



Dear Friends,

The Rabbis have a saying: *Mishenichnas Adar marbim b'simcha!* When Adar begins, our joy increases! That's because the month of Adar brings us the holiday of Purim.

At BTS, Purim is always a blast. We dress in costumes and silly hats, take turns reading the Megillah, tell bad jokes, sing, eat and drink. We boo for the bad guys and cheer for Mordechai, Esther, and even Vashti. Last year, we also enjoyed a hilarious Purim spiel.

And . . . Purim 2020 was the last time we met in person before shutting down our building as the coronavirus began spreading across the U.S. At the time, we were certain the shutdown would be brief. Now nearly a year has passed. And, oy, what a year!

As Purim approaches once again, I am reminded of one of the holiday's central themes: that the world can go topsy-turvy at any moment. The Megillah of Esther tells a tale about long-ago Jews, condemned to death by an evil grand vizier, whose fortunes are reversed at the last moment by a brave queen. The villain gets strung up on the gallows he had built for Mordechai the Jew, and Mordechai, in turn, becomes the new grand vizier. Crazy, huh?

Here's my point. Sometimes, the world turns upside-down when you least expect it. It happened back in Shushan. It happened in 2020. It's still happening. The world is upside down. And inside out. But Adar is here and Purim's coming all the same.

So, despite (maybe even because of) COVID-19, we are going to do our best to increase our joy and celebrate Purim with a bang this year . . . on Zoom and at home!

There are **four mitzvot** associated with the holiday of Purim and we can do them all:

1. **Hearing the Megillah** – Join us on **Thursday evening, February 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for a zany Zoom Megillah reading and “COVID in Shushan” Purim spiel. Funny masks encouraged, but not required. Use the gragger in this package and feel free to bring out pots and pans and anything else you want to drown out you-know-who's name! **Be sure to register in advance at https://bit.ly/BTS_Purim_5781.**
2. **Hosting a Seudat Purim/festive Purim meal** - Set up a Zoom or Facetime call and “invite” a guest to join you for a Purim ice cream or tea party. No computer? Call a friend or family member on the phone and wish them a happy Purim!
3. **Sending Mishloach Manot /gifts of food to friends and family** - Enjoy the goodies in this package and send some to others if you can. For some yummy Purim recipes, check out www.kveller.com/purim-recipes-its-not-just-hamantaschen/.
4. **Giving Matanot La-evyonim/donations to the poor** – Spread the joy! Give *tzedakah* to the charity of your choice in honor of the holiday.

Stay safe and well and be happy – it's Adar, after all!

Rabbi Delia A. Cantor ✓



Purim Song Sheet שירון לפורים

1. משנכנס אדר

מש-, מש-, מש-, מש- (2 פעמים)
משנכנס אדר
מש-, מש-, מש-, מש- (2 פעמים)
משנכנס אדר
משנכנס, אדר, מרבין בשמחה (2 פעמים)

1. Mishenikhnas Adar

Mishe-, mishe-, mishe-, mishe- (x2)
Mishenikhnas Adar
Mishe-, mishe-, mishe-, mishe- (x2)
Mishenikhnas Adar
Mishenikhnas, Adar, marbin b'simhah (x2)

When the month of Adar arrives, we increase our joy.

2. אני פורים

אני פורים, אני פורים, שמח ומבדח,
הלא רק פעם בשנה אבוא להתארח. לה לה לה...

2. Ani Purim

Ani Purim, ani Purim, samei'ah umvadei'ah,
Halo rak pa'am ba-shanah avo l'hitarei'ah. La la la...

I am Purim, happy and joyous. Just once a year I come to visit. La la la...

3. חג פורים

חג פורים, חג פורים, חג גדול ליהודים,
מסכות, רעשנים, זמירות ורקודים
הבה נרעשה: רש רש רש (3 פעמים), ברעשנים

3. Hag Purim

Hag Purim, hag Purim, hag gadol la-y'hudim
Maseikhot, ra'ashanim, z'mirot v'rikudim
Havah narishah: rash rash rash (x3), bara'ashanim

The holiday of Purim, a major holiday for the Jewish people; masks, groggers, songs, and dances.

Come, let's make noise: rash rash rash, with our groggers.

4. לכובע שלי

לכובע שלי שלש פנות, שלש פנות לכובע שלי
ועם לא היו לו שלש פנות, לא היה זה הכובע שלי

4. La-kova Sheli

La-kova sheli shalosh pinot, shalosh pinot la-kova sheli
V'im lo hayu lo shalosh pinot, lo hayah zeh ha-kova sheli

My hat has three corners. If it did not have three corners, it would not be my hat!

5. ליצן קטן נחמד

ליצן קטן נחמד, רוקד עם כל אחד,
ליצן קטן שלי, אולי תרקד אתי?
אולי, אולי, אולי תרקד אתי? (2 פעמים)

5. Leitzan Katan Nehmad

Leitzan katan nehmad, rokeid im kol ehad,
Leitzan katan sheli, ulai tirkod iti?
Ulai, ulai, ulai tirkod iti? (x2)

A cute little clown dances with everyone. My little clown, won't you dance with me?

6. שושנת יעקב

שושנת יעקב צהלה ושמחה,
בראותם יחד תכלת מרדכי
תשועתם היית לנצח, ותקונתם בכל דור ודור.
ברוך מרדכי היהודי (2 פעמים)

6. Shoshanat Ya'akov

Shoshanat Ya'akov tzoholah v'sameihah,
Birotam yahad t'kheilet Mord'khai
T'shu'atam, hay'tah la-neitzah, v'tikvatam, b'khol dor va-dor
Barukh Mord'khai hay'hudi (x2)

Jacob's rose thrilled with joy at the sight of Mordekhai's t'kheilet.

You have been their deliverance for eternity, their hope for every generation. Blessed is Mordekhai the Jew.

7. על הנסים

על הנסים, ועל הפרקן, ועל הגבורות, ועל התשועות,
ועל המלחמות, שעשית לאבותינו
בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

7. Al Hanisim

Al ha-nisim v'al ha-purkan v'al ha-t'shu'ot v'al ha-g'vurot,
V'al ha-milhamot she-asita la-avoteinu,
Ba-yamim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh

*[We give thanks] For the miraculous deliverance, for the strength and the triumphs
that you have established for our ancestors in those days, in modern times.*



Purim 5781 Megillah Reading

אסתר Esther 1:1-3

א וַיְהִי, בַּיָּמִי אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ : הוּא אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ, הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵהַדּוּ וְעַד-כוּשׁ – שֶׁבַע וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמָאָה, מְדִינָה.

