



Shanah
Tovah &
Happy
Birthday,
Baby!

Rosh Hashanah celebrates the birth of a new year, so let us be inspired by both the idea of **new births**, and of the **shofar**, the central symbol of the holiday. Each celebrates **hope**, **possibility**, and **our role in turning them into reality**.

The shofar first appears in Exodus 19:16 where it announces sacred presence and potential at Mount Sinai. Much like the new year, newborns are sacred bundles of potential, and we celebrate them even though **we cannot know what the future holds for them**.

In each case our hopes for the future — however undetermined — trump our hesitations in the present. We choose to lovingly embrace the **positive potential**, not because the negative isn't possible, but because **achieving our dreams requires trusting that their realization is even more possible**.

1. The Jews at Sinai were scared during revelation, and yet they were willing to accept God's call even before knowing its full parameters. **To whose calls will you respond in the same way this year, and why?**
2. We cradle babies and dare to love them and dream for them despite our fears. **Who and what will you love that way this new year, and what do you need to do so?**
3. How will you deepen and strengthen your own ability to hope this year, **despite not knowing how things will turn out?**

This year, let us embrace what the year ahead can bring, dare to act in light of that embrace, and find more of what we want and the world needs.

“ On the third day,
as morning dawned,
there was thunder,
and lightning, and a
dense cloud upon
the mountain, and a
very loud blast of the
shofar;
and all the people
who were in the camp
trembled. ”

- EXODUS 19:16 -



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