



A MULTILINGUAL ROSH HASHANAH



Greetings

There are dozens of different ways to greet someone on Rosh Hashanah, here are a few!

Bukharian: “Soli nav mo(bo)rak boshad,” **Judeo-Greek:** “Kalí chroniá,” **Eastern Yiddish:** “A gut gebensht yor,” **Hulaulá:** “Shatakhún brikhtá hawya,” **Juhuri:** “Miḥid Ruṣṣunə ombarək bu,” **Ladino:** “Anyada buena, dulce i alegre,” **Jewish Persian:** “Moadim shālom,” **Judeo-Italian:** “Che sia un anno di testa e non di coda,” **Judeo-Arabic:** “ikun ṣlik l-ṣam mbark”.

Traditions

Yehi Ratsones:

A Sephardic New Year’s tradition done at the beginning of Rosh Hashanah involves a series of blessings that draw on wordplay, using foods whose names echo similar words in Hebrew, Aramaic, or Ladino. The tradition is continued in English by the American Sephardic community, in this case with dates and squashes!

May it be Your will Lord our God and God of our ancestors...

That this new year will be **dated** one when enmity, hatred, and a person’s desire for another’s harm will be brought to an end.

That as You judge us, may the evil of the decree be **squashed**, but our virtue called out before you.

Carrots and Cabbage:

Yiddish speaking communities traditionally eat carrots and cabbage for Rosh Hashanah because of the wordplay! “Mern” means both “carrots” and to “multiply”, so Yiddish-speaking Jews eat carrots to multiply their blessings in the new year.

‘Kol mit vaser,’ or “cabbage with water” sounds like the Hebrew phrase ‘Kol mevaser,’ or “voice proclaiming,” a harbinger of good news and the world to come.

