

The festivities lasted one hundred eighty days  
The wine and the spirits flew  
Destruction and deliverance were being prepared  
But at the time, nobody knew.

The drunken king ordered Queen Vashti to appear  
She refused him unceremoniously  
Upon advice from his court he cut her head off  
And regretted it almost instantaneously.

So a beauty pageant was quickly announced  
To choose a new queen in her stead  
All the maidens vied for this honor so great  
But beautiful Esther was filled with dread.

Her kinsman was Mordechai, a Jew so renowned  
Her lineage from King Saul's royal gene  
She tried to hide, but fate would not be denied  
Ahashverosh chose her as his new queen.

Mordechai gave her instructions precise  
To the palace he came every day  
Esther was not to reveal her nation of birth  
Yet remain Jewish in every way.

The stage was now set for Jewish salvation  
Esther was a powerful force  
She urged Ahashverosh to choose an advisor  
The Jew Mordechai, of course.

One day Mordechai heard two soldiers plot  
To kill the king was their aim  
He told it to Esther who saved the king's life  
But gave credit to Mordechai by name.

Now an ill wind was brewing for the Jewish nation  
In the guise of Haman the Aggagite  
The royal ring was bestowed on him by the king  
Though he was a wicked anti-Semite.

Haman was proud, he preened at the gates  
He commanded all to bow  
But Mordechai refused, he said I'm a Jew  
And my G-d does not allow.

Haman wanted revenge on all the Jews  
To annihilate them was his vow  
He'd slaughter them all on one bloody day  
The only question was how?

But this evil man thought of a plan  
He devised a kind of lottery  
To determine the date for the poor Jews' fate  
The thirteenth of Adar it was to be.

Now Haman pleaded his case to the King  
That the Jews were of no use at all  
Achashverosh agreed, and it was quickly decreed  
That our people were slated to fall.

When Mordechai learned of this treachery  
Sackcloth and ashes he donned  
Weeping and wailing he ran through the streets  
Knowing Esther would surely respond.

Dear Esther, he said, your time has arrived  
For this you were chosen as queen  
To plead on the throne on behalf of your folk  
Divine providence can clearly be seen.

For her people Esther would risk her life  
She had but one request to make  
For three days the Jews must fast, regret their past  
And all other gods forsake.

Esther and her maidens would likewise fast  
Then make a move so bold  
To see the king unbidden was forbidden  
Unless he extend his scepter of gold.

Dressed in royalty and cloaked in Divinity  
Esther was grace personified  
Her prayers were answered, hope was at hand  
The king invited her inside.

Half of my kingdom is yours he said  
Esther should have been delighted  
But she was waiting for a sign Divine  
So to a party she invited.

Not only the king but Haman too  
A move calculated to distress  
The Jews would put their trust in G-d  
And the king would become jealous.

Esther waited for an opportunity  
But there was no sign in sight  
She had to stall and risk it all  
With a party a second night.

Haman was gloating 'the queen chose me'  
It was just the King and I  
But his bubble bursts and his anger spurts  
When he sees the Jew Mordechai.

His wicked wife Zeresh comes up with a plan  
Build a gallows about fifty feet  
Go ask the king, to let Mordechai swing  
And your joy will then be complete.

What a night was ahead, the kingdom's astir  
No one is sleeping it seems  
Esther is planning, Mordechai is praying  
And the king has disturbing dreams.

In the very heavens the angels are weeping  
G-d hears his children in need  
The king is awakened, his sleep is forsaken  
From his royal book he begins to read.

The pages turn as if on their own  
To an entry long ago recorded  
Mordechai the Jew saved the life of the king  
But his loyalty was not rewarded.

Achashverosh hears Haman in the courtyard  
And calls him in post haste  
How can I honor a man who's deserving  
I have no time to waste.

Haman lays out a course of grand action  
All the while thinking it's he  
A gala parade astride the king's horse  
Who else would he honor but me?

But his downfall was near, his end was in sight  
Imagine his horror and dread  
When the king said go do, to Mordechai the Jew  
Exactly the things that you said.

When Esther heard this turn of events  
She knew it was her cue  
And that it was right at the party that night  
To reveal that she was a Jew.

If I have found favor in the eyes of the king  
And your highness will agree  
Please spare my life and the lives of my people  
From death by an evil decree.

Who would dare to threaten my queen  
Asked Achashverosh in a great fright  
It is none other than your trusted advisor  
Haman the Aggagite.

The king was enraged, he needed air  
From the room he quickly fled  
And on the gallows intended for Mordechai  
He had Haman hanged instead.

Now letters were swiftly dispatched  
To all the kingdom near and far  
For the Jews to prepare, their foes to beware  
On the thirteenth of Adar.

The Jews were triumphant against the enemy  
They fought bravely for their nation  
And the days that were slated for destruction  
Became days of celebration.

Now proclamations were sent to all the Jews  
Rejoice and be of good cheer  
Remember these days of Purim  
And commemorate them every year.

By sending mishloach manot, food gifts to your friends  
And eating a feast galore  
By reading the megillah not once but twice  
And giving charity to the poor.

Purim means 'lots' chance and conjecture  
G-d's name was absent, concealed  
But Esther means hester hidden, obscure  
Unmask and all is revealed.

HAPPY PURIM