

Rosh Hashanah Blessings - At Home

Before the Rosh Hashanah meal, as is custom at the start of most Jewish holidays, candles are lit with this blessing:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר
שֶׁל [שַׁבָּת וְשֶׁל] יוֹם טוֹב.

BA-RUKH A-TA A-DON-AI EL-O-HEY-NU MEL-EKH HA-O-LAM A-SHER
KID'SHA-NU B'MITZ-VO-TAV VITZ-I-VA-NU L'HAD'LIK NER SHEL [SHAB-BAT
V'SHEL] YOM YOY.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments and commanded us to light the [Sabbath and] holiday lights.

[A traditional translation.]

Holy One of Blessing, Your Presence fills creation, You make us holy with Your commandments and calling us to light the lights of [Shabbat and] this holy day.

[An alternative translation.]

Then we raise a cup of wine and say:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

BA-RUKH A-TA A-DON-AI EL-O-HEY-NU MEL-EKH HA-O-LAM BO-REY P'RI
HA-GA-FEN.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.

[A traditional translation.]

Holy One of Blessing, Your Presence fills creation, forming the fruit of the vine.

[An alternative translation from Vetaher Libenu, a prayerbook created by Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley.]

And for the holiday itself we say:



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ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שֶהַחַיֵנו וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶה.

Ba-rukh a-ta A-don-ai El-o-hey-nu Mel-ekh ha-o-lam, sh-hekh-i-ya-nu v'ki'ma-nu v'hi-gi-a-nu laz'man ha-ze.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has kept us alive and sustained us and permitted us to reach this moment. [A traditional translation from The Jewish Catalogue.]

Blessed be the Eternal One, Source of Life, Who has given us life, helped us to grow, and enabled us to reach this moment. [An alternative translation from How to Raise a Jewish Child.]

Before cutting or breaking the round challah, we say the blessing over bread, which acts as a blanket blessing over all food we will be eating at the meal:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם המוציא לחם מן הארץ.

BA-RUKH A-TA A-DON-AI EL-O-HEY-NU MEL-EKH HA-O-LAM HA-MOTZ-I LECH-EM MIN HA-AR-ETZ.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth. [A traditional translation.]

Our praise to You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. [From Mishkan T'filah, a Reform prayerbook.]

And last but not least, we bless the apples dipped in honey. This blessing has two parts: first, the customary blessing over fruit from a tree, then a line specific to a sweet year:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם בורה פרי העץ.

BA-RUKH A-TA A-DON-AI EL-O-HEY-NU MEL-EKH HA-O-LAM BO-REY P'RI HA-ETZ.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the tree. [A traditional translation.]

Holy One of Blessing, Your Presence fills creation, forming the fruit of the tree. [An alternative translation from Vetaher Libenu, a prayerbook created by Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley.]