1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus—this is King Ahasuerus who reigned from India even unto Ethiopia, over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces—

ב בַּיָּמִים, הָהֵם – כְּשֶׁבַת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ, עַל כִּסֵּא מַלְכוּתוֹ, אֲשֶׁר, בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה.

2 That in those days, when the King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the castle,

ג בַּשָּׁנָה שְׁלוֹשׁ, לְמַלְכוֹ, עָשָׂה מִשְׁתָּה, לְכָל-שָׂרָיו וְעַבְדָּיו : חֵיל פָּרֶס וּמְדִי, הַפְּרָתִימִים וְשָׂרֵי הַמְּדִינּוֹת – לִפְנָיו.

3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the army of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him;

P: Now there's no doubt this king knew how to party! For more than one hundred and eighty days he showed off the vast riches and splendor of his kingdom. At the end of those six months, the king held a grand banquet for seven straight days in his private palace garden for everyone who lived in the fortress Shushan, rich and poor alike. Everyone, but everyone, was blown away by the décor! Blue and white tapestries and royal purple hangings strung by cords of fine linen over rods of silver; huge white columns; couches of gold and silver on a pavement of marble, alabaster, mother-of-pearl, and mosaics. The guests were awestruck.

P: And that was before the drinking began. The wine flowed like nothing they had ever seen. From golden goblets! The rule was “No limits!” and everyone, especially the king, took that to heart. Queen Vashti, meanwhile, held a banquet inside the palace for the women. By the end of the seventh day, the king was “merry with wine,” and that's an understatement. He ordered the seven eunuchs attending him to fetch Queen Vashti and bring her to him wearing only her royal crown, so he could show off her beauty to his guests.

P: Then a shocking thing happened. The queen—who was, after all, hosting her own party, who perhaps did not wish to be displayed to the crowd along with the king's other precious things, who maybe felt like wearing more than just a crown, who did not relish being brought to entertain a crowd of men who had been drinking heavily for seven days—Queen Vashti said no! She refused to come at the king's command. And this angered the king tremendously. He was greatly incensed, and his fury burned within him.

אֶסְתֵּר Esther 1:13-22

יג וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, לַחֲכָמִים יִדְעִי
הָעֵתִים: כִּי-כֹן, דְּבַר הַמֶּלֶךְ, לִפְנֵי,
כָּל-יֹדְעֵי דָת וְדִין.

13 Then the king said to the wise men, who were learned in procedure—for it was the king's manner to turn toward all that knew law and judgment;

יד וְהִקְרַב אֵלָיו, כְּרֶשְׁנָא שֶׁתָּר
אַדְמָתָא תַרְשִׁישׁ, מֶרֶס מַרְסֵנָא,
מְמוּכָן—שִׁבְעַת שָׂרֵי פָּרְס וּמֵדִי, רֹאִי
פְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, הַיֹּשְׁבִים רְאשֻׁנָה, בַּמְּלָכוֹת.

14 And next to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face and sat first in the kingdom:

טו כָּדָת, מַה-לַּעֲשׂוֹת, בַּמְּלָכָה, וְשִׁתִּי-
עַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָשְׂתָה, אֶת-מֶאֱמַר הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֲחֻשְׁרוּשׁ, בִּיד, הַסְּרִיסִים.

15 “What shall be done to Queen Vashti according to law, forasmuch as she has not done the bidding of the King Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?”

טז וַיֹּאמֶר מוּמְכָן (מְמוּכָן), לִפְנֵי
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַשָּׂרִים, לֹא עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ לְבַדּוֹ,
עֹוְתָהּ וְשִׁתִּי הַמְּלָכָה: כִּי עַל-כָּל-
הַשָּׂרִים, וְעַל-כָּל-הָעַמִּים, אֲשֶׁר,
בְּכָל-מְדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחֻשְׁרוּשׁ.

16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes: “Queen Vashti has not done wrong only to the king, but also to all the princes, and to all the peoples that are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

יז כִּי-יֵצֵא דְבַר-הַמְּלָכָה עַל-כָּל-
הַנָּשִׁים, לְהַבְזֹת בְּעֵלֵיהֶן
בְּעֵינֵיהֶן: בְּאֶמְרָם, הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחֻשְׁרוּשׁ
אָמַר לְהָבִיא אֶת-וְשִׁתִּי הַמְּלָכָה
לִפְנָיו—וְלֹא-בָאָה.

17 For this deed of the queen will come abroad unto all women, to make their husbands contemptible in their eyes, when it will be said: ‘King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in before him, but she did not come.’

יח וְהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה תֵּאֱמַרְנָה שָׂרוֹת
פָּרְס-וּמֵדִי, אֲשֶׁר שָׁמְעוּ אֶת-דְּבַר

18 And this day the princesses of Persia and Media who have heard of the deed of the queen will say the like unto all the king's

הַמְּלָכָה, לְכָל, שָׂרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ; וְכַדִּי,
בְּזִיוֹן וְקֶצֶף.

princes. So will there arise enough contempt and wrath.

יט אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב, יֵצֵא דְבַר-
מַלְכוּת מִלְּפָנָיו, וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּדַתֵּי פָּרֶס-
וּמְדִי, וְלֹא יִעֲבֹר: אֲשֶׁר לֹא-תִבּוֹא
וְשִׁתִּי, לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֵׁרוּשׁ,
וּמַלְכוּתָהּ יִתֵּן הַמֶּלֶךְ, לְרַעוּתָהּ
הַטּוֹבָה מִמֶּנָּה.

19 If it please the king, let there go forth a royal commandment, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, that Vashti shall no more come before King Ahasuerus, and that the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.

כ וְנִשְׁמַע פְּתָגָם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר-יַעֲשֶׂה
בְּכָל-מַלְכוּתוֹ, כִּי רַבָּה הִיא; וְכָל-
הַנָּשִׁים, יִתְּנוּ יָקָר לְבַעְלֵיהֶן—לְמַגְדוֹל,
וְעַד-קָטָן.

20 And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his kingdom, great though it be, all the wives will give to their husbands honor, both to great and small."

כא וַיִּיטֹב, הַדָּבָר, בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ,
וַהֲשָׁרִים; וַיַּעַשׂ הַמֶּלֶךְ, כַּדָּבָר מְמוּכָן.

21 And this pleased the king and the princes; and the king did as Memucan proposed.

כב וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים, אֶל-כָּל-מְדִינֹת
הַמֶּלֶךְ—אֶל-מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה כַּכְתָּבָהּ,
וְאֶל-עַם וְעַם כְּלָשׁוֹנוֹ: לְהִיּוֹת כָּל-
אִישׁ שִׁרְר בְּבֵיתוֹ, וּמִדְּבַר כְּלָשׁוֹן עֲמוֹ.

