



Rosh Hashanah Honey Dish

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival. It lasts two days. It commemorates the creation of the world. Rosh Hashanah is also a judgement day, when Jews believe that God balances a person's good deeds over the last year against their bad deeds, and decides what the next year will be like for them.

It's a time for people to think about their priorities in life and to reflect on what has been achieved in the past year.

It's a time of asking for forgiveness for wrongdoings (sins)

It's a chance for Jews to ask questions about their actions throughout the year. Questions considered during Rosh Hashanah include:

What's the most meaningful thing in my life?

Who in my life means the most to me? How often do I let them know this?

What are the most significant things I've achieved in the past year?

What do I hope to achieve next year and in my life generally?

In the synagogue

One of the synagogue rituals for Rosh Hashanah is the blowing of the Shofar, a ram's horn trumpet. A hundred notes are sounded in a special rhythm. The sound of the shofar starts a ten-day period known as the 'Days of Awe', which ends with the solemn festival of Yom Kippur. After the service a special meal is eaten at home. Often apples are dipped in honey, this symbolises sweetness, which is a central theme of the New Year celebration. People wish each other not only a Happy New Year, but a sweet one as well. The dish that holds the honey that symbolises the sweetness is therefore at the centre of the table.

For Jews, the honey dish is steeped in symbolism and meaning. There is no hard and fast set of rules about what a honey dish is supposed to look like. They can range from a clear glass bowl with no lid, cover or adornments to an ornate bowl with a plate and lid. The only thing that these bowls must have in common is that they are used primarily to hold honey.

