

Rosh HaShana 'Simanim'

Customs for the night of Rosh HaShana vary from community to community and from family to family. This page is provided as a set of suggestions for those who do not have a fixed custom in their home. Nothing mentioned here is the final word on anything. If you are in doubt about anything, check with your Rav. Some 'do Simanim' only on first night; some, on the second night - less fanfare.

After KIDDUSH, wash for HaMotzi and eat from the LECHEM MISHNEH. Some use honey on the challa rather than salt. Some use salt for the HaMotzi and then take another piece of challa with honey. After challa with honey, say:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שֶׁתַּחֲדֹשׁ עֲלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוֹקָה.

It is appropriate to respond to Y'HI RATZON statements of others with AMEIN, as they are bracha-like.

Since the fruits and vegetables to be eaten as part of the SEDER LEIL ROSH HASHANA are not "normal" components of a meal, they are not covered by the HaMotzi, and need their own brachot, which should be said in accordance with the "rules of brachot" - as follows...

Among the fruits of trees, one should say the bracha on the fruit with the highest priority: [1] Olive, [2] Date, [3] Grape, [4] Fig, [5] Pomegranate, [6] your favorite among fruits not of SHIV'AT HAMINIM, [7] a whole fruit, rather than a piece, [8] larger piece. This list does not imply that all these fruits [1]-[5] are part of your Leil Rosh HaShana Minhag; the full list of priorities is provided to cover any situation. After the bracha, the order does not need to be followed.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ.

Among vegetables, make the bracha on what you like best. Between HaEitz and HaAdama, HaEitz will usually be said first, unless you have a HaAdama that you like better than any of the fruits, in which case, HaAdama will precede HaEitz (even over 7-Minim).

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה.

If one or more fruits require a שהחינו, they will be covered by the שהחינו of Kiddush, if they are on the table at the time. Otherwise, one additional שהחינו should be said (even if there are more than one fruit that need it).

When all brachot are taken care of, many eat a slice of (sweet) apple dipped in honey. The Y'HI RATZON above can be repeated for the Apple & Honey.

From this point on, whichever of the items on the next page that you have - to eat (or even to just be on the table), say the appropriate Y'HI RATZON.



For RUBIYA (black-eyed peas):

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שִׁירְבוּ זְכוֹתֵינוּ.



For KARTI (leek):

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שִׁיכַרְתוּ שׁוֹנְאֵינוּ.



For SILKA (beets or mangold):

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שִׁיסַתְּלֶקוּ אוֹיְבֵינוּ.



For DATES:

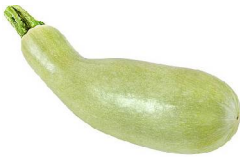
יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שִׁיתְמוּ שׁוֹנְאֵינוּ.



For KARA (type of squash, pale green):

some say this for carrots - play on words גֶזֶר/גָזַר

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שִׁיקְרַע גֶזֶר דֵינָנו וְיִקְרָאוּ לְפָנֶיךָ זְכוֹתֵינוּ.



For POMEGRANATE:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שִׁנְרֶבָה זְכוֹתֵינוּ כְּרִמּוֹן.



If one eats FISH on Leil Rosh HaShana, say the following:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שִׁנְפָּרָה וְנִרְבָּה כְּדָגִים וְשִׁלָּא תְהֵא עֵינַי הָרַע
שׁוֹלְטַת בָּנוּ כְּדָגִים הִלְלוּ שְׁאִין עֵינַי הָרַע שׁוֹלְטַת בָּהֶם.



Some place the HEAD of a ram or fish on the table and say:

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ, ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ,
שִׁנְהֵיָה לְרֹאשׁ וְלֹא לְזָנָב.

If one eats the meat of a sheep (preferably a ram), he says:

יְהִי רָצוֹן שִׁתְזַכְּרֶנּוּ אֵילוּ שֶׁל יִצְחָק.