

Seder Rosh Hashanah

The customs of Rosh Hashanah, such as bread and honey, and apple and honey, a new fruit on the second night, and eating other sweet dishes, are universally known, but there are a range of different traditions.

The best known is the Seder Rosh Hashanah over different fruits and vegetables, which follows the blessing for and eating of the bread in honey. However, there are additional customs, brought below in their correct order.



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Before Kiddush

I. To recite "Eliahu Hanavi" and then to recite the following verses:

Venoach matza chen be'einei Hashem - And Noah found favour in the eyes of the L-rd. [12 times]

Vayizra Yitzhak ba'arezt hahi vayimtza bashanah hahi me'ah she'arim, vayevarcheihu - And Isaac planted in the land and he found in that year one hundred gates, and he blessed them. [12 times]

Ki imecha mekor chayim, be'orecha nireh-or - And with You is the source of life, and in Your light shall we see light. [10 times]

Or zaru'a latzadik, uleyishrei-lev simchah - Light (of Creation) shall shine for the righteous (in the World to Come) and happiness for the upright. [17 times]

Va'amartem koh lechai, ve'ata shalom uveitecha shalom vechol asher lecha shalom - And when you have said "lechaim", may you know peace, your household know peace, and all that that is yours know peace. [10 times]

Tachel shanah uvirchoteha - Let the New Year begin and its blessings.

2. To recite two series of "bakashot" (requests), beginning with:

Ana Hashem Ha-el hagadol hagibor vehanora - O G-d, great, mighty and awe-inspiring Creator, we beseech you:

After Hamotzi (bread)

3. To recite special verses and partake of symbolic fruits and vegetables, especially those whose names carry the same word root as that of the request, or symbolise sweetness, prosperity, good fortune.

The symbols vary slightly, here are two lists of sederim (orders) and their verses:

Tamar - dates

Rubiya (aniseeds) or Lubiya
(white or green beans)

Karti - leeks

Salka (Hebrew: selek) - Swiss
chard, can be beetrot

K'ra - pumpkin

Rimon - Pomegranate

Apple in cooked sugar or honey

Sheep or fish head (verses include
a reference to Akedat Yitzhak,
Abraham's trial of the command to
sacrifice Isaac)



Tamar - dates (two verses recited)

Apple in honey

Karti - leeks (two verses recited)

Salka - beetroot or Swiss chard
(two verses recited)

K'ra - pumpkin

Fish head (two verses recited)

Sheep's head (commemorating
Abraham's trial of the command to
sacrifice Isaac)

Rimon - Pomegranate