

# Tu BiShevat Seder

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## TREES

Winter is still with us. Nature seems asleep.

The trees stand with black and brown branches against  
the white winter sky.

In the Land of Israel spring is almost here. Flowers begin to dot the fields,  
almond trees begin to blossom.

Heavy winter rains are over,  
lighter showers fall; sap begins to rise in trees.

*Jews there and here and everywhere  
celebrate Tu BiShevat, the new year for trees.  
We thank God for the renewal of life,  
for the blessings of branch and bud.*

### Hinei Ma Tov

הִנֵּה מָה טוֹב וּמָה נְעִים לְשֶׁבֶת אֲחִים גַּם יַחַד

Hi-nei ma tov u-ma na-im she-vet a-chim gam ya-chad.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for people to be together.



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## CREATION

It gave God great joy to create the beautiful world. God created the sky and the earth and oceans and rivers. The ground was ready for trees, flowers and grass, so God made them next.

*There were red, red roses and yellow daffodils.*

God made the tall trees and many different kinds of food.

*There were juicy grapes, sweet purple-plums, red apples and more.*

Just think how many different and wonderful tastes there are in this world.

### **Blessing for Creation**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם עוֹשֶׂה מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam, o-seh ma-a-sei be-rei-shit.

We Praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who made our beautiful, wonderful world.

## The First Cup: White Wine —The Renewal of Trees—Potentials

Now it is still winter time.

In many places snow is on the ground  
so our first cup of wine is white.

(While you fill the first cup with white wine or grape juice reflect on something new that you would like to learn. ***Aleph Bet Class Shares***)

Before we drink this cup of wine, we thank God who made the world full of good things to eat and drink.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-olam, bo-rei pe-ri ha-ga-fen.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who causes juicy grapes to grow.



## TORAH —THE TREE OF LIFE

Trees live a long, long time. Some trees live for five hundred or even two thousand years.

The Torah is like a tree because it lives a very, very long time.

Trees give us shade to sit in and fruit to eat.

Torah helps us live a good life. It keeps our people alive.

Torah tells of the land of Israel, where our kings and queens and prophets lived; the land which Jews have rebuilt today.

That is why the Torah is called the Tree of Life.

### Eits Chayim Hi

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה. וְתִמְכֶּיָה מְאֹד

דְּרָכֶיהָ דְרָכֵי נְעִים וְכֹל נְתִיבוֹתֶיהָ שְׁלוֹם

Eits cha-yim hi le-ma-cha-zi-kim ba, ve-to-me-che-ha me-u-shar. De-ra-che-ha dar-chei no-am, ve-chol ne-ti-vo-te-ha sha-lom.

It is a tree of life to those who grasp it, and whoever holds on to it is happy. Its ways are pleasant ways, and all its paths, peaceful. (Proverbs 3.17-18)

## The Second Cup: White Wine with some Red—Renewal and Growth

In the early spring, the earth gets warmer. Mixing white with some red creates a pink that reminds us that pink flowers now grow in the Land of Israel.

(While you fill the second cup with white wine or grape juice with a bit of red reflect on something you have learned recently and how you have grown from it. *Gimmel Dalet Class Shares*)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-olam, bo-rei pe-ri ha-ga-fen.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who causes juicy grapes to grow.



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## THE LAND — HA-ARETS

We thank You, God, for rain and forests, for land and stream, for the lush trees of summer, for the bright snow-covered branches of winter.

We thank you, too, for the Land of Israel, as we read: "For Adonai your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of wheat and barley, of vines, and figs, a land of olive trees and honey; a land where you may eat all that you need." (Deuteronomy 8:6-8)

### ***(Hey Vav Shares 7 Species)***

The trees made the land beautiful and our people took good care of the land; but, other people came and took the land. Our people were forced to go to other places; yet, we always hoped we could go back to the Land of Israel.

The prophet Amos taught: I will bring My people back to Israel. They shall plant grapes and drink their wine; they shall plant gardens and eat their fruits. (Amos 9)

The great hope of our people has come true. Once again Jews plant in Israel. Pine trees now cover mountains. Fruits and vegetables grow in the desert.

### **The Third Cup: Half Red Half White Red Wine — Summer Fruit**

Red wine reminds us that in the Land of Israel, fruit will soon be ripening. Strawberries, melons and apricots are picked; red flowers cover - the ground like a blanket.

(While you fill the third cup half red and half white grape juice reflect on the many fruits, literal and metaphorical, that bless your life)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-olam, bo-rei pe-ri ha-ga-fen.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who causes juicy grapes to grow.



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## FRUIT OF GOD'S EARTH

We thank You, God, for the world You have made. We thank You for the Land of Israel. You made buds to form, beautiful flowers and ripe fruit to grow. We thank You for the fruit we are about to eat.

### Blessing on Eating Fruit

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam bo-rei pe-ri ha-eits.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who causes trees to bear fruit.

### Shechechyanu

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שְׁשִׁחֵיָנוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam, she-hechi-yanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

## **Fruit With Shells** (Nuts, Etrogs, Pomegranates, Oranges, Grapefruit)

The almond tree is the first tree to greet Tu BiShevat. In Israel it is the first to awaken out of its winter sleep. By Tu BiShevat it is already full of flowers.