22 And he sent letters to all the king's provinces, to every province according to its own writing, and to every people in their language, that every man should rule in his own home, and speak the language of his people.

אֶסְתֵּר Esther 2:1-7

א אַחֲרַי, הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, כְּשֶׁךְ, חַמַּת
הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֵׁרוּשׁ—זָכַר אֶת-וְשִׁתִּי וְאֵת
אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂתָהּ, וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר-נִגְזַר עָלֶיהָ.

1 After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus was assuaged, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

ב וַיֹּאמְרוּ נְעָרֵי-הַמֶּלֶךְ,
מִשְׁרָתָיו: יִבְקָשׁוּ לַמֶּלֶךְ נְעָרוֹת
בְּתוּלוֹת, טוֹבוֹת מִרְאָה.

2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him: "Let there be sought for the king young virgins fair to look on;

ג וַיִּפְקֹד הַמֶּלֶךְ פְּקִידִים, בְּכָל-מְדִינֹת
מַלְכוּתוֹ, וַיִּקְבְּצוּ אֶת-כָּל-נְעָרֵה-בְּתוּלָה

3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may

טובת מראה אל-שושן הבירה אל-
בית הנשים, אל-יד הגא סריס המלך
שמר הנשים; ונתון, תמריקהו.

gather together all the fair young virgins unto
Shushan the castle, to the house of the
women, under the custody of Hegai the
king's chamberlain, keeper of the women;
and let their ointments be given them;

ד והנערה, אשר תיטב בעיני המלך-
תמלך, תחת ושת; ויטב הדבר
בעיני המלך, ויעש כן.

4 And let the maiden that pleases the king be
queen instead of Vashti.” And the proposal
pleased the king; and he did so.

ה איש יהודי, היה בשושן הבירה;
ושמו מרדכי, בן יאיר בן-שמעי בן-
קיש-איש ימיני.

5 There was a certain Jew in Shushan the
castle whose name was Mordecai, son of Jair
son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjamite.

ו אשר הגלה, מירושלים, עם-הגלה
אשר הגלתה, עם יכניה מלך-יהודה-
אשר הגלה, נבוכדנצר מלך בבל.

6 [Kish] had been exiled from Jerusalem with
the captives that had been carried away with
King Jeconiah of Judah, whom King
Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had carried away.

ז ויהי אמן את-הדסה, היא אסתר
בת-דוד-כי אין לה, אב ואם; והנערה
יפת-תאר, וטובת מראה, ובמות
אביה ואמה, לקחה מרדכי לו לבת.

7 And he brought up Hadassah—that is,
Esther—his uncle's daughter; for she had
neither father nor mother. And the maiden
was shapely and beautiful; and when her
father and mother were dead, Mordecai took
her for his own daughter.

P: Soon, word of the king's edict spread all over the land, and many maidens were gathered from around the countryside into the walled city of Shushan. They were brought to the harem and placed under the supervision of Hegai, guardian of the women. Mordechai's niece, Esther, was one of these young women and Hegai took a particular shine to her; he gave Esther and the maids who waited on her special cosmetics and treats and treated them with great kindness. During all this time, Esther was careful not to mention her people or her family background, for Mordechai had warned her not to reveal she was Jewish. Every single day, Mordechai would hang around outside the harem, hoping to hear news of Esther and how she was doing.

P: At the end of a twelve-month preparation period (six months with oil of myrrh and six months with perfumes and cosmetics, just in case you were wondering), each young woman took her turn to go in and see the king. She could ask for whatever she wanted to take with her from the harem to the king's palace and it would be given to her. When the turn came for Esther to go to the king, she did not ask for anything extra aside from what

Hegai, guardian of the women, had advised her. Yet Esther won the admiration of all who saw her.

P: The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she won his grace and favor more than all the virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

The king gave a great banquet for all his officials and courtiers, which he called “the banquet of Esther.” He proclaimed a remission of taxes for the provinces and distributed kingly gifts. But Esther still did not reveal her kindred or her people, as Mordechai had instructed her.

P: One day, soon afterward, when Mordechai was sitting by the palace gate, he overheard two of the king’s guards, Bigthan and Teresh, plotting to do away with King Ahasuerus. Mordecai reported the plot to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in Mordechai’s name. The matter was investigated and found to be so, and the two were impaled on stakes. This was recorded in the book of annals at the instance of the king. (Keep this fact in mind for later on in our story!)

אֶסְתֵּר Esther 3:1-11

- א** אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, גָּדַל הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֶחְשִׁירוֹשׁ אֶת-הֶמֶן בֶּן-הַמְּדִתָּא
הָאֲגָגִי-וַיִּנְשְׂאֶהוּ; וַיֵּשֶׁם, אֶת-
כִּסֵּאוֹ, מֵעַל, כָּל-הַשָּׂרִים אֲשֶׁר אֵתוֹ.
- 1** After these things, King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.
- ב** וְכָל-עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר-בְּשַׁעַר
הַמֶּלֶךְ, כָּרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לְהֶמֶן—
כִּי-כֵן, צִוָּה-לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ; וּמֶרְדֳּכָי—
לֹא יִכְרַע, וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה.
- 2** And all the king’s servants that were in the king’s gate bowed down and prostrated themselves before Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down, nor prostrate himself before him.
- ג** וַיֹּאמְרוּ עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֲשֶׁר-
בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ—לְמֶרְדֳּכָי: מַדּוּעַ
אַתָּה עוֹבֵר, אֶת מִצְוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ.
- 3** Then the king’s servants who were in the king’s gate said to Mordecai: “Why did you transgress the king’s commandment?”
- ד** וַיְהִי, כְּאֶמְרָם אֵלָיו יוֹם וַיּוֹם,
וְלֹא שָׁמַע, אֲלֵיהֶם; וַיִּגִּדּוּ לְהֶמֶן,
לְרֹאוֹת הַיַּעֲמָדוֹ דְּבָרֵי מֶרְדֳּכָי—כִּי-
הִגִּיד לָהֶם, אֲשֶׁר-הוּא יְהוּדִי.
- 4** Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily to him and he hearkened not to them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordecai’s words would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew.

ה וַיֵּרָא הָמָן –כִּי-אֵין מִרְדֵּכָי, כֹּרֵעַ
וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לוֹ ; וַיִּמְלֵא הָמָן, חֲמָה.

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down, nor prostrated himself before him, then was Haman full of wrath.

ו וַיִּבְּזוּ בְּעֵינָיו, לְשַׁלַּח יָד בְּמִרְדֵּכָי
לְבַדּוֹ –כִּי-הִגִּידוּ לוֹ, אֶת-עַם
מִרְדֵּכָי ; וַיִּבְקֶשׁ הָמָן, לְהַשְׁמִיד
אֶת-כָּל-הַיְּהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל-
מַלְכוּת אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ –עַם מִרְדֵּכָי.

