



Book of Esther



# פורים | Seder Megillat Esther for Purim

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## אֶסְתֵּר

### Minhagim

זכר (Rabbi Rallis Wiesenthal explains that in the tradition of Ashkenaz, “three *tzedaka* boxes are put out. a gifts for) למחצית השקל (which is given to benefit torah scholars in Jerusalem, b (the half shekel) and c (the needy). The minhag was (the cost of the meals one would have eaten that day), אגרא דתעניתא צדקה, (and c (the needy) after the daytime megillah reading, and not before (gifts of food) to give

Shmueli Gonzales writes, “It is a mitzvah on Purim for everyone to read Megillat Esther, or hear it read; once at night, and again during the day. In the evening it is read after the Maariv Amidah and the Full-Kaddish is recited; in the morning the Shaḥarit Amidah and Ḥatzi-Kaddish is recited, followed by the Torah reading, and then the Megillah is read at that point. The Megillah is to be unrolled and folded into three parts, as one blessing both at night and by day <sup>שְׁהֵינִי</sup> would a letter. It is the custom of HāBaD to say the

is made before the (שתיקה יפה בשעת קריאת המגילה וברכותיה!) R’ Wiesenthal adds, “A request for absolute quiet blessings for the megillah reading. According to R. Yisroel Strauss of KAJ WH ‘Groggers (sirens, whistles, etc) are fairly new, 30-35 years. In fact most of the noise is still generated with stamping feet and banging of gets about four seconds and the rest about 1-2 seconds, (Haman) המן the shtender covers. The first mention of <sup>זרש</sup> gets equal treatment (Zeresh) <sup>זרש</sup> his wife”

During a public reading, four verses are read aloud by the assembled (2:5, 8:15-16, 10:3). Below we’ve writ them in a large font, and included their transliterations. As three of these verses pertain specifically to Mordekhai’s role in the story, a growing custom at megillah readings is to include three verses that highlight Esther’s role in the story. These are the verses 2:7, 5:1, and 9:32.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Blessings for the Reading of Megillat Esther

לפני קריאת המגילה החזן אומר הברכות האלו:

Before reading Megillat Esther the following blessings are said; listeners respond אָמֵן.

Blessed are you, YHVH *Eloheinu*, cosmic majesty, who sanctifies us through *mitzvot*, and commands us concerning the reading of the Megillah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,  
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל מִקְרָא מְגִלָּה:

Blessed are you, YHVH *Eloheinu*, cosmic majesty, who made miracles for our ancestors in their days in this season.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, שְׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ  
בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה:

Blessed are you, YHVH *Eloheinu*, cosmic majesty, who has kept us alive, and has preserved us, and enabled us to reach this season.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, שְׁהַחֲיָנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ  
לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה:

Megillat Esther

## Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> NOW IT came to pass in the days of Ahashverosh—this is Ahashverosh who reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over a hundred and seven and twenty provinces—<sup>2</sup> that in those days, when the king Ahashverosh sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the castle,<sup>3</sup> 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;<sup>4</sup> when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty, many days, even a hundred and fourscore days.

## אָסְתֵּר א

<sup>1</sup> וַיְהִי בַיָּמֵי אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ הוּא  
 אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ מֵהַדָּד וְעַד-כּוֹשׁ  
 שֶׁבַע וְעֶשְׂרִים וַיִּמְאָה מְדִינָה: <sup>2</sup>  
 בַּיָּמִים הֵהֵם כָּשְׁבַת א הַמֶּלֶךְ  
 אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ עַל כֶּסֶף מַלְכוּתוֹ אֲשֶׁר  
 בְּשׁוֹשַׁן הַבִּירָה: <sup>3</sup> בְּשָׁנַת שְׁלוֹשׁ  
 לְמַלְכוֹ עָשָׂה מִשְׁתֵּה לְכָל-שָׂרָיו  
 וְעַבְדָּיו חֵיל א פָּרַס וּמְדֵי הַפְּרָתָיִם  
 וְשָׂרֵי הַמְּדִינֹת לְפָנָיו: <sup>4</sup> בְּהִרְאֹתוֹ  
 אֶת-עֹשֶׁר כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ וְאֶת-יְקָר  
 תְּפָאֶרֶת גְּדוּלְתוֹ יָמִים רַבִּים  
 שְׁמוֹנִים וַיִּמָּאת יוֹם:

<sup>5</sup> And when these days were fulfilled, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the castle, both great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; <sup>6</sup> there were hangings of white, fine cotton, and blue, bordered with cords of fine linen and purple, upon silver rods and pillars of marble; the couches were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of green, and white, and shell, and onyx marble. <sup>7</sup> And they gave them drink in vessels of gold— the vessels being diverse one from another—and royal wine in abundance, according to the bounty of the king. <sup>8</sup> And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel; for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.

<sup>5</sup> וּבְמִלּוּאֵת אֵל הַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה עָשָׂה  
הַמֶּלֶךְ לְכָל־הָעָם הַנִּמְצְאִים בְּשׁוּשַׁן  
הַבְּיָרָה לְמַגְדּוֹל וְעַד־קֶטֶן מִשְׁתֵּה  
שִׁבְעַת יָמִים בַּחֲצָר גִּנַּת בֵּיתוֹ  
הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>6</sup> חוֹר אֶל כַּרְפָּס וּתְכֵלֶת אַחוּז  
בַּחֲבִיל־בּוּץ וְאַרְגָּמָן עַל־גְּלִילֵי כֶסֶף  
וְעִמּוּדֵי זָהָב וְזָהָב וְכֶסֶף עַל  
רִצְפַת בַּהֲט־וְשֵׁשׁ וְדָר וְסֹהַרִת: <sup>7</sup>  
וְהַשְּׂקוֹת בְּכִלֵי זָהָב וְכִלִּים מִכִּלִּים  
שׁוּגִים וְיַיִן מַלְכוּת רַב כִּיד הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>8</sup>  
וְהַשְּׂתִיָּה כֹדֶת אֵין אֲנִס כִּי־כֵן אֶל יֶסֶד  
הַמֶּלֶךְ עַל כָּל־רַב בֵּיתוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת  
כְּרָצוֹן אִישׁ־וְאִישׁ:

<sup>9</sup> Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahashverosh.

<sup>9</sup> גַּם וַשְׁתִּי הַמַּלְכָּה עָשְׂתָה מִשְׁתֵּה  
נָשִׁים בֵּית הַמַּלְכוּת אֲשֶׁר לְמֶלֶךְ  
אַחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ: {ס}

<sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Bizzeta, Harbona, Bigta, and Avagta, Zetar, and Kharkas, the seven chamberlains that ministered in the presence of Ahashverosh the king, <sup>11</sup> to bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to show the peoples and the princes her beauty; for she was fair to look on. <sup>12</sup> But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by the chamberlains; therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

<sup>10</sup> בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי כְּטוֹב לֵב-הַמֶּלֶךְ  
 בֵּינן אָמַר לְמְהוּמָן בְּזֵתָא חַרְבוֹנָא  
 בְּגַתָּא וְאַבְגַּתָּא זֵתָר וְכַרְכָּס שְׁבַעַת  
 הַסְּרִיסִים הַמְשָׁרְתִים אֶת-פְּנֵי  
 הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחְשֻׁרוֹשׁ: <sup>11</sup> לְהַבִּיא  
 אֶת-וַשְׁתִּי הַמְלָכָה לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
 בְּכֹתֵר מַלְכוּת לְהַרְאוֹת הָעַמִּים  
 וְהַשְּׂרִים אֶת-יְפִיָּהּ כִּי-טוֹבַת מַרְאֶה  
 הִיא: <sup>12</sup> וַתִּמְאַן הַמְלָכָה וַשְׁתִּי לְבוֹא  
 בְּדַבַּר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר בִּיד הַסְּרִיסִים  
 וַיִּקְצַף הַמֶּלֶךְ מְאֹד וַחֲמָתוֹ בָּעָרָה  
 בּוֹ:

<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the wise men, who knew the times—for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment; <sup>14</sup> and the next unto him was Karsh'na, Shetar, Admata, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memukhan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face, and sat the first in the kingdom: <sup>15</sup> 'What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, forasmuch as she hath not done the bidding of the king Ahashverosh by the chamberlains?'

<sup>13</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לַחֲכָמִים יְדַעִי  
 הָעֵתִים כִּי-כֵן דָּבַר הַמֶּלֶךְ לִפְנֵי  
 כָּל-יְדַעֵי דַת וְדִין: <sup>14</sup> וְהַקָּרֵב אֵלָיו  
 כַּרְשָׁנָא שֵׁתָר אַדְמָתָא תַרְשִׁישׁ  
 מֶרֶס מַרְסָנָא מְמוּכָן שְׁבַעַת שְׂרִי |  
 פֶּרַס וּמְדֵי רְאִי פְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַיִּשְׁבִּים  
 רְאשֻׁנָה בַּמְלְכוּת: <sup>15</sup> כְּדַת  
 מַה-לַּעֲשׂוֹת בַּמְלָכָה וַשְׁתִּי עַל |  
 אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָשְׂתָה אֶת-מִאֲמַר הַמֶּלֶךְ  
 אַחְשֻׁרוֹשׁ בִּיד הַסְּרִיסִים: {ס}

<sup>16</sup> And Memukhan answered before the king and the princes: ‘Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the peoples, that are in all the provinces of the king Ahashverosh. <sup>17</sup> 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: The king Ahashverosh commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not. <sup>18</sup> And this day will the princesses of Persia and Media who have heard of the deed of the queen say the like unto all the king’s princes. So will there arise enough contempt and wrath. <sup>19</sup> If it please the king, let there go forth a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, that Vashti come no more before king Ahashverosh, and that the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she. <sup>20</sup> 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 honour, both to great and small.’

<sup>16</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר מוֹמְכָן מִמוֹכָן לְפָנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וְהַשָּׂרִים לֹא עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ לְבַדּוֹ עֹנְתָה  
וְשִׁתִּי הַמַּלְכָּה כִּי עַל-כָּל-הַשָּׂרִים  
וְעַל-כָּל-הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל-מְדִינֹת  
הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ: <sup>17</sup> כִּי-יֵצֵא  
דְבַר-הַמַּלְכָּה עַל-כָּל-הַנְּשִׁים  
לְהַבְזֹת בְּעֵלֵיהֶן בְּעֵינֵיהֶן בְּאִמְרָם  
הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ אֲמַר לְהָבִיא  
אֶת-וְשִׁתִּי הַמַּלְכָּה לְפָנָיו וְלֹא-בָאָה:  
<sup>18</sup> וְהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה תֵּאמְרָנָה | שָׂרוֹת  
פָּרַס-וּמְדֵי אֲשֶׁר שָׁמְעוּ אֶת-דְּבַר  
הַמַּלְכָּה לְכָל שָׂרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְכַדִּי בְּזִיוֹן  
וְקִצְף: <sup>19</sup> אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יֵצֵא  
דְבַר-מַלְכוּת מִלְּפָנָיו וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּדַתִּי  
פָּרַס-וּמְדֵי וְלֹא יַעֲבֹר אֲשֶׁר  
לֹא-תָבֹא וְשִׁתִּי לְפָנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ וּמַלְכוּתָהּ יִתֵּן הַמֶּלֶךְ  
לְרַעוּתָהּ הַטּוֹבָה מִמֶּנָּה: <sup>20</sup> וְנִשְׁמַע  
פְּתֻגָּם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר-יַעֲשֶׂה  
בְּכָל-מַלְכוּתוֹ כִּי רַבָּה הִיא  
וְכָל-הַנְּשִׁים יִתְּנוּ יָקָר לְבַעֲלֵיהֶן  
לְמַגְדוֹל וְעַד-קָטָן:



<sup>21</sup> And the word pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memukhan; <sup>22</sup> for he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and speak according to the language of his people.

