

# ROSH HASHANAH

**“In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe complete rest – a sacred occasion commemorated with loud blasts” (Leviticus 23:24)**

היום הרת עולם  
Hayom Harat Olam  
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היום הרת עולם, היום יעמיד במשפט,  
Hayom harat olam, hayom ya'amid bemsiput  
Today the world is here; today shall stand before You  
כל יצורי עולמים, אם בנים אם פגדים  
Kol y'atzrey olamim, im k'banim im k'avadim  
All the beings of the cosmos, whether as Your children or as Your servants  
אם בנים, רחמנו כרחמת אם על בנים  
Im k'banim, rachameynu k'rachemet eym al banim  
If as Your children, show them mercy, like a mother toward her children  
ואם פגדים עינינו לך תלויות,  
V'im k'avadim eynaynu l'cha t'loyot  
If as Your servants, then our eyes are turned toward You in great anticipation  
עד שתתנו ותוציא באור משפטנו, איום קדוש.  
Ad chat'choneynu v'tatzia'cha ba'or mishpateynu eym kadosh  
You may be gracious, rendering judgment for good, on our behalf, as clear as light

**Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. We remember that G-d created the world and think about G-d's power.**

It is customary to eat sweet food such as honey cake, and apples dipped in honey, to highlight the wishes for a good and sweet new year, as well as round *Challah* (bread) which has no beginning or end to symbolise the never-ending cycle of seasons.



It is believed that G-d judges every person at this time of year, weighing up their good and bad deeds.

The *shofar* (ram's horn) is blown in synagogues. Its loud, dramatic sound is an announcement that the new year has arrived, and also a call for us to stop and think about behaviour and choices.



# YOM KIPPUR

**“Then on the tenth day of the seventh month it is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a sacred occasion for you ... you shall do no work on that day.” (Leviticus 23:27-28)**

From *Rosh Hashanah* there are the '10 Days of Repentance' which end with *Yom Kippur*. During this time we ask forgiveness from people we have wronged, and think about how we will try to improve our behaviour in the coming year.

*Yom Kippur* is a serious day of prayer and fasting (not eating or drinking). We pray to ask G-d to forgive our bad choices and promise to try and behave better in the future. Many people do not wear leather or expensive jewellery to show that it is good deeds rather than possessions that are important.

