

קיצור סדר ט"ו בשבט

A Hand In Hand
Seder for Tu BiShvat

celebrating the New Year of the Trees



Tu BiShvat is the birthday of every tree.
Today, the sap begins to rise
and trees prepare to grow again.

On this day, we say
Happy Birthday, Trees!
and we thank God for trees and their fruits.

On this day, we eat fruits and nuts
as we celebrate the wonder
of the beautiful world around us.

Hineh Mah Tov

הנה מה טוב ומה-נעים
שבת אחים גם יחד!

*Hineh mah tov u-manaim
shevet achim gam yachad!*

(How good and how pleasant it is
To be in community together.)



Journey Through Four Worlds

The Jewish mystics teach that we live in four worlds, all at the same time:

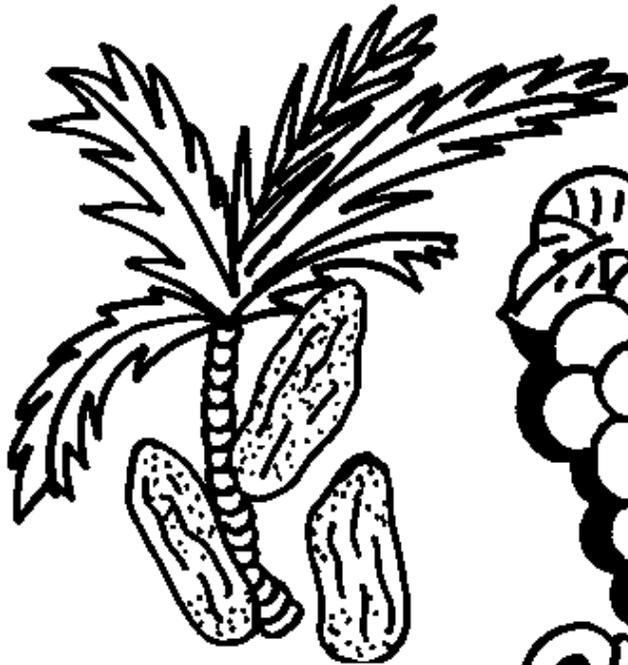
the world of our **actions**

the world of our **emotions**

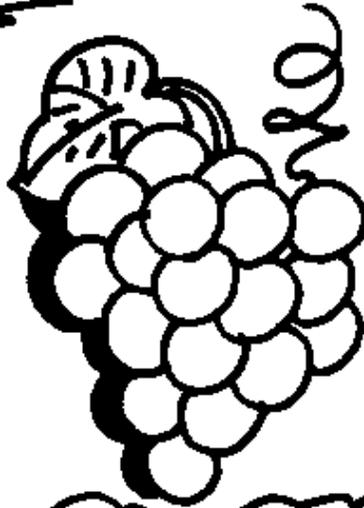
the world of our **thoughts**

and the world of our **spirits**.

Today we'll experience all of these. Here's the first stop on our journey:



DATES



GRAPES

FIGS



OLIVES



These fruits grow in Israel. (Feel free to color them in.)

1. Celebrating Trees In The World of Actions

First we eat fruits with shells, representing the world of action.

It is winter; we wrap ourselves in warm clothes just as these fruits wrap themselves in shells.

Eating these hard-shelled fruits reminds us of a hard truth: that everything on earth is connected to everything else. If one place is polluted, the trees everywhere will suffer.

The pale juice we drink now represents winter.

Before drinking white grape juice we say:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei pri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Source of all being, creator of the fruit of the vine.

Before eating fruits with shells (walnuts, coconuts, bananas, etc) we say:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei pri ha'etz.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Source of all being, creator of the fruit of the tree.

BARLEY



WHEAT



POMEGRANATE

These fruits grow in Israel. (Feel free to color them in.)

2. Celebrating Trees In The World of Emotions

Now we eat fruits which have no hard shells, but have a stone inside. In spring, we will shed our protective clothes, just like these fruits! But these fruits still have pits, and we still have hearts inside us which we want to protect and keep safe.