<sup>21</sup> וַיִּיטֵב הַדְּבָר בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וְהַשָּׂרִים וַיַּעַשׂ הַמֶּלֶךְ כְּדִבְרֵי מְמוּכָן:  
<sup>22</sup> וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים אֶל-כָּל-מְדִינֹת  
הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה כַּכְּתוּבָה  
וְאֶל-עַם וְעַם כָּל-שׁוֹנוֹ לְהִיּוֹת  
כָּל-אִישׁ שֹׁרֵר בְּבֵיתוֹ וּמְדַבֵּר כְּלָשׁוֹן  
עִמּוֹ: {פ}

## Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup> After these things, when the wrath of king Ahashverosh was assuaged, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. <sup>2</sup> Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him: 'Let there be sought for the king young virgins fair to look on; <sup>3</sup> and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the castle, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Heygeh the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their ointments be given them; <sup>4</sup> and let the maiden that pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti.' And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

אֶסְתֵּר ב  
<sup>1</sup> אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה כָּשָׁךְ חֲמַת  
הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֻׁרוּשׁ זָכַר אֶת-וַשְׁתִּי וְאֵת  
אֲשֶׁר-עָשְׂתָה וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר-נִגְזַר עָלֶיהָ: <sup>2</sup>  
וַיֹּאמְרוּ נַעֲרֵי-הַמֶּלֶךְ מְשֻׁרְתָיו יִבְקְשׁוּ  
לַמֶּלֶךְ נַעֲרוֹת בְּתוּלוֹת טוֹבוֹת מֵרָאה: <sup>3</sup>  
וַיִּפְקֹד הַמֶּלֶךְ פְּקִידִים בְּכָל-מְדִינֹת  
מַלְכוּתוֹ וַיִּקְבְּצוּ אֶת-כָּל-נַעֲרֵי-בְתוּלָה  
טוֹבֹת מֵרָאה אֶל-שׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה  
אֶל-בֵּית הַנָּשִׁים אֶל-יַד הַגָּא סָרִיס  
הַמֶּלֶךְ שִׁמְר הַנָּשִׁים וְנָתַן תַּמְרוּקֵיהֶן: <sup>4</sup>  
וְהַנַּעֲרָה אֲשֶׁר תִּיטֵב בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
תִּמְלֹךְ תַּחַת וַשְׁתִּי וַיִּיטֵב הַדְּבָר בְּעֵינֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיַּעַשׂ כֵּן: {ס}

Ish yehudi haya beshushan habira ushemo  
 Mordekhai ben Ya'ir ben-Shim'i ben-Kish  
 ish yemini <sup>5</sup> There was a certain Jew in  
 Shushan the castle, whose name was  
 Mordekhai the son of Yair the son of Shim'i  
 the son of Kish, a Benjamite, <sup>6</sup> who had  
 been carried away from Jerusalem with the  
 captives that had been carried away with  
 Yekhoniah king of Yehudah, whom  
 Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had  
 carried away. Vayehi omen et-Hadassa hee  
 Esther bat-dodo ki eyn lah av va'em  
 vehanna'ara yefat-to'ar vetovat mar'eh  
 uvemot aviha ve'immah lekayah Mordekhai  
 lo levat <sup>7</sup> And he brought up Hadassah, that  
 is, Esther, his uncle's daughter; for she had  
 neither father nor mother, and the maiden  
 was of beautiful form and fair to look on;  
 and when her father and mother were dead,  
 Mordekhai took her for his own daughter.

<sup>5</sup> אִישׁ יְהוּדִי הָיָה בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבְּיָרָה וּשְׁמוֹ  
 מֶרְדֳּכָי בֶן יָאִיר בֶּן שִׁמְעִי בֶן קִישׁ אִישׁ  
 יְמִינִי: <sup>6</sup> אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָה מִירוּשָׁלַיִם  
 עִם־הַגְּלוּת אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָתָה עִם יְכָנְיָה  
 מֶלֶךְ־יְהוּדָה אֲשֶׁר הִגְלָה נְבוּכַדְנֶאֱצַר  
 מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל: <sup>7</sup> וַיְהִי אִמֵּן אֶת־הַדּוֹסָה הִיא  
 אֶסְתֵּר בַּת־דּוֹדוֹ כִּי אֵין לָהּ אָב וְאֵם  
 וְהִנְעָרָה יְפַת־תְּאֵר וְטוֹבַת מְרֵאָה  
 וּבְמוֹת אָבִיהָ וְאִמָּהּ לָקְחָהּ מֶרְדֳּכָי לִוְלָת:

<sup>8</sup> So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was published, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the castle, to the custody of Heygeh, that Esther was taken into the king's house, to the custody of Heygeh, keeper of the women. <sup>9</sup> And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her ointments, with her portions, and the seven maidens, who were meet to be given her out of the king's house; and he advanced her and her maidens to the best place in the house of the women.

<sup>8</sup> וַיְהִי בְּהַשְׁמַע דְּבַר-הַמֶּלֶךְ וְדָתוֹ  
וּבְהַקְבִּץ נְעָרוֹת רַבּוֹת אֶל-שׁוּשַׁן  
הַבְּיָרָה אֶל-יַד הַגִּי וַתִּלְקַח אֶסְתֵּר  
אֶל-בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-יַד הַגִּי שִׁמְר  
הַנְּשִׁים: <sup>9</sup> וַתִּטֵּב הַנְּעָרָה בְּעֵינָיו וַתִּשָּׂא  
חֶסֶד לְפָנָיו וַיְבַהֵל אֶת-תַּמְרוּקֶיהָ  
וְאֶת-מְנוֹתָהּ לָתֵת לָהּ וְאֶת שִׁבְעַ  
הַנְּעָרוֹת הַרְאִיּוֹת לָתֵת-לָהּ מִבֵּית  
הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּשְׁנֶה וְאֶת-נְעָרוֹתֶיהָ לְטוֹב בֵּית  
הַנְּשִׁים:

<sup>10</sup> Esther had not made known her people nor her kindred; for Mordechai had charged her that she should not tell it. <sup>11</sup> And Mordechai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what would become of her.

<sup>10</sup> לֹא-הִגִּידָה אֶסְתֵּר אֶת-עַמָּהּ  
וְאֶת-מוֹלְדֹתָהּ כִּי מֹרְדֵכַי צִוָּה עָלֶיהָ  
אֲשֶׁר לֹא-תִגִּיד: <sup>11</sup> וּבְכָל-יוֹם וַיּוֹם  
מֹרְדֵכַי מִתְהַלֵּךְ לְפָנָי חֹצֵר בֵּית-הַנְּשִׁים  
לְדַעַת אֶת-שְׁלוֹם אֶסְתֵּר וּמַה-יַּעֲשֶׂה  
בָּהּ:

<sup>12</sup> Now when the turn of every maiden was come to go in to king Ahashverosh, after that it had been done to her according to the law for the women, twelve months—for so were the days of their anointing accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six month with sweet odours, and with other ointments of the women —

<sup>13</sup> when then the maiden came unto the king, whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house. <sup>14</sup> In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, who kept the concubines; she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and she were called by name.

<sup>12</sup> וּבִהְגִיעַ תֵּרֵן נִעְרָה וְנִעְרָה לָבוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ מִקֵּץ הַיּוֹת לָהּ כָּדַת הַנָּשִׁים שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר חֹדֶשׁ כִּי כֵן יִמְלֹאוּ יְמֵי מְרוּקֵיהֶן שְׁשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים בְּשֶׁמֶן הַמֹּר וְשְׁשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים בְּבִשְׂמִים וּבִתְמָרוּקֵי הַנָּשִׁים: <sup>13</sup> וּבָזָה הַנִּעְרָה בָּאָה אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר תִּאֲמַר

יִנָּתֵן לָהּ לָבוֹא עִמָּה מִבֵּית הַנָּשִׁים עַד־בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>14</sup> בְּעֶרֶב אֵלֶּיךָ הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וּבִבְקֹר הַיּוֹם שָׂבָה אֶל־בֵּית הַנָּשִׁים שְׁנֵי אֶלְפֵי שָׁעֵשֶׂגז סָרִיס הַמֶּלֶךְ שִׁמְרֵהּ הַפִּילְגָשִׁים לֹא־תָבוֹא עוֹד אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי אִם־חֲפֹץ בָּהּ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְנִקְרְאָה בְּשֵׁם:

<sup>15</sup> Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordekhai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Heygeh the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her. <sup>16</sup> So Esther was taken unto king Ahashverosh into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Teveth, in the seventh year of his reign. <sup>17</sup> And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti. <sup>18</sup> Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the bounty of the king.

<sup>15</sup> וּבִהְיֵה תִרְ-אֶסְתֵּר בֵּת-אֲבִיחַיִל דָּד מְרֹדֶכַי אֲשֶׁר לָקַח-לוֹ לְבַת לְבוֹא אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ לֹא בִקְשָׁה דְבָר כִּי אִם אֶת-אֲשֶׁר יֹאמֵר הִגִּי סְרִיס-הַמֶּלֶךְ שִׁמְר הַנָּשִׁים וַתְּהִי אֶסְתֵּר נִשְׂאֵת חֵן בְּעֵינֵי כָל-רְאֵיָהּ: <sup>16</sup> וַתִּלְקַח אֶסְתֵּר אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ אֶל-בַּיִת מַלְכוּתוֹ בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָעֲשִׂירִי הוּא-חֹדֶשׁ טֵבֶת בְּשָׁנַת-שָׁבַע לְמַלְכוּתוֹ: <sup>17</sup> וַיֶּאֱהַב הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-אֶסְתֵּר מִכָּל-הַנָּשִׁים וַתִּשְׂאֵתֵן וַחֲסֹד לְפָנָיו מִכָּל-הַבָּתוּלֹת וַיִּשֶׂם כְּתֹר-מַלְכוּת בְּרֵאשִׁיהָ וַיְמַלִּכָהּ תַּחַת וְשִׁתֵּי: <sup>18</sup> וַיַּעַשׂ הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשְׁתֵּה גָדוֹל לְכָל-שָׂרָיו וְעַבְדָּיו אֶת מִשְׁתֵּה אֶסְתֵּר וְהַנְּחָה לְמַדִּינֹת עָשָׂה וַיִּתֵּן מִשְׁאֵת כִּיד הַמֶּלֶךְ:

<sup>19</sup> And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, and Mordekhai sat in the king's gate— <sup>20</sup> Esther had not yet made known her kindred nor her people; as Mordekhai had charged her; for Esther did the commandment of Mordekhai, like as when she was brought up with him—

<sup>19</sup> וּבִהְקִבֹץ בְּתוּלוֹת שְׁנִית וּמְרֹדֶכַי יָשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר-הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>20</sup> אֵין אֶסְתֵּר מַגִּידַת מוֹלְדוֹתָהּ וְאֶת-עַמָּהּ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה עָלֶיהָ מְרֹדֶכַי וְאֶת-מֵאֲמַר מְרֹדֶכַי אֶסְתֵּר עָשָׂה כַּאֲשֶׁר הִיָּתָה בְּאֲמֹנָה אִתּוֹ: {ס}

<sup>21</sup> in those days, while Mordechai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those that kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hands on the king Ahashverosh. <sup>22</sup> And the thing became known to Mordechai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther told the king thereof in Mordechai's name.

