

## ROSH HASHANA: RENEWING GOD'S CREATION, REAWAKENING OUR INNER SPARK



### ROSH HASHANA: THE ANNIVERSARY OF CREATION

Rosh Hashana marks the anniversary of the creation of the universe, representing Hashem's original vision of perfection for all existence. Each year, Hashem renews this divine plan, continually shaping and adjusting it based on the events of the past, guiding creation toward further refinement.

It is a time of new beginnings, as reflected in the term "shanah," which signifies both "year" and "change." This renewal infuses the world with renewed divine energy, revitalizing the divine essence within all of creation, human and beyond. It resets this essence to its highest, uncorrupted state, allowing it to realize its fullest potential and preparing it for continuous growth.

RENEWING  
 HASHEM'S VISION OF  
 PERFECTION

"SHANAH" – YEAR AND  
 CHANGE

## REAWAKENING THE INNER SPARK

This renewal within the human soul refers to the inner spark of goodness present in every Jew, known in Yiddish as "der Pintele Yid." No matter how far a Jew may stray from their Torah roots, God carefully protects this spark, ensuring it never fades away. On Rosh Hashana, this inner spark is reawakened, restoring the soul's connection to its divine source.

However, throughout the year, as we succumb to sin and the distractions of the material world, our inner divine spark can become diminished and concealed by klipot (spiritual callouses) formed through actions that stray from the Torah's guidance. On Rosh Hashana, we ask God to renew this divine imprint within us, bringing the soul back to its pure, uncorrupted state: This is the essence of our plea when we say, "Inscribe us for life."

DER PINTELE YID –  
THE SPARK OF  
GOODNESS

## DIVINE BLESSINGS UNBOUND

On Rosh Hashana, God's blessings exist in their purest spiritual form, free from the constraints of time, space, and the physical world. However, once they enter the material realm, they become subject to these limitations, taking on a more tangible and less pristine form.

This is the moment when we receive our allocation of spiritual resources for the coming year, both individually and collectively. Rosh Hashana can be seen as a metaphorical "spiritual budget allocation" by the "CEO in the sky," determining the resources we will receive.

"CEO IN THE SKY"

## SETTING GOALS FOR THE YEAR

Our task during this time is to set goals and formulate visions for the year ahead. It is crucial to approach Rosh Hashana with clear plans for personal and communal growth, as if presenting a proposal to Hashem for the coming year.

Indeed, what ultimately determines our spiritual allocation are our intentions and resolutions for the future, more than our past actions, which may not always be in our favor. It is our sincere commitment to personal and communal growth that holds the greatest weight during this time.

INTENTIONS  
MATTER MOST

## DIVINE ACCESSIBILITY AND MUTUAL OPENNESS

This moment is especially favorable due to Divine Accessibility: Hashem is more approachable, having left the “palace” to be “in the field,” allowing us to connect with Him directly.

While Hashem is more approachable to us, we, too, are more open to receiving divine guidance. Our souls are especially receptive to God’s messages, guiding us toward the right path.

## THE SHOFAR: REAWAKENING THE INNER SPARK

The mitzvah of hearing the shofar, which is central to Rosh Hashana, serves as the primary tool for reawakening our “Pintele Yid”—the inner spark of holiness within every Jew—and reconnecting it to its divine source.

RECONNECTING TO  
THE DIVINE  
SOURCE

The shofar symbolizes the divine “sound” that initiated the creation of the universe through God’s ten Divine Utterances—fundamental acts that not only brought life into existence but continue to sustain all of creation. When we hear the shofar, we are reminded of these original utterances, reconnecting us with the profound spiritual power that underlies and sustains the world. The shofar’s call serves as a powerful reminder of the divine force that is the foundation of all existence.

The Gemara (Rosh Hashana 27b) teaches that any sound from a shofar fulfills the mitzvah, highlighting a deeper message: just as every pitch from the shofar is valid, so too is the inner voice of every Jew, regardless of how distant they may feel from their heritage. Through repentance, this inner voice is purified and restored.

Unlike speech, which is fragmented into distinct sounds through complex movements of the mouth, the shofar produces a unified and pure sound that cleaves directly to its source. On Rosh Hashana, the shofar’s non-verbal blasts connect us to the undivided life-force that flows from the divine, inviting us to return to our own inner source, free of division and distraction. As we listen, we seek to reconnect with this primal flow of life and the divine essence that sustains us all.

RESTORING THE  
INNER VOICE  
THROUGH  
REPENTANCE

THE POWER OF  
NON-VERBAL  
SOUND

**Composed by the Emor Project - based on:**

***Prayer Visioning: Rosh Hashana 5765/2004***  
**by Sarah Yehudit Schneider,**  
**available on [astillsmallvoice.org](http://astillsmallvoice.org).**

***The Language of Truth: The Torah Commentary of the Sefat  
Emet.***  
**by Arthur Green**  
**The Jewish Publication Society**