

The Rosh Hashanah Seder

DATES

Note: We eat dates in the hopes that our enemies will be destroyed. Dates in Hebrew are תמר, a similar root to consume – שיתמו. The יהי רצון on dates as:

יהי רצון מלפנך, ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותינו, שיתמו שונאינו

May it be Your will, Hashem, our God and the God of our forefathers, that our enemies be consumed.

APPLES AND HONEY

Note: We eat apples with honey or sugar in the hopes that we will have a sweet new year, just as the apples and honey are sweet. The יהי רצון on apples, dipped in honey (or sugar), as:

יהי רצון מלפנך, ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותינו, שתחדש עלינו שנה טובה ומתוקה

May it be Your will, Hashem, our God and the God of our forefathers, that You renew for us a good and a sweet year

LEEKES

Note: We eat leeks in the hopes that our enemies will be destroyed. The Hebrew word for leeks is "Karsi," which sounds like “kares”, to be destroyed. The יהי רצון on leeks as:

יהי רצון מלפנך, ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותינו, שיכרתו שונאינו

May it be Your will, Hashem, our God and the God of our forefathers, that our enemies be decimated

BEANS

Note: We eat beans in the hopes that our merits increase and we are purified. Beans are eaten as a symbol of abundance and fruitfulness (Rubiah – וביאר)

The יהי רצון is listed as:

יהי רצון מלפנך ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותינו, שירבו זכויותנו ותלבוינו

May it be Your will, Hashem, our God and the God of our forefathers, that our merits increase and that You purify us

PUMPKIN

Note: We eat gourds (the family to which pumpkins belong) in the hopes that any

evil decree against us will be destroyed and our merits proclaimed (rendering a favorable judgment). The Hebrew word for gourd is קרע (k'ra), which is also the word for 'tear/rip' and sounds like the word for 'read/proclaim' – קרא. The יהי רצון for gourd as:

יהי רצון מלפנך, ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותינו, שיקרע גזר דיננו ויקראו לפניך זכויותינו

May it be Your will, Hashem, our God and the God of our forefathers, that the decree of our sentence be torn asunder; and may our merits be proclaimed before You.

POMEGRANATE

Note: We eat pomegranate in the hopes that our merits will be many and God will see that we desire to fulfill God's commandments. Pomegranates are known for their plentiful seeds, which are said to add up to 613. We eat the pomegranate and show our desire to fulfill the 613 mitzvot. The יהי רצון for pomegranates as:

יהי רצון מלפנך, ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותינו, שנרבה זכויות כרמון

May it be Your will, Hashem, our God and the God of our forefathers, that our merits increase as [the seeds of] a pomegranate.

FISH

Note: We eat fish in the hopes that we will be fruitful this year. Fish are a symbol of abundance and fertility. When eating the fish we ask God to bless us with both. The יהי רצון for fish as:

יהי רצון מלפנך, ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותינו, שנפרה ונרבה כדגים

May it be Your will, Hashem, our God and the God of our forefathers, that we be fruitful and multiply like fish.

BEETS

Note: 'Silka' is usually identified as beets. The word סילוק means remove and expresses our wish that this year our enemies are "removed". The יהי רצון for beets:

יהי רצון מלפנך, ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותינו, שיסתלקו שונאינו

May it be Your will, Hashem, our God and the God of our forefathers, that our adversaries be removed.