



# HaGafen -

## Traditional Blessing Over the Wine / Grape Juice

תַּעֲרֵךְ לִפְנֵי שְׂלֵחַן גַּנֵּד צָרְרֵי דַשְׁנֹתַ בְּשִׁכּוֹן רֵאשִׁי כּוֹסֵי רְוִיָּה:

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. - Psalm 23:5*

**WINE REPRESENTS JOY** and the full cup marks our appreciation of the bounty we enjoy. There are many ceremonies that include the use of wine. In each case, the core blessing recited is as follows:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
בוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגָּפֶן.

*Blessed art Thou, LORD our God, King of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.*



### Kiddush Cups

In a Jewish home Kiddush is recited at the beginning of each Shabbat and Holiday meal. Kiddush cups, available in practically any material, make wonderful housewarming gifts. A Bar or Bat Mitzvah is also an excellent time to give a commemorative Kiddush cup. Many Kiddush cups include the last three words of this blessing written on them, as in the example shown above.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

ha'olam    me-lekh    elo-hei-nu    Adonai    at-tah    ba-rukhh  
the universe    King of    our God    Lord    are You    Blessed



בוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגָּפֶן.

ha-ga-fen    peri    bo-re  
the wine.    fruit of    Who creates



*Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam,  
borei peri ha'gafen.*



## The Messianic Blessing for Wine

Though followers of Yeshua can regard the traditional blessing as *rophetic* of the resurrection of the Messiah as our first fruits, we must remember that he told his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.... I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:1,5).

In light of this great metaphor Yeshua used to describe our relationship with him, perhaps a better blessing is to praise Yeshua as our "true vine."



בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
בוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגֶּפֶן הָאֲמִטִּית - יֵשׁוּעַ הַמָּשִׁיחַ.

*Barukh attah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam,  
borei peri ha'gafen ha'amittit – Yeshua ha'mashiach.*