6 But it seemed contemptible in his eyes to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had made known to him the people of Mordecai; wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

ז בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן, הוּא-חֹדֶשׁ נִסָּן,
בְּשָׁנָה שְׁתִּיתִים עֶשְׂרֵה, לְמֶלֶךְ
אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ : הִפִּיל פּוּר הוּא הַגּוֹרֵל
לִפְנֵי הָמָן, מִיּוֹם לְיוֹם וּמִחֹדֶשׁ
לְחֹדֶשׁ שָׁנִים-עֶשֶׂר –הוּא-חֹדֶשׁ אָדָר.

7 In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast *pur*, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

ח וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן, לְמֶלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ –
יֵשְׁנוּ עִם-אֶחָד מִפְּזֵר וּמִפָּרֵד בֵּין
הָעַמִּים, בְּכָל מְדִינוֹת מַלְכוּתְךָ ;
וְדַתִּיהֶם שְׁנוֹת מִכָּל-עַם, וְאֶת-דַּתִּי
הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵינָם עֹשִׂים, וְלִמְלָךְ אֵין-
שׂוּהָ, לְהַנִּיחֵם.

8 And Haman said to King Ahasuerus: "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; and their laws are diverse from those of every people; neither do they keep the king's laws; therefore it does not profit the king to suffer them.

ט אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב, יִכָּתֵב
לְאַבְדָּם ; וְעֶשְׂרֵת אֲלָפִים כֶּכֶר-כֶּסֶף,
אֲשֶׁקוּל עַל-יָדֵי עֹשֵׂי הַמְּלָאכָה,
לְהָבִיא, אֶל-גִּנְזֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ.

9 If it please the king, let it be written that they be destroyed; and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those that have the charge of the king's business, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

י וַיִּסֶּר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-טַבַּעְתּוֹ, מֵעַל
יָדוֹ ; וַיִּתְּנָהּ, לְהָמָן בֶּן-הַמֶּדְתָּא
הָאֲגָגִי –צֵרֵר הַיְּהוּדִים.

10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

יא וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהָמָן, הַכֶּסֶף
נָתַן לָךְ ; וְהָעָם, לַעֲשׂוֹת בּוֹ כְּטוֹב
בְּעֵינֶיךָ.

11 And the king said to. Haman: 'The silver is given to you, the people also, to do with them as seems good to you.'

- P:** So the king's scribes were summoned and a decree was issued, as Haman directed, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language. The orders were issued in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed [by Haman] with the king's signet, to destroy, massacre, and exterminate all the Jews, young and old, children and women, on a single day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month—that is, the month of Adar—and to plunder their possessions. The text of the document was to be publicly displayed to all the peoples, so that they might be ready for that day. The couriers went out posthaste on the royal mission, and the decree was proclaimed in the fortress Shushan. The king and Haman sat down to feast, but the city of Shushan was stunned.
- P:** In every province that the king's command and decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing, and everybody lay in sackcloth and ashes. When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he also tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went through the city, crying out loudly and bitterly, until he reached the palace gate; for one could not enter the palace gate wearing sackcloth.
- P:** When Esther's maidens and eunuchs came and informed her that Mordechai was at the palace gate dressed in sackcloth and ashes, the queen was greatly agitated. She sent proper clothing for Mordecai to wear so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he refused. Then Esther summoned Hathach, one of the eunuchs whom the king had appointed to serve her, and sent him to Mordecai to learn the why and wherefore of it all.
- P:** Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square in front of the palace gate and Mordecai told him all that had happened, and all about the money that Haman had offered to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave him the written text of the law that had been proclaimed in Shushan for their destruction. Mordechai asked him to show it to Esther and inform her, and further asked that she to go to the king and appeal to him and plead with him for her people.
- P:** When Hathach came and delivered Mordecai's message to Esther, Esther told Hathach to take back to Mordecai the following reply:
- “All the king's courtiers and the people of the king's provinces know that if any person, man or woman, enters the king's presence in the inner court without having been summoned, there is but one law for that person—that he or she be put to death. Only if the king extends the golden scepter to him or her may they live. Please be aware that I have not been summoned to visit the king for the last thirty days.”
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אסתר Esther 4:13-17

יג וַיֹּאמֶר מֶרְדֵּכַי, לְהָשִׁיב אֶל-
אֶסְתֵּר: אֶל-תִּדְמִי בְנִפְשְׁךָ, לְהַמְלִיט
בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ מִכָּל-הַיְּהוּדִים.

13 Then Mordecai bade them to return this answer unto Esther: "Think not that you shall escape being in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

יד כִּי אִם-הִחֲרַשׁ תַּחֲרִישִׁי, בַּעֲת
הַזֹּאת-רוּחַ וְהַצֵּלָה יַעֲמֹד לַיְּהוּדִים
מִמָּקוֹם אֲחֵר, וְאֶת וּבֵית-אָבִיךָ
תֵּאבְדוּ; וּמִי יוֹדֵעַ-אִם-לָעֵת כְּזֹאת,
הִגַּעַת לַמְּלָכוֹת.

14 For if you altogether hold your peace at this time, then will relief and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish; and who knows whether you have not come to royal estate for such a time as this?"

טו וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר, לְהָשִׁיב אֶל-
מֶרְדֵּכַי.

15 Then Esther bade them return answer unto Mordecai:

טז לֵךְ כְּנוֹס אֶת-כָּל-הַיְּהוּדִים
הַנִּמְצָאִים בְּשׁוּשָׁן, וְצוּמוּ עָלַי וְעַל-
תַּאֲכָלִי וְעַל-תִּשְׁתִּי שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים
לַיְלָה וַיּוֹם-גַּם-אֲנִי וְנַעֲרָתִי, אֲצוּם
כֵּן; וּבִכֹּן אָבוֹא אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-
כִדָּת, וְכֹאֲשֶׁר אֲבִדְתִּי, אֲבִדְתִּי.

16 "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day; I also and my maidens will fast in like manner; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

יז וַיַּעֲבֹר, מֶרְדֵּכַי; וַיַּעַשׂ, כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר-
צִוְתָהּ עָלָיו אֶסְתֵּר.

17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all Esther had commanded him.

אסתר Esther 5:1-14

א וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי, וַתִּלְבַּשׁ אֶסְתֵּר
מַלְכוּת, וַתַּעֲמֹד בַּחֲצַר בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ
הַפְּנִימִית, נֹכַח בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ; וְהַמֶּלֶךְ
יוֹשֵׁב עַל-כִּסֵּא מַלְכוּתוֹ, בְּבֵית
הַמַּלְכוּת, נֹכַח, פֶּתַח הַבַּיִת.