<sup>21</sup> בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וּמֵרֻדְכַי יָשָׁב  
בְּשַׁעַר-הַמֶּלֶךְ קִצְפֹּ בִגְתָן וְתֵרֶשׁ  
שְׁנֵי-סָרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשְׁמַרְי הַדֹּפֵן וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ  
לְשַׁלַּח יָד בַּמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרֶשׁ: <sup>22</sup> וַיִּזְדַּע  
הַדָּבָר לְמֵרֻדְכַי וַיַּגֵּד לְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה  
וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לַמֶּלֶךְ בְּשֵׁם מֵרֻדְכַי:

<sup>23</sup> And when inquisition was made of the matter, and it was found to be so, they were both hanged on a tree; and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

<sup>23</sup> וַיִּבְקֹשׁ הַדָּבָר וַיִּמָּצֵא וַיִּתְּלוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם  
עַל-עֵץ וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּסֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לִפְנֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ: {פ}

### Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup> After these things did king Ahashverosh promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

אֶסְתֵּר ג  
<sup>1</sup> אַחֲרַי | הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה גָּדַל הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אֶחָשְׁוֵרֶשׁ אֶת-הָמָן בֶּן-הַמְּדֵתָא  
הָאֲגָגִי וַיִּנְשָׂאֵהוּ וַיִּשֶׂם אֶת-כִּסְאוֹ  
מֵעַל כָּל-הַשָּׂרִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ:

<sup>2</sup> 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 Mordechai bowed not down, nor prostrated himself before him. <sup>3</sup> Then the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, said unto Mordechai: 'Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?'

<sup>2</sup> וְכָל-עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר-בְּשַׁעַר  
הַמֶּלֶךְ כָּרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לְהָמָן  
כִּי-כֵן צִוְּה-לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וּמֵרֻדְכַי לֹא  
יִכְרַע וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה: <sup>3</sup> וַיֹּאמְרוּ עַבְדֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר-בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְמֵרֻדְכַי  
מִדּוּעַ אַתָּה עוֹבֵר אֶת מִצְוַת הַמֶּלֶךְ:

<sup>4</sup> Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordekhai's words would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew. <sup>5</sup> And when Haman saw that Mordekhai bowed not down, nor prostrated himself before him, then was Haman full of wrath. <sup>6</sup> But it seemed contemptible in his eyes to lay hands on Mordekhai alone; for they had made known to him the people of Mordekhai; wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahashverosh, even the people of Mordekhai.

<sup>4</sup> וַיְהִי בִּאמְרָם כְּאֲמָרָם אֵלָיו יוֹם וַיּוֹם  
וְלֹא שָׁמַע אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּגְדּוּ לְהִמָּן  
לְרֹאוֹת הַיַּעֲמֹדוּ דְבַרֵי מֶרְדֳּכָי  
כִּי־הִגִּיד לָהֶם אֲשֶׁר־הוּא יְהוּדִי: <sup>5</sup>  
וַיֵּרָא הִמָּן כִּי־אֵין מֶרְדֳּכָי כֹרַע  
וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לוֹ וַיִּמְלֵא הִמָּן חֲמָה: <sup>6</sup>  
וַיִּבַּז בְּעֵינָיו לְשַׁלַּח יָד בְּמֶרְדֳּכָי לְבַדּוֹ  
כִּי־הִגִּידוּ לוֹ אֶת־עַם מֶרְדֳּכָי וַיִּבְקַשׁ  
הִמָּן לְהַשְׁמִיד אֶת־כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים  
אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל־מְלָכוֹת אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ עִם  
מֶרְדֳּכָי:

<sup>7</sup> In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahashverosh, 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 Adar.

<sup>7</sup> בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ נִסָּן  
בְּשַׁנַּת שְׁתַּיִם עֶשְׂרֵה לְמַלְךְ  
אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ הַפִּיל פּוּר הוּא הַגּוֹרֵל  
לִפְנֵי הִמָּן מִיּוֹם א' לַיּוֹם וַיִּמְחַדֵּשׁ  
לְחֹדֶשׁ שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ אָדָר:  
{0}

<sup>8</sup> And Haman said unto king Ahashverosh:  
 ‘There is a certain people scattered abroad and  
 dispersed among the peoples in all the  
 provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are  
 diverse from those of every people; neither  
 keep they the king’s laws; therefore it profiteth  
 not the king to suffer them. <sup>9</sup> 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.’ <sup>10</sup> And the king took his ring from  
 his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of  
 Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews’ enemy. <sup>11</sup>  
 And the king said unto Haman: ‘The silver is  
 given to thee, the people also, to do with them  
 as it seemeth good to thee.’

<sup>8</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן לְמֶלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ יְשֻׁנֵי  
 עַם־אֶחָד מִפְּזָר וּמִפְּרֹד בֵּין הָעַמִּים  
 בְּכָל מְדִינֹת מַלְכוּתְךָ וְדַתֵּיהֶם שְׁנוֹת  
 מִכָּל־עַם וְאֶת־דַּתִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵינָם  
 עֹשִׂים וְלִמְלָךְ אֵין־שׁוֹה לְהַנִּיחָם: <sup>9</sup>  
 אִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יִכְתֹּב לְאַבְדָּם  
 וְעִשְׂרֵת אֲלָפִים כֶּסֶף־כֶּסֶף אֶשְׁקוּל  
 עַל־יְדֵי עֹשֵׂי הַמְּלָאכָה לְהַבִּיא  
 אֶל־גִּנְזֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>10</sup> וַיִּסַּר הַמֶּלֶךְ  
 אֶת־טַבַּעְתּוֹ מֵעַל יָדוֹ וַיִּתְּנֶה לְהָמָן  
 בֶּן־הַמֵּדְיָתָא הָאֲגָגִי צֶרֶר הַיְהוּדִים: <sup>11</sup>  
 וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהָמָן הֲכֵסֶף נָתַן לְךָ  
 וְהָעָם לַעֲשׂוֹת בּוֹ כַּטּוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ:



<sup>12</sup> Then were the king's scribes called in the first month, on the thirteenth day thereof, and there was written, according to all that Haman commanded, unto the king's satraps, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the princes of every people; to every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahashverosh was it written, and it was sealed with the king's ring. <sup>13</sup> And letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.

<sup>12</sup> וַיִּקְרְאוּ סֹפְרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ בַּחֹדֶשׁ  
הָרִאשׁוֹן בְּשִׁלּוּשֵׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם בֹּא  
וַיִּכְתֹּב כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל  
אֲחַשְׁדָּרְפָּנֵי־הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאֶל־הַפְּחוֹת  
אֲשֶׁר | עַל־מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה וְאֶל־שָׂרֵי  
עַם וְעַם מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה כִּכְתָבָהּ וְעַם  
וְעַם כָּל־שׁוֹנוֹ בְּשֵׁם הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֶרֶשׁ  
נִכְתָּב וְנִחְתָּם בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>13</sup>  
וַנְּשַׁלַּח סֹפְרִים בְּיַד הָרָצִים  
אֶל־כָּל־מְדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהַשְׁמִיד  
לְהַרְגַּ וּלְאַבֵּד אֶת־כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים  
מִנְעַר וְעַד־זָקֵן טָף וְנָשִׁים בְּיוֹם אֶחָד  
בְּשִׁלּוּשֵׁה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר  
הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ אֲדָר וְשִׁלְלָם לְבוֹז:

<sup>14</sup> The copy of the writing, to be given out for a decree in every province, was to be published unto all peoples, that they should be ready against that day.

<sup>14</sup> פְּתִישְׁגֵן הַכְּתָב לְהַנְתֵּן דָּת  
בְּכָל־מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה גְלוּי  
לְכָל־הָעַמִּים לְהִיּוֹת עֵתָדִים לְיוֹם  
הַזֶּה:

<sup>15</sup> The posts went forth in haste by the king's commandment, and the decree was given out in Shushan the castle; and the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

<sup>15</sup> הָרָצִים יָצְאוּ דְחוּפִים בְּדַבָּר  
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַדָּת נִתְּנָה בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבְּיָרָה  
וְהַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּן יָשְׁבוּ לְשִׁתּוֹת וְהָעִיר  
שׁוּשַׁן נְבוֹכָה: {פ}

## Chapter 4

<sup>1</sup> Now when Mordekhai knew all that was done, Mordekhai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry; <sup>2</sup> and he came even before the king's gate; for none might enter within the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. <sup>3</sup> And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

<sup>4</sup> And Esther's maidens and her chamberlains came and told it her; and the queen was exceedingly pained; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordekhai; and to take his sackcloth from off him; but he accepted it not. <sup>5</sup> Then called Esther for Hatakh, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and charged him to go to Mordekhai, to know what this was, and why it was.

## אֶסְתֵּר ד

<sup>1</sup> וּמֶרְדֵּכַי יָדַע אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשָׂה  
וַיִּקְרַע מֶרְדֵּכַי אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וַיִּלְבַּשׁ שָׂק  
וַאֲפֹר וַיֵּצֵא בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר וַיִּזְעַק זַעֲקָה  
גְּדֹלָה וּמְרָה: <sup>2</sup> וַיָּבֹא עַד לַפְּנֵי  
שַׁעַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי אֵין לְבֹא אֶל־שַׁעַר  
הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּלִבוּשׁ שָׂק: <sup>3</sup> וּבְכָל־מְדִינָה  
וּמְדִינָה מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר דָּבַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ וְדָתוֹ  
מִגֵּיעַ אֲבָל גְּדוֹל לַיהוּדִים וְצוּם וּבְגֵי  
וּמִסְפָּד שָׂק וְאֲפֹר יַעַע לְרַבִּים:

<sup>4</sup> וּתְבוֹאִינָה וְתְבוֹאִנָּה נַעֲרוֹת אֶסְתֵּר  
וּסְרִיסֵיהָ וַיִּגִּידוּ לָהּ וַתִּתְחַלְחַל  
הַמַּלְכָּה מְאֹד וַתִּשְׁלַח בְּגָדִים  
לְהַלְבִּישׁ אֶת־מֶרְדֵּכַי וּלְהַסִּיר שָׂקוֹ  
מֵעָלָיו וְלֹא קִבַּל: <sup>5</sup> וַתִּקְרָא אֶסְתֵּר  
לְהַתֵּךְ מִסְרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר הָעֲמִיד  
לְפָנֶיהָ וַתִּצְוֶהוּ עַל־מֶרְדֵּכַי לְדַעַת  
מִה־זֶה וְעַל־מִה־זֶה:

<sup>6</sup> So Hatakh went forth to Mordekhai unto the broad place of the city, which was before the king's gate. <sup>7</sup> And Mordekhai told him of all that had happened unto him, and the exact sum of the money that Haman had promised

to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. <sup>8</sup> Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given out in Shushan to destroy them, to show it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her; and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him, for her people.

<sup>6</sup> וַיֵּצֵא הַתֶּחָה אֶל-מֶרְדֵּכָי אֶל-רְחֹב  
הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר לִפְנֵי שַׁעַר-הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>7</sup>  
וַיַּגֵּד-לוֹ מֶרְדֵּכָי אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר קָרָהוּ  
וְאֵת פְּרִשְׁת הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר אָמַר הַמֶּן  
לְשָׂקוֹל עַל-גַּגְתִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ בִּיהוּדִים  
בְּיְהוּדִים לְאַבְדָּם: <sup>8</sup> וְאֶת-פְּתִישָׁן  
כְּתַב-הַדָּת אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן בְּשׁוּשַׁן  
לְהַשְׁמִידֵם נָתַן לוֹ לְהִרְאוֹת  
אֶת-אֶסְתֵּר וּלְהַגִּיד לָהּ וּלְצַוֹת עָלֶיהָ  
לָבוֹא אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהִתְחַנֵּן-לוֹ וּלְבַקֵּשׁ  
מִלְפָּנָיו עַל-עַמָּה:

<sup>9</sup> And Hathakh came and told Esther the words of Mordekhai. <sup>10</sup> Then Esther spoke unto Hatakh, and gave him a message unto Mordekhai: <sup>11</sup> 'All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law for him, that he be put to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live; but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.' <sup>12</sup> And they told to Mordekhai Esther's words.

