

EREV ROSH HASHANAH 5781
Friday, September 18, 6:45-7:20pm



*Baruch atah, Adonai,
Eloheinu melech haolam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav,
v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner
[shel Shabbat v'] shel yom tov.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי,
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר
[שֶׁל שַׁבָּת וְ] שֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב.

Source of blessing, Eternal our God,
You fill the universe with majestic might,
teaching us holiness through sacred obligations,
giving us the mitzvah of bringing light on [Shabbat and] this
festival.

A Rosh Hashanah Seder is an ancient idea. When the leaders of the Jewish people return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile, Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levite Priests gathered the people on Rosh Hashanah and said, "... Go, eat choice foods and drink sweet drinks and send portions to whoever has nothing prepared..." In the Talmud, a number of foods were suggested for the New Year, each with a special symbolic meaning. Tonight, we will welcome in the New Year together with a selection of these special foods as a ritual 'appetizer' before many of us sit down in our homes for our own Rosh Hashanah Shabbat dinners.



DATE – TAMAR

Dates are one of the 7 species native to the land of Israel listed in the Bible. Tamar (date, in Hebrew), is similar to Tam, meaning to end or to extinguish. We ask for an end to all things that would cause harm. Formulated in the positive, it is a request for peace and calm in the year to come.

ברוך אתה ה' אל-הינו מלך העולם, בורא פרי העץ

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, Borei P'ri Ha-eitz.

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign over all, who creates the fruit of the tree.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *What are the harmful things that I pray will end in the year to come? What part can I play in bringing about that more hopeful future?*

POMEGRANATE = RIMON



The pomegranate, which ripens in Israel during the season of Rosh HaShanah, has many sweet seeds inside of it. In fact, there is a Midrash that states that there are 613 seeds in the pomegranate, symbolizing the 613 Mitzvot commandments. Whether or not this number is entirely accurate the pomegranate has come to symbolize Mitzvot and good deeds.

May it be Your will, Adonai our God, that we be as full of good deeds as the pomegranate is full of seeds.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *What are some of the acts of lovingkindness that I have received or have given this past year?*

BEETROOT



The Aramaic word Salka (beets or beetroot leaf) resembles the word Lehistalek, to retreat. We can look inward for enemies – our own bad habits and poor choices that hold us back from reaching our highest potential. And in a play on the name of the vegetable in English, we look to find a way to follow the beat that is inside of us – our inner conscience.

ברוך אתה ה' אל-הינו מלך העולם, בורא פרי האדמה

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, Borei P'ri Ha-adamah.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *What do I want to leave behind in the old year that is holding me back?*

APPLE AND HONEY



The most well-known of the symbolic Rosh HaShanah foods—the apple dipped in honey—is common in Ashkenazic traditions. The Iraqi custom, for comparison's sake, is to eat a baked apple with sugar, while in Yemen, quinces were served instead of apples. In all variations, these foods represent the wish for a sweet year to come.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם בורא פרי העץ

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam borei pri haetz.

May it be Your will, God and the God of our ancestors, that You renew for us a year good and sweet like honey.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *What is the sweetness that you hope to experience in the coming year? What do you hope for others?*