessing the beans

May it be your will Adonai our God and God of our fathers and mothers, that our merits will be many and will flourish (this plays on the name for black eyed peas - *Lubya* and the word for flourishing - *livluy*).