1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Queen Esther put on her royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house; and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the entrance of the house.

ב וַיְהִי כִּרְאוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-אֶסְתֵּר
הַמַּלְכָּה, עֹמֶדֶת בַּחֲצַר-נְשָׂאָה חֹן,

2 And it was so, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court she obtained

בְּעֵינָיו ; וַיֹּשֶׁט הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאַסְתֵּר , אֶת-
שֶׁרְבִיט הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדוֹ , וַתִּקְרַב
אֶסְתֵּר , וַתִּגַּע בְּרֹאשׁ הַשֶּׁרְבִיט .

favor in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the scepter.

ג וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ הַמֶּלֶךְ , מַה-לָּךְ אֶסְתֵּר
הַמַּלְכָּה ; וַיֹּמַר בְּקִשְׁתֶּךָ עַד-חֲצִי
הַמַּלְכוּת , וַיִּנָּתֶן לָךְ .

3 Then said the king to her: 'What troubles you, Queen Esther? For whatever your request, even to half of the kingdom, it shall be given to you.'

ד וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר , אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ
טוֹב – יָבוֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהָמָן הַיּוֹם , אֶל-
הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר-עָשִׂיתִי לוֹ .

4 And Esther said: "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

ה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ – מִהֲרוּ אֶת-הָמָן ,
לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת-דְּבַר אֶסְתֵּר ; וַיָּבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְהָמָן , אֶל-הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר-עָשְׂתָה
אֶסְתֵּר .

5 Then the king said: "Cause Haman to make haste, that it may be done as Esther has said." So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

ו וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאַסְתֵּר בְּמִשְׁתֶּה
הַיַּיִן , מַה-שְּׂאֵלָתְךָ וַיִּנָּתֶן לָךְ ; וַיֹּמַר-
בְּקִשְׁתֶּךָ עַד-חֲצִי הַמַּלְכוּת , וַתַּעַשׂ .

6 And the king said to Esther at the banquet of wine: "Whatever your petition, it shall be granted to you; and whatever your request, even to half of the kingdom, it shall be performed."

ז וַתַּעַן אֶסְתֵּר , וַתֹּאמֶר : שְׂאֵלָתִי ,
וּבְקִשְׁתִּי .

7 Then answered Esther, and said: 'My petition and my request is—

ח אִם-מָצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ , וְאִם-
עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב , לָתֵת אֶת-שְׂאֵלָתִי ,
וְלַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת-בְּקִשְׁתִּי – יָבוֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְהָמָן , אֶל-הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֶעֱשֶׂה לָהֶם ,
וּמָחָר אֶעֱשֶׂה , כַּדְּבַר הַמֶּלֶךְ .

8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request—let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king has said."

ט וַיֵּצֵא הָמָן בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא , שְׂמֵחַ וְטוֹב
לֵב ; וַכְּרָאוֹת הָמָן אֶת-מָרְדֳּכָי בִּשְׁעַר
הַמֶּלֶךְ , וְלֹא-קָם וְלֹא-זָע מִמָּנוּ –
וַיִּמְלֵא הָמָן עַל-מָרְדֳּכָי , חֲמָה .

9 Then went forth Haman that day joyful and glad of heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he did not stand, nor moved for him, Haman was filled with wrath against Mordecai.

י וַיִּתְאַפֵּק הָמָן, וַיָּבֹא אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ;
וַיִּשְׁלַח וַיָּבֵא אֶת-אֶהָבִיו, וְאֶת-זֶרֶשׁ
אִשְׁתּוֹ.

10 Nevertheless, Haman refrained himself and went home; and he sent and fetched his friends and his wife Zeresh.

יא וַיִּסְפֹּר לָהֶם הָמָן אֶת-כְּבוֹד עֲשָׂרוֹ,
וְרֹב בָּנָיו; וְאֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר גָּדְלוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ
וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר נִשְׂאוֹ, עַל-הַשָּׂרִים וְעַבְדֵי
הַמֶּלֶךְ.

11 And Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches and the multitude of his children, and all about how the king had promoted him and advanced him above all the princes and servants of the king.

יב וַיֹּאמֶר, הָמָן—אִם לֹא-הִבִּיָּאָה
אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה עִם-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-
הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר-עָשְׂתָה, כִּי אִם-אוֹתִי;
וְגַם-לְמָחָר אֲנִי קָרוּא-לָהּ, עִם-הַמֶּלֶךְ.

12 Haman said moreover: “Queen Esther let no man but myself come in with the king to the banquet that she had prepared, and tomorrow I am also invited by her together with the king.

יג וְכָל-זֶה, אֵינְנִי שׂוֹה לִי: בְּכָל-עֵת,
אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי רֹאֶה אֶת-מָרְדֳּכָי הַיְּהוּדִי—
יוֹשֵׁב, בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ.

13 Yet all this means nothing to me, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.”

יד וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ זֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ וְכָל-
אֶהָבָיו, יַעֲשׂוּ-עֵץ גָּבוֹה חֲמִשִּׁים אַמָּה,
וַיְבַקֵּר אָמַר לְמֶלֶךְ וַיִּתְּלוּ אֶת-מָרְדֳּכָי
עָלָיו, וּבֹא-עִם-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-הַמִּשְׁתֶּה
שָׂמֵחַ; וַיִּיטֹב הַדָּבָר לִפְנֵי הָמָן, וַיַּעַשׂ
הָעֵץ.

14 Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him: “Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and in the morning speak to the king that Mordecai may be hanged on it; then go in merrily with the king to the banquet.” And the thing pleased Haman, and he caused the gallows to be made.

Esther 6:1-14 אֶסְתֵּר

א בַּלַּיְלָהָ הַהוּא, נִדְּדָה שְׁנַת הַמֶּלֶךְ;
וַיֹּאמֶר, לְהָבִיא אֶת-סֵפֶר הַזְכָּרֹנוֹת
דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים, וַיְהִיו נִקְרָאִים, לִפְנֵי
הַמֶּלֶךְ.

1 On that night the king could not sleep, and he commanded the book of records to be brought, and they were read before the king.

ב וַיִּמָּצֵא כְּתוּב, אֲשֶׁר הֶגִיד מָרְדֳּכָי
עַל-בִּגְתָּנָא וְתֶרֶשׁ שְׁנֵי סָרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ—

2 And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains who guarded the door, who

מִשְׁמְרִי, הַסֵּף : אֲשֶׁר בִּקְשׁוּ לְשַׁלַּח יָד,
בַּמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֵׁרוֹשׁ.

had sought to lay hands on the King
Ahasuerus.

