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(1) So it happened in the days of Ahashveirosh, that Ahashveiros who ruled from India to Kush 127 provinces, (2) in those days when King Ahashveiros was in residence in his royal seat in the imperial acropolis of Shushan, (3) in the third year of his reign, he made a banquet for his lords and courtiers, the Persians and Medes in full force, the aristocrats, and the lords of the provinces who served him. (4) When he had displayed the dazzling wealth of his kingdom and the magnificent glory of his majesty for many days, 180 days (5) at the end of that time, the king made for all the people in the imperial acropolis of Shushan, for high and low, a banquet for seven days in the courtyard of the royal pavilion garden. (6) Oh, the curtains of white and tekhelet woven with cords of fine linen and purple on silver rods and alabaster pillars, with couches of silver and gold on a mosaic floor of red, blue, white, and black marble, (7) and the libations served in vessels of gold and vessels of various designs, and royal wine in abundance in the royal style, (8) and the drinking was according to the law of "no regulation," for so the king had instituted for all the butlers to do according to every man's wishes. (9) So, too, Queen Vashti made a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Ahashveirosh.

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(10) On the seventh day, when the king was lighthearted with wine, he told Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Karkas, the seven eunuchs in attendance on King Ahashveirosh, (11) to bring Queen Vashti before the king in the royal diadem to show the people and the lords her beauty, because she was good-looking. (12) Queen Vashti refused to come at

א וַיָהָי בִּימֵי אַחַשָּׁוָרוֹש הַוּא אַחַשָּׁוֹרוֹש הַמּלָדְ מַהְדּוּ וְעַד־כּוּשׁ שֶׁבַע וְעָשְׂרֵים וּמֵאָה מִדִינַה: בַּיַּמִים הַהֵם כְּשֵׁבֵת | הַמֵּלְדְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ עַל כָּסֵא מַלְכוּתוֹ אֲשֶׁר בָּשוּשֵׁן הַבִּירָה: ג בִּשְׁנַת שַׁלושׁ לְמַלְכוֹ עַשֵּׁה מִשִׁתֶּה לְכַל־שַׂרֵיו וַעָבָדֵיו חֵיל | פַּרֵס וּמַדִׁי הַפַּרְתָּמֵים וְשָׂרֵי הַמִּדְינִוֹת לְפַנֵיוּ: ז בְּהַרָאֹתוֹ אֶת־עֹשֵר כָּבְוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ גְּדוּלַתָּוֹ יַמֵים רַבִּים וְאֶת־יִלֵּר תִּפְאֵרֵת שמונים ומאת יום: ה ובמלואת | הַיַמִים ָהָאֶׁלֶה עַשֵׂה הַמֶּלֶךְ לְכַל־הָעֵם הַנִּמִצִאִים בּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה לִמְגַּדוֹל וְעָד־קַטֵן מִשְׁתָּה שִׁבְעֵת יַמֵים בַּחֵצֶר גְּנֵת בִּיתֵן הַמֵּלְדָ: ו חִוּר | כּרְפַּס וּתְכֵּלֶת אָחוּז בּחַבְלֵי־בְוּץ וְאַרְגָּמָ'ן עַל־גָּלִילֵי כֵּסֵף וְעַמִּוּדֵי שֵׁשׁ מִטְוֹת | זַהָב וַכֵּסֵף על רַצְפַת בַּהַט־וַשָּׁשׁ וְדַר וְסֹחֵרָת: ז וְהַשִּׁקוֹת בּכִלֵי זָהֶב וְכֵלָיָם מְכֵּלִים שׁוֹנִים וְיֵיָן מַלְכֵוּת רָב כְּיַד הַמֵּלֶדָ: ח וְהַשִּׁתִיָּה כַדָּת אֵין אֹנֵס כִּי־כֵן | יִפֵּד הַמֵּלֶךְ עַל כָּל־רָב בֵּיתוֹ לַעַשְׂוֹת ּכִרְצְוֹן אִישׁ־וָאֵישׁי **ט** גַּם וַשְׁתֵּי הַמַּלְבֶּה עֲשִׂתָה מִשִׁתֵּה נַשִׁים בֵּית הַמַּלְכוּת אֲשֵׁר לַמֵּלָדָ