<sup>9</sup> וַיָּבֹא הַתֶּחָה וַיַּגֵּד לְאֶסְתֵּר אֶת דְּבָרֵי  
מֶרְדֵּכָי: <sup>10</sup> וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְהַתֶּחָה  
וּתְצַוֶּהוּ אֶל-מֶרְדֵּכָי: <sup>11</sup> כָּל-עַבְדֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְעַם-מְדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ יוֹדְעִים  
אֲשֶׁר כָּל-אִישׁ וְאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר  
יָבֹא אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל-הַחֲצַר הַפְּנִימִית  
אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִקְרָא אַחַת דָּתוֹ לְהִמָּית  
לְבַד מֵאֲשֶׁר יוֹשִׁיט-לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אֶת-שֵׁרְבִיט הַזָּהָב וְחַיָּה וְאֲנִי לֹא  
נִקְרָאתִי לָבוֹא אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ זֶה שְׁלוֹשִׁים  
יוֹם: <sup>12</sup> וַיַּגִּידוּ לְמֶרְדֵּכָי אֶת דְּבָרֵי  
אֶסְתֵּר: {פ}

<sup>13</sup> Then Mordechai bade them to return answer unto Esther: ‘Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king’s house, more than all the Jews. <sup>14</sup> For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then will relief and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place, but thou and thy father’s house will perish; and who knoweth whether thou art not come to royal estate for such a time as this?’

<sup>13</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר מֶרְדֵּכָי לְהָשִׁיב אֶל־אֶסְתֵּר  
אֶל־תִּדְמִי בְנִפְשֶׁךָ לְהַמְלִיט  
בֵּית־הַמֶּלֶךְ מִכָּל־הַיְהוּדִים: <sup>14</sup> כִּי  
אִם־הַחֲרַשׁ תַּחֲרִישִׁי בְּעֵת הַזֹּאת רִוּחַ  
וְהַצִּלָּה יֵעָמֹד לַיהוּדִים מִמְּקוֹם אֲחֵר  
וְאֵת וּבֵית־אָבִיךָ תֵּאבְדוּ וְיָמֵי יוֹדֵעַ  
אִם־לֵיעַת כָּזֹאת הִגַּעַת לַמַּלְכוּת:

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther bade them return answer unto Mordechai: <sup>16</sup> ‘Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye 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.’

<sup>15</sup> וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְהָשִׁיב אֶל־מֶרְדֵּכָי:  
<sup>16</sup> לֵךְ כְּנוֹס אֶת־כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים  
הַנִּמְצְאִים בְּשׁוּשַׁן וְצוּמוּ עָלַי  
וְאֶל־תֹּאכְלוּ וְאֶל־תִּשְׁתּוּ שְׁלֹשַׁת יָמִים  
לַיְלָה וַיּוֹם גַּם־אֲנִי וְנַעֲרֹתַי אֲצוּם כֵּן  
וּבִכְן אָבוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־כֻדַּת  
וְכַאֲשֶׁר אֲבַדְתִּי אֲבַדְתִּי:

<sup>17</sup> So Mordechai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

<sup>17</sup> וַיַּעֲבֵר מֶרְדֵּכָי וַיַּעַשׂ כְּכֹל  
אֲשֶׁר־צִוְתָה עָלָיו אֶסְתֵּר: {ס}

Chapter 5

vayhi bayyom hashelishi vatilbash Esther  
 malkhut vatta'amod baḥatsar bet-hammelekh  
 hapenimit nokhaḥ bet hammelekh  
 vehammelekh yoshev al-kissei malkhuto

beveit hammalkhut nokhaḥ petaḥ habbayit  
<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass on the third day, that  
 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.

אֶסְתֵּר הַ  
<sup>1</sup> וַיְהִי אִ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַתִּלְבַּשׁ  
 אֶסְתֵּר מַלְכוּת וַתֵּעַמַּד בַּחֲצָר  
 בֵּית-הַמֶּלֶךְ הַפְּנִימִית נֹכַח בַּיִת  
 הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּלֶךְ יוֹשֵׁב עַל-כִּסֵּא  
 מַלְכוּתוֹ בְּבֵית הַמַּלְכוּת נֹכַח פֶּתַח  
 הַבַּיִת:

<sup>2</sup> And it was so, when the king saw Esther the  
 queen standing in the court, that she obtained  
 favour in his sight; and the king held out to  
 Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand.  
 So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the  
 sceptre. <sup>3</sup> Then said the king unto her: 'What  
 wilt thou, queen Esther? for whatever thy  
 request, even to the half of the kingdom, it  
 shall be given thee.'

<sup>2</sup> וַיְהִי כִּרְאוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת-אֶסְתֵּר  
 הַמַּלְכָּה עֹמֶדֶת בַּחֲצָר נֹשְׂאָה חַן  
 בְּעֵינָיו וַיּוֹשֵׁט הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר  
 אֶת-שֵׁרְבִיט הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדוֹ  
 וַתִּקְרַב אֶסְתֵּר וַתִּגַּע בְּרֹאשׁ  
 הַשֵּׁרְבִיט: {ס} <sup>3</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ הַמֶּלֶךְ  
 מַה-לָּךְ אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה  
 וּמַה-בְּקִשְׁתֶּךָ עַד-חֲצֵי הַמַּלְכוּת  
 וַיִּגְתֶּן לָךְ:

<sup>4</sup> And Esther said: 'If it seem good unto the  
 king, let the king and Haman come this day  
 unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.'

<sup>4</sup> וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב  
 יָבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֵּן הַיּוֹם אֶל-הַמִּשְׁתֶּה  
 אֲשֶׁר-עָשִׂיתִי לוֹ:

<sup>5</sup> Then the king said: ‘Cause Haman to make haste, that it may be done as Esther hath said.’ So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. <sup>6</sup> And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine: ‘Whatever thy petition, it shall be granted thee; and whatever thy request, even to the half of the kingdom, it shall be performed.’

<sup>5</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מְהֵרָא אֶת־הַמֶּן לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת־דְּבַר אֶסְתֵּר וַיָּבֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּן אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר־עָשְׂתָה אֶסְתֵּר: <sup>6</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר בְּמִשְׁתֶּה הַיַּיִן מִה־שְּׂאֵלֹתָ וַיִּנְתֵּן לָךְ וּמִה־בִקְשֹׁתָ עַד־חֲצֵי הַמְּלָכוֹת וַתַּעַשׂ:

<sup>7</sup> Then answered Esther, and said: ‘My petition and my request is — <sup>8</sup> if I have found favour 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 to-morrow as the king hath said.’

<sup>7</sup> וַתַּעַן אֶסְתֵּר וַתֹּאמֶר שְׂאֵלֹתַי וּבִקְשֹׁתַי: <sup>8</sup> אִם־מְצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב לַתֵּת אֶת־שְׂאֵלֹתַי וְלַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת־בִּקְשֹׁתַי יָבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַמֶּן אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֶעֱשֶׂה לָהֶם וּמָחָר אֶעֱשֶׂה כְּדִבְרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ:

<sup>9</sup> Then went Haman forth that day joyful and glad of heart; but when Haman saw Mordechai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, Haman was filled with wrath against Mordechai. <sup>10</sup> Nevertheless Haman refrained himself, and went home; and he sent and fetched his friends and Zeresh his wife. <sup>11</sup> And Haman recounted unto them the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and everything as to how the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. <sup>12</sup>

Haman said moreover: 'Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to-morrow also am I invited by her together with the king. <sup>13</sup> Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordechai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.'

<sup>9</sup> וַיֵּצֵא הָמָן בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא שְׂמֵחַ וְטוֹב לֵב וְכִרְאוֹת הָמָן אֶת־מָרְדֳּכָי בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ וְלֹא־קָם וְלֹא־זָע מִמֶּנּוּ וַיִּמְלֵא הָמָן עַל־מָרְדֳּכָי חֲמָה: <sup>10</sup> וַיִּתְאַפֵּק הָמָן וַיָּבֹא אֶל־בַּיִתּוֹ וַיִּשְׁלַח וַיִּבְא אֶת־אֶהָבָיו וְאֶת־זֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ: <sup>11</sup> וַיְסַפֵּר לָהֶם הָמָן אֶת־כְּבוֹד עֲשָׂרוֹ וְרַב בְּגָיו וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר גָּדְלוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר נִשְׂאוֹ עַל־הַשָּׂרִים וְעַבְדָּי הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>12</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן אֶף לֹא־הִבִּיאָה אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה עִם־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר־עָשְׂתָה כִּי אִם־אוֹתִי וְגַם־לְמָחָר אֲנִי קָרוּאָה עִם־הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>13</sup> וְכֹל־זֶה אֵינְנִי שֹׂה לִי בְּכֹל־עֵת אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי רֹאֶה אֶת־מָרְדֳּכָי הַיְּהוּדִי יוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ:

<sup>14</sup> Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him: 'Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and in the morning speak thou unto the king that Mordechai may be hanged thereon; then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet.' And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

<sup>14</sup> וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ זֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ וְכָל־אֶהָבָיו יַעֲשׂוּ־עֵץ גָּבוֹה חֲמִשִּׁים אַמָּה וּבְבֹקֶר אֲמַר לְמֶלֶךְ וַיִּתְּלוּ אֶת־מָרְדֳּכָי עָלָיו וּבֹא־עִם־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל הַמִּשְׁתֶּה שְׂמֵחַ וַיֵּיטֵב הַדְּבָר לְפָנָי הָמָן וַיַּעַשׂ הַעֵץ: {פ}

## Chapter 6

## אֶסְתֵּר ו

<sup>1</sup> On that night could not the king sleep; and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles, and they were read before the king.

<sup>1</sup> בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא נִדְדָה שְׁנַת הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וַיֹּאמֶר לְהָבִיא אֶת־סֵפֶר הַזְּכָרוֹת  
דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים וַיְהִי נִקְרָאִים לִפְנֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ:

<sup>2</sup> And it was found written, that Mordekhai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, of those that kept the door, who had sought to lay hands on the king Ahashverosh. <sup>3</sup> And the king said: 'What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordekhai for this?' Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him: 'There is nothing done for him.'

<sup>2</sup> וַיִּמְצָא כְּתוּב אֲשֶׁר הִגִּיד מֶרְדֳּכָי  
עַל־בְּגַתָּנָא וְתָרֵשׁ שְׁנֵי סְרִיסֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשְׁמָרֵי הַסֶּף אֲשֶׁר בְּקִשּׁוֹ  
לְשַׁלַּח יָד בַּמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ: <sup>3</sup>  
וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מֶה־נַּעֲשֶׂה יִקָּר  
וַיִּגְדּוּלָה לְמֶרְדֳּכָי עַל־זֶה וַיֹּאמְרוּ  
נַעֲרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ מִשְׁרָתָיו לֹא־נַעֲשֶׂה  
עִמּוֹ דְבָר:

<sup>4</sup> And the king said: 'Who is in the court?' — Now Haman was come into the outer court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordekhai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. — <sup>5</sup> And the king's servants said unto him: 'Behold, Haman standeth in the court.' And the king said: 'Let him come in.'