ג וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ—מַה-נַּעֲשָׂה יָקָר
וְגִדּוּלָה לְמֹרְדֵּכַי, עַל-זֶה ; וַיֹּאמְרוּ
נַעֲרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, מִשְׁרָתָיו, לֹא-נַעֲשָׂה עִמּוֹ,
דָּבָר.

3 And the king said: "What honor and dignity
has been done to Mordecai for this?" Then
said the king's servants that ministered to
him: "There is nothing that has been done for
him."

ד וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, מִי בַּחֲצַר ; וְהָמָן
בָּא, לַחֲצַר בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ הַחִיצוֹנָה,
לֵאמֹר לְמֶלֶךְ, לְתַלּוֹת אֶת-מֹרְדֵּכַי עַל-
הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר-הֵכִין לוֹ.

4 And the king said: "Who is in the court?"—
For Haman had come into the outer court of
the king's house to speak to the king about
hanging Mordecai on the gallows that he had
prepared for him—

ה וַיֹּאמְרוּ נַעֲרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֵלָיו—הִנֵּה
הָמָן, עֹמֵד בַּחֲצַר ; וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ,
יָבֹוא.

5 And the king's servants said to him:
"Behold, it is Haman standing in the court."
And the king said: "Let him come in."

ו וַיָּבֹוא, הָמָן, וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ, מַה-
לַּעֲשׂוֹת בְּאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ
בִּיקָרוֹ ; וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן, בְּלִבּוֹ, לְמִי יַחֲפֹץ
הַמֶּלֶךְ לַעֲשׂוֹת יָקָר, יוֹתֵר מִמֶּנִּי.

6 So Haman came in. And the king said to
him: "What shall be done for a man whom
the king desires to honor?"—Now Haman
said in his heart, "Whom would the king
delight to honor besides myself?"—

ז וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ : אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר
הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקָרוֹ.

7 And Haman said to the king: "For the man
whom the king desires to honor,

ח יָבִיאוּ לְבוּשׁ מַלְכוּת, אֲשֶׁר לְבֶשׂ-בוֹ
הַמֶּלֶךְ ; וְסוּס, אֲשֶׁר רָכַב עָלָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ,
וְאֲשֶׁר נָתַן כֶּתֶר מַלְכוּת, בְּרֹאשׁוֹ.

8 Let royal apparel be brought which the king
has worn, and a horse on which the king has
ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is
set;

ט וְנָתַן הַלְבוּשׁ וְהַסּוּס, עַל-יַד-אִישׁ
מִשְׁרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַפְּרָתִּים, וְהַלְבִּישׁוּ
אֶת-הָאִישׁ, אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקָרוֹ ;
וְהִרְכִּיבֵהוּ עַל-הַסּוּס, בְּרָחוֹב הָעִיר,
וְקָרְאוּ לִפְנָיו, כָּכָה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר
הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקָרוֹ.

9 And let the apparel and the horse be
delivered to the hand of one of the king's
most noble princes, that they may array the
man therewith whom the king desires to
honor, and parade him on horseback through
the city streets, and proclaim before him:
'Thus shall it be done for the man whom the
king desires to honor.'

י וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהָמוֹן, מְהֵרָה קַח אֶת-הַלְבוּשׁ וְאֶת-הַסּוּס כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ, וַעֲשֵׂה-כֵן לְמֹרְדֵכַי הַיְּהוּדִי, הַיּוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ: אֶל-תִּפֹּל דְּבָרְךָ, מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ.

10 Then the king said to Haman: "Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as you have said, and do so for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate; let nothing fail of all that you have spoken."

יא וַיִּקַּח הָמוֹן אֶת-הַלְבוּשׁ וְאֶת-הַסּוּס, וַיַּלְבֵּשׁ אֶת-מֹרְדֵכַי; וַיַּרְכִּיבֵהוּ, בְּרֹחוֹב הָעִיר, וַיִּקְרָא לִפְנָיו, כָּכָה יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקָרוֹ.

11 So Haman took the apparel and the horse and arrayed Mordecai, and caused him to ride through the city streets, and proclaimed before him: "Thus shall it be done for the man whom the king desires to honor."

יב וַיָּשֻׁב מֹרְדֵכַי, אֶל-שַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ; וְהָמוֹן נָדַחַף אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ, אָבֵל וְחַפּוּי רֹאשׁ.

12 And Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house, mourning and covering his head.

יג וַיְסַפֵּר הָמוֹן לְזֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ, וּלְכָל-אֶהָבָיו, אֵת, כָּל-אֲשֶׁר קָרָהוּ; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ חֲכָמָיו וְזֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ, אִם מִזֶּרַע הַיְּהוּדִים מֹרְדֵכַי אֲשֶׁר הִחְלוּתָ לְנַפֵּל לִפְנָיו לֹא-תוּכַל לוֹ--כִּי-נָפֹל תִּפּוֹל, לִפְנָיו.

13 And Haman recounted to his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had befallen him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him: "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, be of the seed of the Jews, you shall not prevail against him, but shall surely fall before him."

יד עוֹדִים מִדְּבָרִים עִמּוֹ, וְסָרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הִגִּיעוּ; וַיָּבִיאוּ לְהָבִיא אֶת-הָמוֹן, אֶל-הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר-עָשְׂתָה אֶסְתֵּר.

14 While they were yet talking with him, the king's chamberlains came and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

אֶסְתֵּר Esther 7:1-10

א וַיָּבֹאוּ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהָמוֹן, לַשְׁתּוֹת עִם-אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה.

1 So the king and Haman came to the banquet with Queen Esther.

ב וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר גַּם בַּיּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִי, בְּמִשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן--מָה-שְּׂאֵלָתְךָ

2 And the king said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine: "Whatever your petition, Queen Esther, it shall be granted

אֶסְתֵּר הַמֶּלֶכָּה, וְתִתֶּנּוּ לָךְ; וַיִּמָּה-
בִּקְשֶׁתְּךָ עַד-חֲצֵי הַמַּלְכוּת, וְתַעֲשֶׂה.

to you; and whatever you request, even to half of the kingdom, it shall be performed.”

ג וַתַּעַן אֶסְתֵּר הַמֶּלֶכָּה, וַתֹּאמֶר—
אִם-מָצָאתִי חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ, וְאִם-
עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב: תִּתְּנֶנּוּ-לִי נַפְשִׁי
בְּשִׂאלָתִי, וְעַמִּי בְּבִקְשָׁתִי.