One of these fruits is the olive. In the story of the Flood, when Noah sends a dove out to find evidence of dry land, the dove brings back an olive branch, symbol of peace.

The juice we drink now represents springtime.

Before drinking white grape juice with a splash of red in it, we say:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei pri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Source of all being, creator of the fruit of the vine.

Before eating fruits with seeds or pits (olives, dates, apricots, etc) we say:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei pri ha'etz.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Source of all being, creator of the fruit of the tree.

A Teaching From Chief Si'ahl

Teach your children
what we have taught our children —
that the earth is our mother.

Whatever befalls the earth
befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.
If men spit upon the ground,
they spit upon themselves.

This we know.
The earth does not belong to us;
we belong to the earth.

This we know.
All things are connected
like the blood which unites one family.

All things are connected.
Whatever befalls the earth
befalls her sons and daughters.

We did not weave the web of life.
We are merely a small strand in it.

Chief Si'ahl was a Dkhw'Duw'Absh (Duwamish) Native American tribal chief. The modern city of Seattle was named after him.

3. Trees In The World of Thought / Soft fruits

As we eat soft fruits, we remember the warmth of summer. We remember what it feels like to be warm and happy. These fruits represent good thoughts and sweetness in our minds.

The fig is a soft fruit. The rabbis compared the words of Torah to a fig tree: the more one searches a fig tree, the more ripe fruits one will find. And the more we search in Torah, the more sweet tastes we will discover.

The juice we drink now represents summertime.

Before drinking red grape juice with a splash of white in it, we say:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei pri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Source of all being, creator of the fruit of the vine.

*Before eating fruits which are soft all the way through
(figs, strawberries, raspberries, etc) we say:*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei pri ha'etz.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Source of all being, creator of the fruit of the tree.



(Feel free to color this picture too.)

A Story About A Carob Tree

Once upon a time, Honi saw an old man planting a carob tree with the help of his grandchild. Honi laughed. "Foolish man," he said, "do you think you will still be alive to eat the fruit of this tree?"

The old man replied, "I found trees in the world when I was born. My grandparents planted them for me. So, too, I am planting for my grandchildren."

Honi fell asleep. When he woke up, he saw a young man harvesting carob in the same spot. "Are you the man who planted this tree?" he asked.

"No; my grandfather planted it," said the young man. "And I hope to plant some for my own grandchildren." Honi realized he had slept for 70 years...and he realized how smart it is to plant trees.



(a carob tree.)

4. Celebrating Trees In The World of Spirit

Now we are entering the world of pure spirit. Our hearts are full.

Tu BiShvat is the day when sap begins to rise to nourish the trees for the year to come. Here in Northern Berkshire, the sap is rising in maple trees.

The juice we drink now reminds us of autumn, and the maple syrup is the taste of pure spring.

Before drinking red grape juice we say:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei pri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Source of all being, creator of the fruit of the vine.

Before tasting maple syrup we say:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַכֹּל נֵהִיָּה בְּדַבְּרוֹ.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam shehakol nihiyeh bidvaro.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Source of all,
through whose word all things come into being.

Saying Thanks

We think about the fruits we just ate.

Where did they grow?

Who picked them?

How did they come into our synagogue?

We are thankful for the fruits and for all of the people who did the work of harvesting them and bringing them to us.

Adamah v'shamayim (Earth and Heavens)

*Adama Veshamayim,
Chom Ha'esh,
Tzlil hamayim*

Love the earth, love the sky
Heat of fire,
Drop of water

*Ani margish zot begufi,
beruchi, benishmati.*

I can feel it in my body
In my spirit, and in my soul

*Heya, heya, heya, heya
heyah, heyah, heyah, ho (2x)*

Heya, heyah, heyah, heyah
heyah, heyah, heyah, ho (2x)

*Ani margish zot begufi,
beruchi, benishmati.*

I can feel it in my body
In my spirit, and in my soul

(Chant by Tony Wrench; translated into Hebrew by Shimon Lev Tahor.)