

Appreciation for Nature's Blessings: Exploring the Gifts of the Earth *A Tu b'Shevat Seder*



Originally piloted at *Kesher Israel* in Washington, DC and *Young Israel Shomrai Emunah* in Silver Spring, MD.

Chag Sameach!

Tu b'Shevat, the new year of the trees, is a good time for thinking about our appreciation for trees, their fruits, and all the resources of our world. Legally, Tu b'shevat is the point at which budding fruit is considered to belong to the next year. In Israel, it is the time when the sap begins running in the trees, the first early mark of spring.

The Tu b'Shevat Seder was originally designed by the Kabbalists of Tzfat. The four parts of the seder symbolize the four mystical worlds of creation: *Atzilut* (emanation), *Beriah* (creation), *Yetzirah* (formation), and *Assiyah* (action), alluded to in the verse: "All that is called in My Name, for My Glory, I have created it, I have formed it, and I have made it." (Isaiah 43:7) The four worlds incorporate four cups of wine, seasons of the year, and different types of fruit. Canfei Nesharim has included aspects of nature for which we are grateful, and actions that can make a difference.

This haggadah focuses on "Appreciation for Nature's Blessings." G-d has created a rich and abundant world, filled with natural resources. From the clean air we breathe to the clean water we use for drinking, cooking, and sanitation, we are dependent on these resources. The balance of chemicals in our atmosphere creates the only hospitable climate for human beings in the universe. Our food comes from fields, farms, and grazing lands, requiring a particular balance of nutrients in the soil. Our fish come from oceans which, while vast, do not contain an unlimited supply. In this seder, we take the time to appreciate the natural resources we have, and reflect on our responsibility to protect them for ourselves and future generations.

Canfei Nesharim's website features a wealth of additional Tu b'Shevat resources, including instructions and speakers' notes for organizing a seder, text study discussion guides, Torah teachings, and additional action suggestions. Explore our full set of resources at:

www.CanfeiNesharim.org

Blessings at the Tu b'Shevat Seder

Each blessing begins with:

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם...
Baruch Ata H' Elokenu Melech Ha-Olam...

For wine:

בורא פרי הגפן...
...borei pri hagafen.

For fruits:

בורא פרי העץ...
...borei pri ha-eitz.

For spices:

בורא מיני בשמים...
...borei minei v'samim.

For new fruits (eaten first time in 30 days):

שְׁחַחְיָנוּ וְקִיּוּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה...
...shechechyanu, v'kiyimanu, v'higiyanu lazman hazeh.



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