

CBY Disney Purim Play 2019

By Student Cantor Olivia Brodsky

*Guided by translations on Sefaria and song parodies inspired by Rachel Gafni, Avi and Mara Greengrass, Benjamin Katz, Sheldon Novek, Rita Rubin, Alan Simon, and Eddie Simon

Song Insert: “A While New Shpiel” to the melody of “A Whole New World”

*A whole new shpiel
A new fantastic Purim show
Get all your groggers out
And start to shout
Let us share this whole new shpiel with you*

Narrator:

A long time ago in the Kingdom of Persia (modern-day Iran) there was a powerful king named Achashverosh. He ruled over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia. He loved to display his vast riches by hosting extravagant banquets, feasts, and balls for all the people who lived in the fortress Shushan, high and low alike. While the king hosted his festivities, his Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for women.

One day, when the king was drunk on wine, he ordered his guards to bring Queen Vashti before him wearing her royal crown, to display her beauty to the people and the officials; for she was a beautiful woman. But Queen Vashti refused to come. The king was enraged that his queen disobeyed him, so he consulted the sages to see what should be done to her.

King Achashverosh:

What shall be done, according to law, to Queen Vashti for failing to obey the command of her ruler, king, and husband?!

Narrator:

An advisor declared in the presence of the king and the ministers:

Advisor:

Queen Vashti has committed an offense not only against you but also against all the officials and against all the peoples in all the provinces! The queen's behavior will make all wives despise their husbands and think that it is okay to disobey them. If it pleases Your Majesty, let a royal edict be issued by you, and let it be written into the laws of Persia and Media that Vashti shall be banished from the kingdom. You should send her away and give all of her royal possessions and property to a new queen who is more deserving! This judgment will be known throughout the kingdom and all wives will treat their husbands with respect!

Narrator:

The proposal was approved by the king and the ministers, and the king did as his advisor proposed. Then a servant said...

Servant:

We should gather every young woman in your kingdom and bring them to the palace to be beautified and educated in the ways of a queen so that a pageant can be held and you can take your pick for a new queen.

Narrator:

The proposal pleased the king and so every young woman in the kingdom was gathered in the palace and prepared for the pageant. Among these young women in Shushan was a beautiful Jew named Esther. Orphaned at a young age, she was raised by her uncle Mordechai who adopted her as his own daughter.

When the king's order was proclaimed, Mordechai warned his niece Esther not to reveal that she was Jewish, for it would ruin her chances of winning the king's affection and becoming queen. He told her that this could be an opportunity granted to her by God so that she could positively influence the king and his treatment on the Jews in his kingdom.

And so, Esther too was taken into the king's palace in preparation for the pageant. She quickly pleased him and won his favor, and he hastened to furnish her with her cosmetics and her rations, as well as with the seven maids who were to attend to her every need. He treated her and her maids with special kindness.

Esther did not reveal her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had told her not to reveal it. Every single day Mordecai would walk about in front of the palace to learn how Esther was faring and what was happening to her.

Song Insert: “She Just Can’t Wait to be Queen” to the melody of “He Just Can’t Wait to be King”

Oh she just can’t wait to be queen!

Oh I just can’t wait til she’s queen!

Look at the king look left

Look at the king look right

Everywhere he looks his

Eyes are on Esther!

Oh the Jews can’t wait til she’s queen!

Oh we really hope she’ll be queen!

Narrator:

On the day of the pageant, when the turn came for Esther to go to the king, she won the admiration of all who saw her. The king loved Esther more than all the other women so, he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Song Insert: “Let Her Go” to the melody of “Let it Go”

Let her go, let her go

Can’t hold her back anymore

Let her, let her go

Queen Esther’s won the show

She will be the first Jewish queen

Let her reign endure...

The secret protector of Shushan’s Jews

Narrator:

The king gave a great banquet for all his officials, known as “the feast of Esther.” In celebration of his new queen, he lowered the taxes for his people and distributed gifts to everyone in his kingdom!

Meanwhile, Mordecai was sitting at the palace gate and overheard two of the king’s guards talking about treason...

Guard 1:

Look at the king flaunting all of his riches and having feast after feast while his people are poor, hungry, and dirty!

Guard 2:

We should kill him to stop this wastefulness and get a king who is more just!

Narrator:

Mordecai learned of it and told it to Queen Esther

Mordechai:

Esther! I have just overheard two of the king’s guards plotting to murder him! Please go and warn him and let him know it was me, Mordechai, who reported it!

Narrator:

The matter was investigated and found to be true, so the two men were put to death.

Sometime afterward, King Achashverosh promoted a man named Haman to be his most trusted advisor and most powerful man in the kingdom besides himself! Everyone standing at the palace gate knelt and bowed down to Haman; but Mordecai would not bow down.

Haman:

You there! You are ordered to bow down to me, the king's most powerful advisor. Bow!

Mordechai:

I will not bow to you.

Haman:

And why not?! Why do you disobey the king's order?

Mordechai:

I am a Jew and I only bow down to God.