<sup>4</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מִי בַחֲצַר וְהֵמֵן בָּא  
לְחַצֵּר בֵּית־הַמֶּלֶךְ הַחַיצוֹנָה לֵאמֹר  
לְמַלְכָּה לְתִלוֹת אֶת־מֶרְדֳּכָי עַל־הָעֵץ  
אֲשֶׁר־הִכִּין לוֹ: <sup>5</sup> וַיֹּאמְרוּ נַעֲרֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵלָיו הִנֵּה הֵמֵן עֹמֵד בַּחֲצַר  
וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ יָבוֹא:



<sup>6</sup> So Haman came in. And the king said unto him: ‘What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?’ — Now Haman said in his heart: ‘Whom would the king delight to honour besides myself?’ — <sup>7</sup> And Haman said

unto the king: ‘For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, <sup>8</sup> let royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and on whose head a crown royal is set; <sup>9</sup> 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 delighteth to honour, and cause him to ride on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him: Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.’

<sup>6</sup> וַיְבֹאֵהֶם הָמָן וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ  
מִה־לַּעֲשׂוֹת בְּאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ  
חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן בְּלִבּוֹ לֵמַי  
יִחְפֹץ הַמֶּלֶךְ לַעֲשׂוֹת יָקָר יוֹתֵר  
מִמֶּנִּי: <sup>7</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הָמָן אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ: <sup>8</sup>  
יְבִיאוּ לְבוּשׁ מַלְכוּת אֲשֶׁר לְבוֹשׁ־בּוֹ  
הַמֶּלֶךְ וְסוּס אֲשֶׁר רָכַב עָלָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וְאֲשֶׁר נָתַן נֶתֶן מַלְכוּת בְּרֹאשׁוֹ: <sup>9</sup>  
וְנָתַן הַלְבוּשׁ וְהַסּוּס עַל־יַד־אִישׁ  
מִשָּׂרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַפְּרָתָמִים וְהַלְבִּישׁוּ  
אֶת־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ  
בִּיקְרוֹ וְהִרְכִּיבֵהוּ עַל־הַסּוּס בְּרִחוּב  
הָעִיר וְקִרְאוּ לִפְנֵי כָכָה יַעֲשֶׂה  
לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ בִּיקְרוֹ:

<sup>10</sup> Then the king said to Haman: ‘Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordechai the Jew, that sitteth at the king’s gate; let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.’ <sup>11</sup> Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordechai, and caused him to ride through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him: ‘Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.’

<sup>10</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהָמָן מְהֵרָה קַח  
אֶת־הַלְבוּשׁ וְאֶת־הַסּוּס כַּאֲשֶׁר  
דִּבַּרְתָּ וַעֲשֶׂה־כֵן לְמֹרְדֵכָי הַיְהוּדִי  
הַיּוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־תִּפֹּל  
דְּבַר מְכַל אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ: <sup>11</sup> וַיִּקַּח  
הָמָן אֶת־הַלְבוּשׁ וְאֶת־הַסּוּס  
וַיַּלְבֵּשׁ אֶת־מֹרְדֵכָי וַיִּרְכִּיבֵהוּ  
בְּרִחוּב הָעִיר וַיִּקְרָא לִפְנֵי כָכָה  
יַעֲשֶׂה לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶךְ חָפֵץ  
בִּיקְרוֹ:

<sup>12</sup> And Mordechai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house, mourning and having his head covered. <sup>13</sup> And Haman recounted unto Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him: 'If Mordechai, before whom thou hast begun to fall, be of the seed of the Jews, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.' <sup>14</sup> While they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

<sup>12</sup> וַיָּשָׁב מֹרְדֳכַי אֶל־שַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וְהָמָן נִדְחַף אֶל־בַּיִתוֹ אַבְל וְחָפוּי  
רֹאשׁ: <sup>13</sup> וַיְסַפֵּר הָמָן לְזֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ  
וּלְכָל־אֲהָבָיו אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר קָרָהוּ  
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ חֲכָמָיו וְזֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ אִם  
מִזֶּרַע הִי־הַיְהוּדִים מֹרְדֳכַי אֲשֶׁר  
הִחְלוֹת לִנְפֹל לְפָנָיו לֹא־תוּכַל לוֹ  
כִּי־נִפּוֹל תִּפּוֹל לְפָנָיו: <sup>14</sup> עוֹדֵם  
מִדְּבָרִים עָמּוּ וְסָרִיסֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הִגִּיעוּ  
וַיִּבְהִילוּ לְהַבִּיא אֶת־הָמָן  
אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר־עָשְׂתָה אֶסְתֵּר:

## Chapter 7

<sup>1</sup> So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

אֶסְתֵּר ז  
<sup>1</sup> וַיָּבֹא הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהָמָן לִשְׁתוֹת  
עִם־אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה:

<sup>2</sup> And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine: 'Whatever thy petition, queen Esther, it shall be granted thee; and whatever thy request, even to the half of the kingdom, it shall be performed.'

<sup>2</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֶסְתֵּר גַּם בַּיּוֹם  
הַשֵּׁנִי בַּמִּשְׁתֶּה הַיַּיִן מִה־שְׂאֵלֶתְךָ  
אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וְתַנְתֵּן לָךְ  
וּמִה־בְּקִשְׁתֶּךָ עַד־חֲצֵי הַמַּלְכוּת  
וְתַעֲשׂ:

<sup>3</sup> Then Esther the queen answered and said: ‘If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request; <sup>4</sup> for we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my peace, for the adversary is not worthy that the king be endamaged.’

<sup>3</sup> וַתַּעַן אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וַתֹּאמֶר  
אִם־מִצְאָתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וְאִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב תִּתְּנֶנּוּ־לִי נַפְשִׁי  
בְּשִׂאלָתִי וְעַמִּי בְּבִקְשָׁתִי: <sup>4</sup> כִּי  
נִמְכַרְנוּ אֲנִי וְעַמִּי לְהַשְׁמִיד לְהַרוֹג  
וּלְאַבֵּד וְאֵלּוּ לְעִבָדִים וְלִשְׁפָחוֹת  
נִמְכַרְנוּ הַחַיָּתִי כִּי אֵין הַצָּר שָׁוָה  
בְּנֹזֵק הַמֶּלֶךְ: {ס}

<sup>5</sup> Then spoke the king Ahashverosh and said unto Esther the queen: ‘Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?’

<sup>6</sup> And Esther said: ‘An adversary and an enemy, even this wicked Haman.’ Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. <sup>7</sup>

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 to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

<sup>5</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ וַיֹּאמֶר  
לְאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה מִי הוּא זֶה וְאֵי־זֶה  
הוּא אֲשֶׁר־מָלְאוּ לְבוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת כֵּן: <sup>6</sup>  
וַתֹּאמֶר־אֶסְתֵּר אִישׁ צָר וְאוֹיֵב הָעַם  
הָרַע הַזֶּה וְהָעַם נִבְעֵת מִלִּפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וְהַמַּלְכָּה: <sup>7</sup> וְהַמֶּלֶךְ קָם בַּחֲמָתוֹ  
מִמִּשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן אֶל־גִּנַּת הַבַּיִת וְהָעַם  
עָמַד לְבַקֵּשׁ עַל־נַפְשׁוֹ מֵאֶסְתֵּר  
הַמַּלְכָּה כִּי רָאָה כִּי־כָלְתָה אֵלָיו  
הָרָעָה מֵאֵת הַמֶּלֶךְ:

<sup>8</sup> Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the couch whereon Esther was. Then said the king: ‘Will he even force the queen before me in the house?’ As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. <sup>9</sup> Then said Harbonah,

one of the chamberlains that were before the king: ‘Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman hath made for Mordekhai, who spoke good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman.’ And the king said: ‘Hang him thereon.’ <sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordekhai. Then was the king’s wrath assuaged.

## Chapter 8

<sup>1</sup> On that day did the king Ahashverosh give the house of Haman the Jews’ enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordekhai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her. <sup>2</sup> And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordekhai. And Esther set Mordekhai over the house of Haman.

<sup>8</sup> וְהַמֶּלֶךְ שָׁבָּ מִגַּנְזַת הַבַּיִתָּן אֶל־בַּיִת  
 אֶשֶׁר אֶסְתֵּר הָיָה וְהָמָן נָפַל עַל־הַמֶּטֶה  
 אֶשֶׁר אֶסְתֵּר עָלֶיהָ וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ  
 הֲגַם לִכְבוֹשׁ אֶת־הַמַּלְכָּה עִמִּי בַּבַּיִת  
 הַדָּבָר יֵצֵא מִפִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ וּפְנֵי הָמָן  
 חָפְזוּ: {ס} <sup>9</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר חַרְבוּנָה אֶחָד  
 מִן־הַסְּרִיסִים לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ גַּם  
 הִנֵּה־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה הָמָן לְמֹרְדֵכָי  
 אֲשֶׁר דָּבַר־טוֹב עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ עִמָּד  
 בַּבַּיִת הָמָן גְּבוּהָ חֲמִשִּׁים אַמָּה  
 וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ תִּלְהוּ עָלָיו: <sup>10</sup> וַיִּתְּלוּ  
 אֶת־הָמָן עַל־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר־הֵכִין  
 לְמֹרְדֵכָי וַחֲמַת הַמֶּלֶךְ שָׁכְכָה: {פ}

## אֶסְתֵּר ח

<sup>1</sup> בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא נָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחְשִׁירוּשׁ  
 לְאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה אֶת־בַּיִת הָמָן צֶרֶר  
 הַיְהוּדִים הַיְהוּדִים וּמֹרְדֵכָי בָּא לִפְנֵי  
 הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי־הִגִּידָה אֶסְתֵּר מֶה הוּא־לָהּ: <sup>2</sup>  
 וַיִּסֹּר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־טַבַּעְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱבִיר  
 מִהָמָן וַיִּתְּנָהּ לְמֹרְדֵכָי וַתִּשֶׂם אֶסְתֵּר  
 אֶת־מֹרְדֵכָי עַל־בַּיִת הָמָן: {פ}

<sup>3</sup> 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 device that he had devised against the Jews. <sup>4</sup> Then the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre. So Esther arose, and stood before the king. <sup>5</sup> And she said: ‘If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews that are in all the king’s provinces; <sup>6</sup> for how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?’