אַחַשְׁוִרושי

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י הַשִּׁרִישִׁ הַשְׁבִיּעִי כְּטִוֹב לֵב־הַמָּלֶדְ הַיָּיָן אָמַר לְמְהוּמָן הַזְּתָּא חַרְבוֹנָא הַגְתָא וַאֲבַגְתָא זַתַר לְמְהוּמָן הַזְּתָּא חַרְבוֹנָא הַגְתָא וַאֲבַגְתָא זַתַר וְכַרְכַּס שִׁבְעַת הַסָּרִיסִים הַמְשָׁרָתִים אֶת־פְּגַי הַמָּלֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוּרוֹשׁי יא קְהָבִיא אֶת־וַשְׁתַּיַ הַמָּלְכָּה לִפְגַי הַמֶּלֶדְ הְּכָתָר מַלְכָוּת לְהַרְאוֹת הַמַּלְכָּה לִפְגַי הַמֶּלֶדְ הְכָתָר מַלְכָוּת לְהַרְאוֹת הַמַּלְכָּה לִפְגַי הַמֶּלֶבָה הַיָּפְלָה כְּיבוֹא הַדָרָאוֹת הָזִאי יב וַהַשָּׂרִים אָת־יַפְלָה וַשְׁתָּי לְבוֹא בִּדְבָר הָזיאי יב וַהַמָּאֵן הַמַּלְכָה וַשְׁתָּי לְבוֹא בָּדְבָר

the royal command conveyed by the eunuchs. The king was greatly incensed, and his wrath flared up. (13) The king consulted his wise men, learned in precedents, for such was the royal practice to consult with those learned in law and adjudication. (14) His closest advisors were Karshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memukhan, the lords of Persia and Media, who had access to the king and were stationed at the premier rank in the kingdom. (15) The king asked, "According to law, what should be done to Queen Vashti because she has refused to obey the royal order conveyed by the eunuchs?" (16) Memukhan said, before the king and the lords, "Not only the king has Queen Vashti wronged, but the lords and all the peoples who are in the provinces of King Ahashveirosh. (17) For when the queen's conduct spreads to all women, it will make their husbands despised in their eyes, when they say that King Ahashveirosh ordered that Queen Vashti come before him and she did not. (18) Even today, the great ladies of Persia and Media who heard of the queen's conduct are speaking about it to all the royal lords, and there is plenty of vilification and discord! (19) If it pleases the king, let a royal decree be issued at his behest, and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media. not to be overturned: Because Vashti did not come before King Ahashveirosh, let her royal status be given to another who is more worthy of it than her. (20) Let this royal mandate, which the king will make in all his kingdom, vast as it is, be obeyed. All the women shall give honor to their husbands, from high to low." (21) This counsel pleased the king and the lords, so the king did according to Memukhan's counsel. (22) He sent written instructions to all the royal provinces, every province in its own script and every people in its own language, so that every man would be lord in his home and speak in the language of his people.