### **Hashekeidiya**

הַשְּׂקֵדִיָּה פּוֹרְחַת  
וְשֶׁמֶשׁ פָּז זוֹרְחַת,  
צִפְרִים מֵרֹאשׁ כָּל גַּג  
מִבְּשָׁרוֹת אֶת בּוֹא הַחַג

ט"ו בְּשָׁבַט הַגִּיעַ  
חַג הָאֵילָנוֹת,  
ט"ו בְּשָׁבַט הַגִּיעַ  
חַג הָאֵילָנוֹת

Ha-she-kei-di-ya po-ra-chat.  
ve-she-mesh paz zo-ra-chat.  
Tsi-po-rim mei-rosh kol gag,  
me-va-se-rot et bo he-chag.  
Tu Bi-Shevat hi-gi-a, chag ha-il-a-not. (2x)

The almond tree is growing  
The golden sun is glowing  
Birds sing out in joyous glee  
From every roof and every tree  
Tu BiShevat is here, holiday of trees. (2x)

## **Fruit With Pits** (Dates, Olives, Apricots, Peaches, Plums/Prunes)

Israel Is Like a Date Palm The date palm tree (tamar) is a very important tree, because every part of it can be used, every part is needed.

So it is with Israel: each community, each person, each child is important; every one is needed. (Numbers Rabba 3.1)

## **Entirely Edible Fruit** (Figs, Raisins, Strawberries, Apples, Pears, Carob Figs)

The Bible speaks of the fig tree in a time of peace. No one will go off to war.

But all shall sit under their grape vine or fig tree with no one to disturb them. (Micah 4.3-4)

### **Lo Yisa Goi**

לא ישא גוי אֶל גוי חָרֵב לֹא יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה

Lo yi-sa goi el goi che-rev, lo yil-me-du od mil-cha-ma.

Nation shall not take up sword against nation; they shall never again know war. (Micah 4.3)

## **Spices** (Cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg)

Trees not only provide us with fruit to nourish the body but beautiful fragrances to delight the soul.

Hurry, my beloved, Swift as a gazelle or a young stag, To the hills of spices!"  
(Song of Songs 8:14)

## **Blessing on Smelling Spices**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא מִיְיָ בְשָׁמִים

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam bo-rei mi-nei b'samim.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates varieties of spices.



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## THANKFULNESS

### Thankfulness in Words

Praise for Field and Fruit Praised are You, our God, for the fruit of the vine,  
For the fruits of trees, for the vegetables from the field, For the good land  
You have given that we might eat of its fruit.

As it is written: "And you shall eat your fill And praise the name of Adonai,  
your God." (Joel 2.26)

### Thankfulness in Deeds

Tithes: Tu BiShevat was the new year for fruit. It was the beginning of the  
year for bringing fruit to the Temple in Jerusalem, and for giving food to the  
poor. The Torah reminds us to give some of what we have to others who are  
hungry. We may "eat choice foods and drink sweet drinks," but we should  
"send portions to those who have nothing." (Nehemiah 8.10)

Planting/Imitate God: From the very beginning of the creation of the world,  
God was busy planting, so when you enter the land you too shall plant,  
(Leviticus Rabba 25.3)

## The Fourth Cup: Red Wine —The Cup of Thankfulness

In summer the flowers are in full bloom, field and tree give their fruit. We drink this darkest-red cup of wine with thanks for the richness of God's land.

(While you fill the fourth cup with red grape juice reflect on all you are thankful for and how to put that thankfulness into action. **Zayin Class Shares**)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-olam, bo-rei pe-ri ha-ga-fen.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who causes juicy grapes to grow.

## Birkat Hamazon

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הֵזַן אֶת הָעוֹלָם כְּלוּ בְּטוֹבוֹ בְּחֵן בְּחֶסֶד וּבְרַחֲמִים הוּא  
נָתַן לָחֶם לְכָל־בָּשָׂר כִּי לְעוֹלָם תְּסֻדּוֹ וּבְטוֹבוֹ הַגָּדוֹל תְּמִיד לֹא תִסָּר לָנוּ וְאֵל יִחְסַר לָנוּ  
מִזֶּן לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד בְּעֶבֶר שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל כִּי הוּא אֵל זֶן וּמַפְרִיֵּס לְכָל וּמַטִּיב לְכָל וּמַכִּין מִזֶּן  
לְכָל־בְּרִיּוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הֵזַן אֶת הַכֹּל

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam, ha-zan et ha-o-lam ku lo be-tu-vo be-chein, be-che-sed, u-ve-va-cha-mim. Hu no-tein le-chem le-chol basar, ki le-o-lam chas-do. U-ve-tu-vo ha-ga-dol ta-mid lo cha-sar la-nu, ve-al ye-che-sar la-nu ma-zon le-o-lam va-ed, ba-a-vur she-mo ha-ga-dol. Ki hu Eil zan u-me-far-neis la-kol u-mei-tiv la-kol u-mei-chin ma-zon le-chol be-ri-yo-tav asher ba-ra. Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai, ha-zan et ha-kol.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who gives food to all.



## CONCLUSION

When God led Adam through the Garden of Eden, God told him, "I made My beautiful and glorious world for your sake. Take care not to hurt or destroy My world, for if you do, there is no one to fix it after you." (Ecclesiastes Rabba 7)

May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our fathers and mothers, that all fruit trees be filled with beautiful buds and blossoms. May they be renewed each year to grow and give the fruit of goodness and Sweetness. May we all take good care of Your world. May we enjoy and share the fruit of Your earth.