<sup>3</sup> וַתֹּסֶף אֶסְתֵּר וַתְּדַבֵּר לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וַתִּפֹּל לְפָנָיו רַגְלָיו וַתִּתְחַנֵּן-לוֹ  
לְהַעֲבִיר אֶת-רַעַת הַמֶּן הָאֲגָגִי וְאֶת  
מַחְשְׁבֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר חָשַׁב עַל-הַיְהוּדִים: <sup>4</sup>  
וַיֹּשֶׁט הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאַסְתֵּר אֶת שַׁרְבֵט הַזָּהָב  
וַתִּקַּם אֶסְתֵּר וַתַּעֲמֵד לְפָנָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>5</sup>  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב וְאִם-מִצְאָתִי  
חַן לְפָנָיו וְכֹשֶׁר הַדְּבָר לְפָנָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ וְטוֹבָה  
אֲנִי בְעֵינָיו יִכְתֹּב לְהַשִּׁיב אֶת-הַסְּפָרִים  
מִחֲשֵׁבֶת הַמֶּן בֶּן-הַמְּדַתָּא הָאֲגָגִי אֲשֶׁר  
כָּתַב לְאַבֹּד אֶת-הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר  
בְּכָל-מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ: <sup>6</sup> כִּי אֵיכָכָה אוֹכֵל  
וְרָאִיתִי בְרָעָה אֲשֶׁר-יִמְצָא אֶת-עַמִּי  
וְאֵיכָכָה אוֹכֵל וְרָאִיתִי בְּאַבְדֹן מוֹלַדְתִּי:  
{ס}

<sup>7</sup> Then the king Ahashverosh said unto Esther the queen and to Mordechai the Jew: ‘Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. <sup>8</sup> Write ye also concerning the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king’s name, and seal it with the king’s ring; for the writing which is written in the king’s name, and sealed with the king’s ring, may no man reverse.’ <sup>9</sup> Then were the king’s scribes called at that time, in the third month, which is the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordechai commanded concerning the Jews, even to the satraps, and the governors and princes of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, a hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language. <sup>10</sup> And they wrote in the name of king Ahashverosh, and sealed it with the king’s ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, riding on swift steeds that were used in the king’s service, bred of the stud; <sup>11</sup> that the king had granted the Jews that were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to

<sup>7</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרֶשׁ לְאֶסְתֵּר  
הַמַּלְכָּה וּלְמֹרְדֵכַי הַיְהוּדִי הִנֵּה בֵּית־הַמֶּן  
נִתַּנְתִּי לְאֶסְתֵּר וְאֶתּוֹ תָּלוּ עַל־הַעֵץ עַל  
אֲשֶׁר־שָׁלַח יְדוֹ בַיהוּדִים: <sup>8</sup>  
וְאַתֶּם כְּתֹבוּ עַל־הַיְהוּדִים כְּטוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם  
בְּשֵׁם הַמֶּלֶךְ וּחְתֹּמוּ בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶךְ  
כִּי־כָתַב אֲשֶׁר־נִכְתַּב בְּשֵׁם־הַמֶּלֶךְ  
וּנְחַתּוֹם בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵין לְהַשְׁיֵב: <sup>9</sup>  
וַיִּקְרְאוּ סֹפְרֵי־הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּעֵת־הַהִיא בַּחֹדֶשׁ  
הַשְּׁלִישִׁי הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ סִיוָן בְּשִׁלּוּשָׁה  
וְעֶשְׂרִים בּוֹ וַיִּכְתֹּב כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה מֹרְדֵכַי  
אֶל־הַיְהוּדִים וְאֵל  
הָאַחַשְׁדָּרְפָּנִים־וְהַפַּחֹתִי וְשָׂרֵי הַמְּדִינֹת  
אֲשֶׁר ׀ מֵהַדוּ וְעַד־כּוּשׁ שִׁבַע וְעֶשְׂרִים  
וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה כְּכַתְּבָהּ  
וְעַם וְעַם כָּל־שָׁנָו וְאֶל־הַיְהוּדִים כְּכַתְּבָם  
וְכָל־שׁוֹנָם: <sup>10</sup> וַיִּכְתֹּב בְּשֵׁם הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אַחַשְׁוֵרֶשׁ וַיְחַתֵּם בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּשְׁלַח  
סֹפְרִים בְּיַד־הָרָצִים בַּסּוּסִים רַכְבֵּי הָרֶכֶשׁ  
הָאַחַשְׁתְּרָנִים בְּנֵי הָרַמְּכִים: <sup>11</sup> אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן  
הַמֶּלֶךְ לַיְהוּדִים ׀ אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל־עִיר־וְעִיר  
לְהַקְהֵל וְלַעֲמֹד עַל־נַפְשָׁם לְהַשְׁמִיד  
וְלְהַרְגֹּ וְלֹאֲבֹד אֶת־כָּל־חַיִּל עַם וּמְדִינָה  
הַצָּרִים אֲתֶם טַף וְנָשִׁים וְשָׁלָלִם לְבוֹז: <sup>12</sup>  
בַּיּוֹם אֶחָד בְּכָל־מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרֶשׁ  
בְּשִׁלּוּשָׁה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר  
הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ אָדָר: <sup>13</sup> פִּתְשָׁגָן הַכְּתָב  
לְהַנְתֵּן דָּת בְּכָל־מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה גְלוּי  
לְכָל־הָעַמִּים וְלְהִיּוֹת הַיְהוּדִים הַיְהוּדִים  
עַתּוּדִים עִתִּידִים לַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לְהַנְקֵם

destroy, and to slay, and to cause to perish, all the forces of the people and province that would assault them, their little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey, <sup>12</sup> upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahashverosh, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. <sup>13</sup> The copy of the writing, to be given out for a decree in every province, was to be published unto all the peoples, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. <sup>14</sup> So the posts that rode upon swift steeds that were used in the king's service went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment; and the decree was given out in Shushan the castle.

מֵאִיְבֵיהֶם: <sup>14</sup> הָרָצִים רִכְבֵי הָרָכָשׁ  
הָאֲחַשְׁתְּרָנִים יֵצְאוּ מִבְּהֵלִים וְדַחוּפִים  
בְּדַבַּר הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהֵדֶת נִתְּנָה בְּשׁוּשָׁן  
הַבְּיָרָה: {פ}

<sup>15</sup> And Mordechai 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 rob of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan shouted and was glad. u'Mordechai yatsa millifne hammelekh bilvush malkhut tekhelet vahur va'ateret zahav gedola vetakhrikh buts ve'argaman veva'ir shushan tsahala vesameha. <sup>16</sup> The Jews had light and gladness, and joy and honour. layyehudim hayta ora vesimha vesason vikar <sup>17</sup> And in every province, and in every city,

whithersoever 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.

<sup>15</sup> וּמֹרְדֵכַי יָצָא | מִלְפָּנַי הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּלְבוּשׁ  
מַלְכוּת תְּכֵלֶת וְחֹזֶר וְעֹטֶרֶת זָהָב גְּדוֹלָה  
וְתַכְרִיךְ בּוּץ וְאַרְגָּמָן וְהָעִיר שׁוֹשָׁן צָהֲלָה  
וְשִׂמְחָה: <sup>16</sup> לַיהוּדִים הָיְתָה אוֹרָה  
וְשִׂמְחָה וְשִׂשׂוֹן וְיִקָּר: <sup>17</sup> וּבְכָל-מְדִינָה  
וּמְדִינָה וּבְכָל-עִיר וְעִיר מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר  
דִּבֶּר-הַמֶּלֶךְ וְדָתוֹ מִגִּיעַ שִׂמְחָה וְשִׂשׂוֹן  
לַיהוּדִים מִשְׁתָּה וַיִּזְוֶה טוֹב וְרַבִּים מֵעַמֵּי  
הָאָרֶץ מִתִּיהָדִים כִּי-נָפַל פְּחַד-הַיְהוּדִים  
עֲלֵיהֶם:



## Chapter 9

<sup>1</sup> Now in the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have rule over them; whereas it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them; <sup>2</sup> the Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahashverosh, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt; and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them was fallen upon all the peoples.

<sup>3</sup> And all the princes of the provinces, and the satraps, and the governors, and they that did the king's business, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordechai was fallen upon them. <sup>4</sup> For Mordechai was great in the king's house, and his fame went forth throughout all the provinces; for the man Mordechai waxed greater and greater. <sup>5</sup> And the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and with slaughter and destruction, and did what they would unto them that hated them. <sup>6</sup> And in Shushan the castle the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men.

## אַסְתֵּר ט

<sup>1</sup> וּבַשְּׁנַיִם עָשָׂר חֹדֶשׁ הוּא־חֹדֶשׁ אָדָר  
בְּשִׁלּוֹשָׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם בּוֹ אֲשֶׁר הִגִּיעַ  
דְּבַר־הַמֶּלֶךְ וְדַתּוֹ לְהַעֲשׂוֹת בַּיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר  
שָׁבְרוּ אִיְבֵי הַיְהוּדִים לְשַׁלוֹט בָּהֶם  
וְנִהְפְּוּ הוּא אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלְטוּ הַיְהוּדִים  
הַמָּה בְּשָׂאֵיהֶם: <sup>2</sup> נִקְהְלוּ הַיְהוּדִים  
בְּעָרֵיהֶם בְּכָל־מְדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ  
אֶחְשׂוּרוֹשׁ לְשַׁלַּח יָד בַּמְּבַקְשֵׁי רַעְתָּם  
וְאִישׁ לֹא־עָמַד לְפָנֵיהֶם כִּי־נָפַל פְּחָדָם  
עַל־כָּל־הָעַמִּים:

<sup>3</sup> וְכָל־שָׂרֵי הַמְּדִינוֹת וְהָאֶחְשָׁדְרָפְנִים  
וְהַפְּחוֹת וְעֵשִׂי הַמְּלָאכָה אֲשֶׁר לְמֶלֶךְ  
מִנְּשָׂאִים אֶת־הַיְהוּדִים כִּי־נָפַל  
פְּחַד־מֶרְדֵּכַי עֲלֵיהֶם: <sup>4</sup> כִּי־גָדוֹל  
מֶרְדֵּכַי בְּבֵית הַמֶּלֶךְ וְשִׁמְעוֹ הוֹלֵךְ  
בְּכָל־הַמְּדִינוֹת כִּי־הָאִישׁ מֶרְדֵּכַי הוֹלֵךְ  
וְגָדוֹל: {פ} <sup>5</sup> וַיָּכּוּ הַיְהוּדִים  
בְּכָל־אִיְבֵיהֶם מִפַּת־חֶרֶב וְהָרַג וְאַבְדָּן  
וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְּשָׂאֵיהֶם כְּרָצוֹנָם: <sup>6</sup> וּבְשׁוֹשַׁן  
הַבְּיָרָה הָרָגוּ הַיְהוּדִים וְאַבְּדוּ חֲמִשׁ  
מֵאוֹת אִישׁ:

<sup>7</sup> And Parshandatha,  
 and Dalphon,  
 and Aspatha,  
<sup>8</sup> and Poratha,  
 and Adalia,  
 and Aridatha,  
<sup>9</sup> and Parmashta,  
 and Arisai,  
 and Aridai,  
 and Vaizatha,  
<sup>10</sup> the ten sons of Haman the son of  
 Hammedatha, the Jews' enemy, slew they;  
 but on the spoil they laid not their hand.

<sup>7</sup> וְאֵת | פַּרְשַׁנְדָּתָא  
 וְאֵת | דַּלְפּוֹן  
 וְאֵת | אֲסַפְתָּא:  
<sup>8</sup> וְאֵת | פּוֹרְתָא  
 וְאֵת | אַדְלִיָּא  
 וְאֵת | אַרִידָתָא:  
<sup>9</sup> וְאֵת | פַּרְמַשְׁתָּא  
 וְאֵת | אַרִיסַי  
 וְאֵת | אַרִידַי  
 וְאֵת | וַיִּזְתָּא:  
<sup>10</sup> עֲשֶׂרֶת בְּנֵי הָמָן בְּנוֹ-הַמֵּדְתָּא צִרְרֵי  
 הַיְהוּדִים הָרְגוּ וּבְבַיְזָה לֹא שָׁלְחוּ  
 אֶת-יָדָם:

<sup>11</sup> On that day the number of those that were  
 slain in Shushan the castle was brought  
 before the king. <sup>12</sup> And the king said unto  
 Esther the queen: 'The Jews have slain and  
 destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the  
 castle, and the ten sons of Haman; what then  
 have they done in the rest of the king's  
 provinces! Now whatever thy petition, it shall  
 be granted thee; and whatever thy request  
 further, it shall be done.'