3 Then Queen Esther answered and said: “If I have found favor in your sight and if it pleases the king, let my life be given to me at my petition, and my people at my request;

ד כִּי נִמְכַּרְנוּ אֲנִי וְעַמִּי, לְהִשָּׁמִיד
לְהָרוּג וּלְאַבֵּד; וְאֵלּוּ לַעֲבָדִים
וְלַשְׁפָּחוֹת נִמְכַּרְנוּ, הֲחַרְשֶׁתִּי—כִּי אֵין
הָצָר שׁוֹה, בְּנֹזֶק הַמֶּלֶךְ.

4 For we are sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold only for bondmen and bondwomen, I would have held my peace, for the adversary is not worth the king’s trouble.”

ה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֵׁרוּשׁ, וַיֹּאמֶר
לְאֶסְתֵּר הַמֶּלֶכָּה: מִי הוּא זֶה וְאֵי-
זֶה הוּא, אֲשֶׁר-מָלְאוּ לְבוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת כֵּן.

5 Then spoke King Ahasuerus and said to Queen Esther: “Who is he, and where is he, that did presume in his heart to do so?”

ו וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר—אִישׁ צָר וְאוֹיֵב,
הָמוֹן הָרַע הַזֶּה; וְהָמוֹן נִבְעֵת, מִלִּפְנֵי
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּלֶכָּה.

6 And Esther said: “An adversary and an enemy, even this wicked Haman.” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

ז וְהַמֶּלֶךְ קָם בַּחֲמָתוֹ, מִמִּשְׁתֵּה
הַיַּיִן, אֶל-גִּנַּת, הַבַּיִת; וְהָמוֹן עָמַד,
לְבַקֵּשׁ עַל-נַפְשׁוֹ מֵאֶסְתֵּר הַמֶּלֶכָּה—כִּי
רָאָה, כִּי-כָלְתָהּ אֵלָיו הָרָעָה מֵאֵת
הַמֶּלֶךְ.

7 And the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman remained to make request for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

ח וְהַמֶּלֶךְ שָׁב מִגִּנַּת הַבַּיִת אֶל-בֵּית
מִשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן, וְהָמוֹן נָפַל עַל-הַמָּטָה
אֲשֶׁר אֶסְתֵּר עָלֶיהָ, וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ,
הֲגַם לְכַבּוֹשׁ אֶת-הַמֶּלֶכָּה עַמִּי בַּבַּיִת;
הֲדַבֵּר, יָצָא מִפִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ, וּפָנִי הָמוֹן,
חִפּוּ.

8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine, and Haman was fallen upon the couch where Esther reclined. Then said the king: ‘Does he mean to force the queen before me in my own house?’ As the word went out of the king’s mouth, Haman’s face was covered.

ט וַיֹּאמֶר חַרְבוֹנָה אֶחָד מִן-הַסָּרִיסִים
לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, גַּם הִנֵּה-הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה

9 Then said Harbonah, one of the chamberlains before the king: “Behold also, the gallows fifty

הָמָן לְמַרְדֵּכָי אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר-טוֹב עַל-
הַמֶּלֶךְ עֹמֵד בְּבֵית הָמָן-גִּבֹּהַ, חֲמִשִּׁים
אַמָּה; וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, תִּלְהוּ עָלָיו.

cubits high which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good for the king, stands in the house of Haman.” And the king said: “Hang him on it.”

וַיִּתְּלוּ, אֶת-הָמָן, עַל-הָעֵץ, אֲשֶׁר-
הָכִין לְמַרְדֵּכָי; וַחֲמַת הַמֶּלֶךְ, שָׁכְכָה.

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath was assuaged.

אֶסְתֵּר Esther 8:1-3

א בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, נָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחְשָׁוְרוֹשׁ
לְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה, אֶת-בֵּית הָמָן, צֶרֶר
הַיְּהוּדִים; וּמַרְדֵּכָי, בָּא לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ
כִּי הִגִּידָה אֶסְתֵּר, מֶה הוּא-לָהּ.

1 On that day, King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the Jews' enemy, to Queen Esther. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told [the king] who he was to her.

ב וַיִּסֶּר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-טַבַּעְתּוֹ, אֲשֶׁר
הָעֵבִיר מֵהָמָן, וַיִּתְּנָהּ, לְמַרְדֵּכָי; וַתֵּשֶׂם
אֶסְתֵּר אֶת-מַרְדֵּכָי, עַל-בֵּית הָמָן.

2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

ג וַתּוֹסֶף אֶסְתֵּר, וַתִּדְּבַר לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ,
וַתִּפֹּל, לִפְנֵי רַגְלָיו; וַתִּבְדֹּךְ וַתִּתְחַנֵּן-לוֹ,
לְהַעֲבִיר אֶת-רָעַת הָמָן הָאֲגָגִי, וְאֵת
מַחֲשַׁבְתּוֹ, אֲשֶׁר חָשַׁב עַל-הַיְּהוּדִים.

3 And Esther spoke yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his plot that he had devised against the Jews.

P: The king extended the golden scepter to Esther, and Esther arose and stood before the king.

“If it please Your Majesty,” she said, “let dispatches be written countermanding those which were written by Haman, embodying his plot to annihilate the Jews throughout the king's provinces. For how can I bear to see the disaster which will befall my people! And how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred!”

P: The king agreed. Immediately, the king's scribes were summoned and the letters were composed, as dictated by Mordechai, to the Jews and to the satraps, the governors and the officials of the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia: to every

province in its own script and to every people in its own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language.

Mordechai made sure they were written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet. Letters were dispatched by mounted couriers, riding steeds used in the king's service, bred of the royal stud, and they read as follows:

- P: "The king has permitted the Jews of every city to assemble and fight for their lives; if any people or province attacks them, they may destroy its armed force and plunder their possessions—on a single day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, namely, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar."
- P: The text of the document was to be issued as a law in every single province. It was to be publicly displayed to all the peoples, so that the Jews should be ready on that day to defend themselves from their attackers. The couriers, mounted on royal steeds, went out in urgent haste at the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in the fortress Shushan and beyond.

אֶסְתֵּר Esther 8:15-17

טו וּמֶרְדֵּכַי יָצָא מִלִּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ,
בְּלְבוּשׁ מַלְכוּת תְּכֵלֶת וְחוּר, וְעֹטֶרֶת
זָהָב גְּדוֹלָה, וְתִכְרִיז בּוּץ וְאַרְגָּמָן;
וְהָעִיר שׁוֹשָׁן, צָהָלָה וְשִׂמְחָה.

15 And Mordecai went forth from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a robe of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan shouted and was glad.

