

Rosh Hashanah Candlelighting

On the first night, we light candles eighteen minutes before sunset, just as we do on Shabbat. The number 18 symbolizes life, so we add life to Shabbat and Yom Tov. On the second night, we light candles from an existing flame after nightfall. On Yom Tov we do not create new fire, instead we maintain existing fire. It is traditional to light a minimum of two candles, although some choose to light more, corresponding to the number of people in their family. After lighting the candles, we cover our eyes and say the following two *brachot*:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוּא אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל [שַׁבָּת וְשָׁל] יוֹם טוֹב.

*Barukh atah ADONAI, our God, ruler of time and space,
who has made us holy through mitzvot and instructed us
to light the [Shabbat and] festival candles.*

*Barukh atah Adonai, eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kid'shanu
b'mitzvotav v'tzivvanu l'hadlik neir shel [shabbat v'shel] yom tov.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוּא אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Barukh atah ADONAI, our God, ruler of time and space, for
granting us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this
moment.*

*Barukh atah Adonai, eloheinu melekh ha-olam,
she-heheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higgi'anu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

Kavannah for Rosh Hashanah – Malka Aliza Bat Leiba

I light the candles, close my eyes, shield my face with my hands and retreat into solitude to find my way to You. Please, a new year, fresh, a clean slate, a true beginning. A year of health and strength, work which brings sustenance and meaning, permission to rest and savor, abundant love, laughter, joy. The same and more for my beloved family, my cherished friends. Cessation of the horrors, the throbbing of war, violence, cruelty. Peace for us, the human family, and for our home, Your world. I chant the ancient words, uncover my face, open my eyes. I am ready for a new year.