<sup>11</sup> בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא בָּא מִסְפָּר הַהֲרוּגִים  
 בְּשׁוּשַׁן הַבֵּירָה לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ: {ס} <sup>12</sup>  
 וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה בְּשׁוּשַׁן  
 הַבֵּירָה הָרְגוּ הַיְהוּדִים וְאַבְדוּ חַמֵּשׁ  
 מֵאוֹת אִישׁ וְאֵת עֲשֶׂרֶת בְּנֵי-הָמָן  
 בְּשָׂאֵר מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ מִה עָשׂוּ  
 וּמִה-שָׂאֲלֹתֶךָ וַיִּנְתֶּן לָהּ וּמִה-בִּקְשֶׁתֶךָ  
 עוֹד וַתַּעַשׂ:

<sup>13</sup> Then said Esther: ‘If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews that are in Shushan to do to-morrow also according unto this day’s decree, and let Haman’s ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.’ <sup>14</sup> And the king commanded it so to be done; and a decree was given out in Shushan; and they hanged Haman’s ten sons. <sup>15</sup> And the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men in Shushan; but on the spoil they laid not their hand.

<sup>13</sup> וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר אִם-עַל-הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב  
יִנָּתֵן גַּם-מָחָר לַיהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּשׁוּשָׁן  
לַעֲשׂוֹת כַּדַּת הַיּוֹם וְאֵת עֲשֵׂרֶת  
בְּנֵי-הָמֵן יִתְּלוּ עַל-הָעֵץ: <sup>14</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר  
הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהַעֲשׂוֹת כֵּן וַתִּנָּתֵן דַּת בְּשׁוּשָׁן  
וְאֵת עֲשֵׂרֶת בְּנֵי-הָמֵן תָּלוּ: <sup>15</sup> וַיִּקְהֲלוּ  
הַיהוּדִים הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר-בְּשׁוּשָׁן גָּם  
בַּיּוֹם אַרְבַּעַה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר  
וַיַּהַרְגוּ בְּשׁוּשָׁן שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת אִישׁ  
וּבְבִזָּה לֹא שָׁלְחוּ אֶת-יָדָם:

<sup>16</sup> And the other Jews that were in the king’s provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of them that hated them seventy and five thousand—but on the spoil they laid not their hand— <sup>17</sup> on the thirteenth day of the month Adar, and on the fourteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. <sup>18</sup> But the Jews that were in Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. <sup>19</sup> Therefore do the Jews of the villages, that dwell in the unwallied towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

<sup>16</sup> וְשָׂאֵר הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּמַדִּינֹת  
הַמֶּלֶךְ נִקְהָלוּ | וְעָמְדוּ עַל-נַפְשָׁם וְנוֹחַ  
מֵאִיבֵיהֶם וְהָרַגוּ בְּשֵׁנְאֵיהֶם חֲמִשָּׁה  
וּשְׁבַעִים אָלֶף וּבְבִזָּה לֹא שָׁלְחוּ  
אֶת-יָדָם: <sup>17</sup> בַּיּוֹם-שְׁלֹשָׁה עָשָׂר  
לְחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר וְנוֹחַ בְּאַרְבַּעַה עָשָׂר בּוֹ  
וְעָשָׂה אֹתוֹ יוֹם מְשֻׁתָּה וְשִׂמְחָה: <sup>18</sup>  
וְהַיְהוּדִים הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר-בְּשׁוּשָׁן  
נִקְהָלוּ בְּשִׁלְשָׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ וּבְאַרְבַּעַה  
עָשָׂר בּוֹ וְנוֹחַ בַּחֲמִשָּׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ וְעָשָׂה  
אֹתוֹ יוֹם מְשֻׁתָּה וְשִׂמְחָה: <sup>19</sup> עַל-כֵּן  
הַיְהוּדִים הַפְּרוּזִים הַפְּרוּזִים הַיֹּשְׁבִים  
בְּעָרֵי הַפְּרוּזוֹת עֹשִׂים אֵת יוֹם אַרְבַּעַה  
עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר שִׂמְחָה וּמְשֻׁתָּה  
וְיוֹם טוֹב וּמְשֻׁלוֹחַ מְנוֹת אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ:  
{פ}

<sup>20</sup> And Mordechai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahashverosh, both nigh and far, <sup>21</sup> to enjoin them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly, <sup>22</sup> the days wherein the Jews had rest from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to gladness, and from mourning into a good day; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor. <sup>23</sup> And the Jews took upon them to do as they had begun, and as Mordechai had written unto them; <sup>24</sup> because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast *pur*, that is, the lot, to discomfit them, and to destroy them; <sup>25</sup> but when she<sup>[2]</sup> came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he had devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head; and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

<sup>20</sup> וַיִּכְתֹּב מֹרְדֳכַי אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים אֶל־כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל־מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֻׁרוּשׁ הַקְּרוּבִים וְהָרְחוֹקִים: <sup>21</sup> לְקַיֵּם עֲלֵיהֶם לַהַיּוֹת עֲשִׂים אֶת יוֹם אַרְבַּעַה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר וְאֶת יוֹם־חַמֶּשֶׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ בְּכָל־שָׁנָה וּשְׁנָה: <sup>22</sup> כַּיָּמִים אֲשֶׁר־נָחֲוּ בָהֶם הַיְהוּדִים מֵאֲוִיבֵיהֶם וְהַחֹדֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר נִהְפָּךְ לָהֶם מִיָּגוֹן לְשִׂמְחָה וּמֵאֵבֶל לְיוֹם טוֹב לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתָם יְמֵי מְשֻׁתָּה וּשְׂמִחָה וּמְשֻׁלוֹחַ מְנוֹת אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ וּמִתְּנוֹת לְאֲבִיּוֹנִים: <sup>23</sup> וְקִבְּלוּ הַיְהוּדִים אֶת אֲשֶׁר־הִחֲלוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת וְאֶת אֲשֶׁר־כָּתַב מֹרְדֳכַי אֲלֵיהֶם: <sup>24</sup> כִּי הָמוּן בֶּן־הַמְּדֵתָא הָאֲגָגִי צִרָר כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים חָשֵׁב עַל־הַיְהוּדִים לְאַבְדָּם וְהִפִּיל פּוּר הוּא הַגּוֹזֵל לְהַמָּם וּלְאַבְדָּם: <sup>25</sup> וּבָבֵאָה לְפָנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ אִמֶּר עִם־הַסֹּפֵר יֵשׁוּב מִחֲשַׁבְתּוֹ הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר־חָשֵׁב עַל־הַיְהוּדִים עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ וַתָּלוּ אוֹתוֹ וְאֶת־בָּנָיו עַל־הָעֵץ:

<sup>26</sup> Wherefore they called these days Purim, after the name of *pur*. Therefore because of all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and that which had come unto them, <sup>27</sup> the Jews

ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to the writing thereof, and according to the appointed time thereof, every year; <sup>28</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> עַל־כֵּן קָרְאוּ לַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה פּוּרִים  
עַל־שֵׁם הַפּוּר עַל־כֵּן עַל־כָּל־דְּבָרֵי  
הָאֲגָרָת הַזֹּאת וּמָה־רָאוּ עַל־כֹּכָה  
וּמָה הִגִּיעַ אֲלֵיהֶם: <sup>27</sup> קִיְּמוּ וּקְבַל  
וּקְבְּלוּ הַיְּהוּדִים | עֲלֵיהֶם | וְעַל־זֶרַעַם  
וְעַל כָּל־הַנְּלוּיִם עֲלֵיהֶם וְלֹא יַעֲבוֹר  
לְהַיּוֹת עֲשִׂים אֶת שְׁנֵי הַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה  
כְּכַתְּבָם וְכַזְּמָנָם בְּכָל־שָׁנָה וּשְׁנָה: <sup>28</sup>  
וְהַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה נִזְכָּרִים וְנַעֲשִׂים  
בְּכָל־דָּוָר וְדוֹר מִשְׁפָּחָהּ וּמִשְׁפָּחָהּ  
מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה וְעִיר וְעִיר וַיְמִי הַפּוּרִים  
הָאֵלֶּה לֹא יַעֲבֹרוּ מִתּוֹךְ הַיְּהוּדִים  
וְזָכְרָם לֹא־יִסּוּף מִזֶּרַעַם: {ס}

<sup>29</sup> Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordekhai the Jew, wrote down all the acts of power, to confirm this second letter of Purim. <sup>30</sup> And he sent letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahashverosh, with words of peace and truth, <sup>31</sup> to confirm these days of Purim in their appointed times, according as Mordekhai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had ordained for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry.

<sup>29</sup> וַתִּכְתֹּב אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה  
בֵּת־אֲבִיחַיִל וּמֹרְדֵכַי הַיְּהוּדִי  
אֶת־כָּל־תִּקְוָה לְקַיֵּם אֶת אֲגָרַת  
הַפּוּרִים הַזֹּאת הַשְּׁנִית: <sup>30</sup> וַיִּשְׁלַח  
סִפְרִים אֶל־כָּל־הַיְּהוּדִים אֶל־שִׁבְעַ  
וְעֶשְׂרִים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה מַלְכוּת  
אֲחַשְׁוֵרוּשׁ דְּבָרֵי שְׁלוֹם וְאַמֶּת: <sup>31</sup>  
לְקַיֵּם אֶת־יָמֵי הַפּוּרִים הָאֵלֶּה  
בְּזְמַנְהֶם כַּאֲשֶׁר קִיְּמוּ עֲלֵיהֶם מֹרְדֵכַי  
הַיְּהוּדִי וְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וְכַאֲשֶׁר קִיְּמוּ  
עַל־נַפְשָׁם וְעַל־זֶרַעַם דְּבָרֵי הַצְּמוֹת  
וְזַעֲקָתָם:

uma' amar Esther kiyyam divre hapurim  
ha' elleh venikhtav bassefer

<sup>32</sup> And the commandment of Esther  
confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was  
written in the book.

<sup>32</sup> וּמֵאִמֵּר אֶסְתֵּר קָיָם דְּבַרֵּי הַפְּרִים  
הָאֵלֶּה וְנִכְתָּב בַּסֵּפֶר: {פ}

## Chapter 10

<sup>1</sup> And the king Ahashverosh laid a tribute upon the  
land, and upon the isles of the sea. <sup>2</sup> And all the acts  
of his power and of his might, and the full account of  
the greatness of Mordekhai, how the king advanced  
him, are they not written in the book of the  
chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? <sup>3</sup> For  
Mordekhai the Jew was next unto king Ahashverosh,  
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. ki  
Mordekhai hayyehudi mishneh lammelekh  
Ahashverosh vegadol layyehudim veratsuy lerov  
ehav doresh tov le' ammo vedover shalom lekhal-  
zar'o

אֶסְתֵּר י  
<sup>1</sup> וַיִּשֶׂם הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֶרֶשׁ  
אֶחָשׁוּרוּשׁ מִסַּעַל-הָאָרֶץ  
וְאֵי הַיָּם: <sup>2</sup> וְכָל-מַעֲשֵׂה תִקְפוֹ  
וְגִבּוֹרָתוֹ וּפְרָשֶׁת גְּדֻלָּת  
מֶרְדֳּכָי אֲשֶׁר גְּדָלוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ  
הַלְּוֹא-הֵם כְּתוּבִים עַל-סֵפֶר  
דְּבַרֵּי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי מְדִי  
וּפָרְס: <sup>3</sup> כִּי א מֶרְדֳּכָי הַיְּהוּדִי  
מִשְׁנֵה לְמֶלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֶרֶשׁ וְגָדוֹל  
לְיְהוּדִים וְרָצוּי לְרַב אֲחָיו  
דֹּרֵשׁ טוֹב לְעַמּוֹ וְדֹבֵר שְׁלוֹם  
לְכָל-זֶרְעוֹ:

## Blessings and Prayers upon completing Megillat Esther

*After reading the Book of Esther say:*

אחר קריאת המגילה מברך  
הקורא:

Blessed are you, YHVH *Eloheinu*, cosmic majesty, (the *El*) who pleads our cause, judges our suit and avenges our wrong, who renderest retribution to all that hate our soul, and on our behalf deals out punishment to our adversaries. Blessed are you, YHVH, who on behalf of your people Israel deals out punishment to all their adversaries: the *El* [that is] the Savior.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הַעוֹלָם, (הָאֵל) הָרַב אֶת  
רִיבֵנוּ וְהִדִּין אֶת דִּינֵנוּ וְהִנּוּקֵם  
אֶת נִקְמַתֵנוּ וְהַמְשִׁילֵם גְּמוּלָה  
לְכָל אוֹיְבֵי נַפְשֵׁנוּ וְהִנְפָּרַע לָנוּ  
מִצָּרֵינוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי  
הַנְּפָרַע לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִכָּל  
צָרֵיהֶם הָאֵל הַמוֹשִׁיעַ:

*In the morning, skip the following paragraph:*

בגמר קריאת המגילה והברכה שאחריה בערבית,  
אומרים 'אשר הניא' ומזמרים 'שושנת יעקב'.  
בשחרית אין אומרים 'אשר הניא', מפני שקרובות  
נאמרו בחזרת הש"ץ, שך מזמרים 'שושנת יעקב'.