Song Insert: "We Are Jews" to the melody of "Be Our Guest"

*We are Jews! We are Jews!
And we're sure you've heard the news*

*That Haman has built a gallows
Which he really wants to use.*

*It's our necks, on the line
And we think it's such a crime...*

*We are Jews! We are Jews!
Stand a moment in our shoes*

*We will fight for what is right
until we win, we cannot lose!*

*So take a look around
No we will not bow down*

For We are Jews! We are Jews! We are Jews!

Narrator:

Mordechai's refusal to bow down to Haman filled him with rage! He wanted to punish the disobedient Jew for disrespecting him. Haman then decided that Mordechai and all of his people, the Jews of Shushan, should be killed. Haman then said to King Achashverosh,

Haman:

"There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king's laws; and it is not in Your Majesty's interest to tolerate them. If it pleases Your Majesty, let an edict be drawn for their destruction."

Narrator:

The King agreed and said:

King:

"The people are yours to do with as you see fit."

Narrator:

Reminded of the two guards who has plotted to kill him, the king asked to see the records and find out who was responsible for saving him. The king then consulted with Haman and his other advisors, asking:

King:

How should I reward someone for saving my life?

Narrator:

Presuming the king was talking about him, Haman enthusiastically said...

Haman:

You should dress him in royal garb that you have worn before and put him on one of your finest horses to be paraded through the streets of Shushan for all to admire and praise!

King:

Quick, then! Get the garb and the horse, as you have said, and do this to Mordecai the Jew, who sits in the king's gate. Omit nothing of all you have proposed, for he saved me from the guards who tried to kill me!

Narrator:

Shocked and disgusted, Haman did as he was instructed and paraded Mordechai through the city for the people to praise and honor him. Even more revolted by Mordechai and his Jewish brethren than he was before, Haman then sent out the decree he had discussed with the king. In it, he commanded everyone in the kingdom to destroy, massacre, and exterminate all the Jews and plunder their possessions. This was to occur on the 13th day of the month of Adar.

When Mordecai heard the decree, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of mourning. He went through the city, crying out loudly and bitterly. Mordechai sent a message to Esther, telling her about Haman's plan to murder all of the Jews in the land and he begged her to go to the king and speak on their behalf.

Esther, horrified by this news sent this message back to her uncle Mordechai:

Esther:

Everyone in the king's palace knows that you may only approach him if you have been summoned. Those who disobey this law are to be put to death!

Mordechai:

Do not imagine that you, of all the Jews, will escape with your life by being in the king's palace. On the contrary, if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another quarter, while you and your father's house will perish. And who knows, perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a crisis. It is your obligation and destiny to try to save our people!

Esther:

Okay, then go, assemble all the Jews who live in Shushan, and fast on my behalf; do not eat or drink for three days or night. I and my maidens will observe the same fast. Then I shall go to the king, though it is contrary to the law; and if I die, I will die trying to save the Jews of Shushan!

Narrator:

And so the Jews of Shushan as well as Queen Esther and her maidens fasted for the three days and on the third day, Esther put on royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, facing the king's palace, while the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room facing the entrance of the palace. As soon as the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won his favor. The king extended to Esther the golden scepter which he had in his hand, and Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

King:

Come in, my dear Queen...what can I do for you?

Esther:

If it pleases Your Majesty, I would have you and your advisor Haman come today for a feast I have prepared for us.

Narrator:

The king agreed and ordered Haman to prepare to attend the feast Esther had prepared for them. So the king and Haman came to feast with Queen Esther. After everyone had drunk their fill of wine, the king asked Esther:

King:

What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half the kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.

Esther:

If Your Majesty will do me the favor, I beg that you allow me and my people to live! For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, massacred, and exterminated. Had we only been sold as bondmen and bondwomen, I would have kept silent; for the adversary is not worthy of the king's trouble.

Narrator:

Thereupon King Achashverosh demanded of Queen Esther:

King:

Who is he and where is he who dared to do this?!

Esther:

This evil man Haman! He has ordered that all of the Jews in this land be murdered, including my Uncle Mordechai who saved your life and me...for I am too am a Jew.

Narrator:

The king, in his fury, left the wine feast for the palace garden, while Haman remained to plead with Queen Esther for his life; for he saw that the king had resolved to destroy him.

That very day King Achashverosh sent an order to reverse the declaration that had been made to kill the Jews. Instead, a new decree was put out announcing the execution of the traitor Haman who plotted to kill a man who had saved the king's life, his beloved Queen Esther, and an entire people in the kingdom.

Song Insert: "We Are Free" to the melody of "Let it Go"

We are free, we are free

We are not the king's enemy

We are free, we are free

Yes, Queen Esther set us free!

She has saved Jews from tragedy

Let her reign endure...

Queen Esther the savior of Shushan's Jews

Narrator:

And so it was done, on the very day Haman had planned to kill the Jews, on the 13th of Adar, that Haman and all of his sons were executed, to safeguard the future of the Jews in Shushan and ensure that his evil ideas would not spread to the next generation.

A great celebration ensued for the Jews had thwarted this evil plan and were now safe in their own land! Now each year, on the 13th of Adar, Jews all around the world also commemorate this victory and celebrate life by retelling the story of Purim and having a great feast!