טז לַיהוּדִים, הָיְתָה אוֹרָה וְשִׂמְחָה,
וְשִׁשׁוֹן, וִיקָר.

16 The Jews had light and gladness, and joy and honor.

יז וּבְכָל-מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה וּבְכָל-עִיר
וְעִיר, מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר-הַמֶּלֶךְ וְדָתוֹ
מֵגִיעַ, שִׂמְחָה וְשִׁשׁוֹן לַיהוּדִים,
מִשְׁתֵּה יוֹם טוֹב; וְרַבִּים מֵעַמֵּי
הָאָרֶץ, מִתְיַהֲדִים--כִּי-נָפַל פֶּחַד-
הַיְּהוּדִים, עָלֵיהֶם.

17 And in every province, and in every city, when the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had gladness and joy, a feast and a good day. And many from among the peoples of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews was fallen upon them.

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- P: And thus it was, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month—that is, the month of Adar—when the king's command and decree were to be executed, the very day on which the enemies of the Jews had expected to get them in their power, the very opposite happened,

and the Jews got their enemies in their power. Throughout the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the Jews mustered in their cities to attack those who sought to hurt them; and no one could withstand them, for the fear of them had fallen upon all the peoples.

P: Indeed, all the officials of the provinces—the satraps, the governors, and the king’s stewards—showed deference to the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai had fallen upon them. For Mordecai was now highly esteemed in the royal palace, and his fame was spreading through all the provinces; the man Mordecai was growing ever more powerful. The Jews killed the enemies who attacked them in Shushan.

אֶסְתֵּר Esther 9:7-10

ז וְאֵת פַּרְשָׁנְדָּתָא וְאֵת דַּלְפוֹן, וְאֵת אֲסַפְתָּא. 7 And Parshandatha and Dalphon, and Aspatha,

ח וְאֵת פּוֹרָתָא וְאֵת אַדְלִיָּא, וְאֵת אַרִידָתָא. 8 and Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,

ט וְאֵת פַּרְמָשְׁתָּא וְאֵת אַרִיסַי, וְאֵת אַרִידַי וְאֵת וַיִּזְתָּא. 9 and Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vaizatha,

י עֲשֶׂרֶת בְּנֵי הָמָן בֶּן-הַמֵּדָתָא, צָרָר הֵיהוּדִים--הָרָגוּ; וּבִבְזָה--לֹא שָׁלְחוּ, אֶת-יָדָם. 10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jews’ enemy, were slain; but on the spoil they laid not their hand.

P: The Jews in the provinces fought on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar; and they rested on the fourteenth day and made it a day of feasting and merrymaking. But the Jews in Shushan fought on both the thirteenth and fourteenth days, and finally rested on the fifteenth, and made it a day of feasting and merrymaking.

P: That is why—to this day—Jews who live in unwallled towns observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and make it a day of merrymaking and feasting, and as a holiday and an occasion for sending gifts to one another. And Jews who live in towns with walls from ancient times (like Shushan and Jerusalem) celebrate the next day, on the fifteenth day of the month of Adar.

אֶסְתֵּר Esther 9:20-22; 9:28

כ וַיִּכְתֹּב מֶרְדֳּכָי, אֶת-הַדְּבָרִים
הָאֵלֶּה; וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים אֶל-כָּל-
הַיְּהוּדִים, אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל-מְדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ--הַקְּרוֹבִים, וְהָרְחוֹקִים.

20 And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus, both near and far,

כא לָקִים, עֲלֵיהֶם--לְהִיּוֹת עֲשִׂים
אֶת יוֹם אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר,
וְאֶת יוֹם-חֲמִשָּׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ: בְּכָל-
שָׁנָה, וְשָׁנָה.

21 To enjoin them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, every year—

כב כַּיָּמִים, אֲשֶׁר-נָחוּ בָהֶם
הַיְּהוּדִים מֵאִיְבֵיהֶם, וְהַחֹדֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר
נִהְפָּדוּ לָהֶם מִיָּגוֹן לְשִׂמְחָה, וּמֵאֵבֶל
לְיוֹם טוֹב; לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתָם, יָמֵי
מְשֻׁתָּה וְשִׂמְחָה, וּמִשְׁלַח מְנוֹת אִישׁ
לְרֵעֵהוּ, וּמִתְּנוֹת לָאֲבִינִים.

22 The days when the Jews had rest from their enemies, and the month which was turned to them from sorrow to gladness, and from mourning into a good day; that they should make themselves days of feasting and gladness, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

כג וְהַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה נִזְכָּרִים וְנַעֲשִׂים
בְּכָל-דּוֹר וָדוֹר, מְשֻׁפָּחָה וּמְשֻׁפָּחָה,
מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה, וְעִיר וְעִיר; וַיְמִי
הַפּוּרִים הָאֵלֶּה, לֹא יִעָבְרוּ מִתּוֹךְ
הַיְּהוּדִים, וְזִכָּרָם, לֹא-יִסּוּף מִזֵּרַעַם

28 And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.

P: Then Queen Esther wrote a second letter of Purim for the purpose of confirming with full authority the one previously sent by Mordechai. Dispatches were sent to all the Jews in the hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the realm of Ahasuerus as follows:

“These days of Purim shall be observed at their proper time, as Mordecai the Jew—and now Queen Esther—has obligated them to do, and just as they have assumed for themselves and their descendants the obligation of the fasts with their lamentations.”

And Esther’s ordinance validating these observances of Purim was recorded in a scroll.

Esther 10:1-3 אֶסְתֵּר

- א** וַיָּשֶׂם הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחְשֵׁרֶשׁ (אַחְשֹׁרֶשׁ) מַס עַל-הָאָרֶץ, וְאֵי הַיָּם.
- ב** וְכָל-מַעֲשֵׂה תִקְפוֹ, וּגְבוּרָתוֹ, וּפְרָשֵׁת גְּדֻלַּת מְרֹדֶכַי, אֲשֶׁר גִּדְּלוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ--הֵלוא-הֵם כְּתוּבִים, עַל-סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים, לְמַלְכֵי, מְדִי וּפָרַס.
- ג** כִּי מְרֹדֶכַי הַיְּהוּדִי, מִשְׁנָה לַמֶּלֶךְ אַחְשֹׁרֶשׁ, וְגָדוֹל לַיְּהוּדִים, וְרָצוּי לְרֹב אָחִיו--דָּרַשׁ טוֹב לְעַמּוֹ, וְדִבֵּר שָׁלוֹם לְכָל-זָרְעוֹ.
- 1** And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.
- 2** And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai and how the king advanced him, are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia.
- 3** For Mordecai the Jew was next to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and accepted of the multitude of his brethren; seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his seed.