— Who broughtest the counsel of the heathen to nought, and madest the devices of the crafty of none effect, when a wicked man, an arrogant offshoot of the seed of Amalek, rose up against us. Insolent in his riches, he digged himself a pit, and his own greatness laid him a snare. In his mind he thought to entrap, but was himself entrapped, he sought to destroy, but was speedily destroyed. Haman displayed the hatred of his fathers, and stirred up against the children the ancient enmity of the brothers (Esav and Yaakov), remembering not the mercy of Shaul, through whose compassion for Agag the enemy was born. The wicked plotted to cut off the just, and the unclean was caught in the hands of the pure. (Mordekhai's) lovingkindness (to Esther) prevailed over the father's (Saul's) error, but the wicked (Haman) heaped sin upon the sins of his ancestor. In his heart he hid his cunning devices, and sold himself to do wickedness. He stretched forth his hand against God's saints; he gave his silver to cut off the remembrance of them. When Mordecai saw that wrath had gone forth, and that the decrees of Haman were issued in Shushan, he put on sackcloth and wrapped himself in mourning, ordained a fast and sat upon ashes. Who will rise up to atone for error, and obtain pardon for the sin and iniquity of our fathers? A flower blossomed from the palm tree: lo! Hadassah arose to awaken the merit of those that slept in the grave. Her servants hastened to make Haman drink the wine of the poison of snakes. He rose by his riches, but fell in his wickedness; he made him a gallows, and was himself hanged thereon. All the inhabitants of the world opened their

אֲשֶׁר הֵנִיא עֲצַת גּוֹיִם וַיִּפָּר  
 מַחְשְׁבוֹת עַרְוּמִים: בְּקוּם  
 עָלֵינוּ אָדָם רָשָׁע נָצַר זָדוֹן  
 מִזָּרַע עַמְלִיק: גָּאָה בְּעִשְׂרוֹ  
 וַכָּרָה לוֹ בּוֹר וַגְּדִלְתּוֹ יִקְשֶׁה  
 לוֹ לְכָד: דָּמָה בְּנַפְשׁוֹ לְלִכּוּד  
 וַנִּלְכַּד בִּקְשׁ לְהַשְׁמִיד וַנִּשְׁמַד  
 מְהֵרָה: הֵמֵן הוֹדִיעַ אֵיבֵת  
 אֲבוֹתָיו וְעוֹרָר שְׁנֵאת אַחִים  
 לַבְּנִים: וְלֹא זָכַר רַחֲמֵי שְׁאוּל  
 כִּי בְחַמְלָתוֹ עַל אֲגָג נוֹלַד  
 אוֹיֵב: זָמַם רָשָׁע לְהַכְרִית  
 צְדִיק וַנִּלְכַּד טִמָּא בְיַדִּי טְהוֹר:  
 חֶסֶד גָּבַר עַל שְׂגִיגַת אֵב  
 וְרָשָׁע הוֹסִיף חֲטָא עַל  
 חֲטָאָיו: טֵמֵן בְּלִבּוֹ מַחְשְׁבוֹת  
 עַרְוּמֵי, וַיִּתְמַכֵּר לַעֲשׂוֹת  
 רָעָה: יָדוֹ שָׁלַח בְּקִדּוּשֵׁי אֵל  
 כֶּסֶפּוֹ נָתַן לְהַכְרִית זְכָרָם:  
 כָּרְאוֹת מְרַדְכֵי כִי יֵצֵא קֶצֶף  
 וְדַתִּי הֵמֵן נִתְּנוּ בְּשׁוֹשָׁן: לְבַשׁ  
 שֵׁק וְקִשֶׁר מִסְפֵּד וַגְּזַר צוּם  
 וַיִּשָּׁב עַל הָאָפֶר: מִי זֶה  
 יַעֲמוּד לְכַפֵּר שְׂגָגָה וְלִמְחֹל  
 חֲטָאת עוֹן אֲבוֹתֵינוּ: נֶץ פָּרַח  
 מִלּוּלֵב הֵן הַדְּסָה עִמְדָה  
 לְעוֹרָר יִשְׁנִים: סְרִיסִיָּה  
 הִבְהִילוֹ לְהֵמֵן לְהַשְׁקוֹתוֹ יַיִן  
 חֲמַת תְּנִינִים: עָמַד בְּעִשְׂרוֹ  
 וַנִּפֹּל בְּרָשָׁעוֹ עֲשָׂה לוֹ עֵץ



mouths, for the lot of Haman was turned to be our lot. When the righteous was delivered out of the hand of the wicked, and the enemy was put in his stead, the Jews ordained for themselves to celebrate Purim, and to rejoice thereon every year. Thou didst regard the prayer of Mordekhai and Esther: Haman and his sons thou didst hang upon the gallows.

וּנְתַלָּה עָלָיו: פִּיָּהֶם פְּתַחוּ כָּל  
 יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל כִּי פֹר הָמָן  
 נִהְפָּךְ וּלְפִוְרָנוּ: צִדִּיק נִחְלָץ  
 מִיַּד רָשָׁע אוֹיֵב נִתַּן תַּחַת  
 נַפְשׁוֹ: קִיָּמוּ עֲלֵיהֶם לַעֲשׂוֹת  
 פִּוְרִים וְלִשְׁמוֹחַ בְּכָל שָׁנָה  
 וּשְׁנָה: רְאִיתָ אֶת תַּפְּלַת  
 מְרַדְּכֵי וְאַסְתֵּר. הָמָן וּבָנָיו עַל  
 הָעֵץ תְּלִית:

The lily of Yaakov rejoiced and was glad when Mordekhai was seen in the purple. Thou hast ever been Israel's salvation, and their hope in every generation, to make known that all who hope in thee shall not be ashamed, neither shall any be confounded who put their trust in thee. Accursed be Haman who sought to destroy me; blessed be Mordekhai the Jew; accursed be Zeresh, the wife of him that terrified me; blessed be Esther my protectress, and may Harbonah also be remembered for good.

שׁוֹשַׁנֵּי יַעֲקֹב צָהֲלָה וְשִׂמְחָה  
 בְּרֵאוֹתֶם יַחַד תִּתְקַלַּת מְרַדְּכֵי:  
 תִּשְׁוַעְתֶּם הֵייתָ לְנֹצֵחַ  
 וְתִקְוַתֶם בְּכָל דּוֹר וְדוֹר:  
 לְהוֹדִיעַ שְׁכָל קְנוּיָךְ לֹא יִבְשׁוּ  
 וְלֹא יִכְלְמוּ לְנֹצֵחַ כָּל הַחוֹסִים  
 בָּךְ: אֲרוּרָה הָמָן אֲשֶׁר בִּקֵּשׁ  
 לְאַבְדִּי . בְּרוּךְ מְרַדְּכֵי הַיְהוּדִי  
 . אֲרוּרָה זֶרֶשׁ אִשְׁתִּי מִפְּחִידִי  
 . בְּרוּכָה אֲסְתֵּר מִגְּנָה בְּעַדִּי .  
 (יש להוסיף אַרוּרִים כָּל  
 הָעַרְלִים . בְּרוּכִים כָּל  
 יִשְׂרָאֵל) וְגַם חֲרַבּוֹנָה זְכוּר  
 לְטוֹב:

AT MAARIV

and then say the Full-Kaddish, omitting the line starting with "וְאַתָּה קְדוֹשׁ" For Weekdays: continue on at "תִּתְקַבֵּל".

followed by the Full-Kaddish, "וְאַתָּה קְדוֹשׁ", and then say "וְיִהְיֶה נֶעֱמ" For Saturday Night: continue on at "תִּתְקַבֵּל" omitting the line starting with

FOR SHACHARIT

“אשרי” On all days: continue on with

The Open Siddur Project is pleased to offer the world the first freely licensed Seder Megillat Esther. We would like to thank our contributors: the Jewish Publication Society for sharing an authoritative digital edition of their <sup>1917</sup> [English Translation of the TaNaKh](#) (*The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text*), Christopher Kimball and the Westminster Leningrad Codex digitization project for an authoritative [digital text of the TaNaKh](#), and John B. Hare z”l who scanned and digitized the English translation of Rabbi Shimon Singer z”l in the [Authorised Daily Prayer Book](#). We would also like to thank Rabbi Rallis Wiesenthal for his contribution of the [Siddur Bnei Ashkenaz](#), Shmueli Gonzales for his transcriptions of siddurim witnessing the [Nusach Ha-Ari](#), and Aharon Varady, the editor of opensiddur.org and founder of the Open Siddur Project. Thanks as well go to Open Siddur Project lead developer, Efraim Feinstein and all the developers who had a hand in contributing to our [transliteration engine](#), the source of the transliterations used in the four verses of the Megillah that are communally recited. (The transliteration schema is that of the Academy for the Hebrew Language, 2007.)

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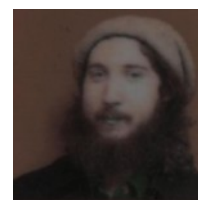
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[ ± ] Notes

1. See [this article](#) by Julia Andelman ←

2. That is, Esther ←

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[Aharon N. Varady](#)

Founding director of the Open Siddur Project, Aharon Varady is a community planner (M.C.P.) and Jewish educator (M.A. J.Ed.) working to improve stewardship of the Public Domain, be it the physical and natural commons of urban park systems or the creative and cultural commons of Torah study. His work on the adoption of [Open Source strategies in the Jewish community](#) has been written about in the [Atlantic Magazine](#), [Tablet](#), and [Haaretz](#). Aharon Varady studied environmental planning and planning history at [DAAP/University of Cincinnati](#), and the intersection of theurgy, experiential education, and ecology at the

Davidson School of Education/JTSA. Here at opensiddur.org, he serves as hierophant, welcoming new users, adding new posts, and keeping the site up-to-date. If you find any mistakes in his translations or transcriptions, please let him know. *Shgiyot mi yavin, Ministarot Nakeni* "Who מְסַתְרוֹת נִקְנִי שְׂגִיאוֹת מִיָּבִין; מִנְּסִתְרוֹת נִקְנִי" .can know all one's flaws? From hidden errors, correct me" (Psalms 19:13)