ַהַמֶּׁלֵדְ אֲשֶׁר בְּיַד הַפָּרִיסֵים וַיָּקְצָוּ הַמֵּלָדְ מִאֹד וַחַמַתוֹ בַּעֵרָה בוֹ: **יג** וַיָּאמָר הַמֶּלָדָ לַחַכַמִים יִדְעֵי הַעָתַּים כִּי־כֵן דְבַר הַמֶּלָדְ לִפְנֵי כָּל־יִדְאֵי דָּת וָדְיוָ: **יד** וְהַקָּרְב אֵלַיו כַּרְשָׁנָאַ שֶׁתַר אַדְמַתַא תַרִשִּׁישׁ מֵרֶס מַרְסָנַאָ מִמוּכֵן שִׁבְעַת שָׂרֵי | פַּרֵס וּמַדִי רֹאֵי פּנֵי הַמֶּלֶדְ <u>כ</u>דת ראשנה בַּמַּלְכָוּת: 10 הישבים מַה־לַעשׁוֹת בַּמַּלכָה ושִׁתִּי עַל | אשר לְא־עַשִׂתָה אֱת־מַאֲמַר הַמֵּלֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוֶרוֹשׁ בְּיַדְ הַפַּרִיסֵים: טו וַיָּאמֵר מומכן (מַמוּכָו) לָפָנֵי הַמַּלָדְ וָהַשָּׁרִים לא עַל־הַמָּלָדְ לְבַדּוֹ עַותַה <u>עַל־כַּל־הַשָּׂרִים </u> Ņ המלפה ושתי וְעַל־כַּל־הַעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר בְּכַל־מִדְינִוֹת הַמֵּלְדָ <u>דַבַּר־הַמַּלְכַּה</u> כּי־יֵצֵא 17 אחשורושי עַל־כַּל־הַנַּשִׁים לְהַבְזוֹת בַּעְלֵיהֵן ּבַּעֵינֵיהַן הַמֵּלֶדְ אָחַשָׁוֵרוֹש אַמֵּר לָהַבָּיא באמרם אֶת־וַשִׁתֵּי הַמַּלְכֵּה לִפַּנַיִו וָלֹא־בָאָה: יח וֵהַיּוֹם הַאָּה תּאמַרְנָה | שָׁרִוֹת פָּרַס־וּמָדִי אֲשֶׁר שֵׁמִעוּ אֶת־דָּבַר הַמַּלְכָּה לְכָל שָׁרֵי הַמֵּלֶךְ וּכְדֵי בָּזַיָוֹן אָם־עַל־הַמֵּלַדְ טוֹב יצא טי וקצף: דְבַר־מַלְכוּת מִלְפָנֵיו וְיִכָּתֵב בִּדָתֵי פָרָס־וּמָדֵי וַלָּא יַעַבוֹר אֲשֶׁר לָא־תַבוֹא וַשָּׁתָי לְפְנֵי הַמֵּלָדָ אַחַשָּׁוֶרוש וּמַלְכוּתַהֹ יִתֵּן הַמֶּלֶךְ לְרְעוּתַה הַטּוֹבָה מִמֵּנַה: כ וְנִשִׁמַע פִּתָגָם הַמֵּלָדָ אַשֶׁר־יַעַשָּׁה בָּכַל־מַלְכוּתוֹ כֵּי רַבָּה הֵיא וְכָל־הַנָּשִׁים יִתִּנִוּ יִקָר' לְבַעְלֵיהֵׁן לִמְגָּדוֹל וְעַד־קַטַן: כא וַיִּיטַב הַדַּבָּר בִּעֵינֵי הַמֵּלָדָ וְהַשָּׂרִים וַיַּעשׁ הַמֵּלֶך כִּדְבֵר מִמוּכֵן: כֹב וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפַרִים אֶל־כַּל־מִדִינִוֹת הַמֶּלָדְ אֶל־מִדִינָה וּמִדִינַה כָּכָתַבָּה וָאָל־עֵם וַעֵם כָּלְשׁוֹנָוֹ לָהַיָוֹת ּכָּל־אִישׁ שֹרֵר בְּבֵיתוֹ וּמְדַבֵּר כִּלְשָׁוֹן עַמְוֹ





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(5) Once upon a time, there was a Jew in the imperial acropolis of Shushan by the name of Mordecai, son of Ya'ir, son of Shim'i, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, (6) who had been exiled from Jerusalem in the deportation that had been taken into exile along with King Yekhonya of Judah, which had been forced into exile by King Nebukhadnezzar of Babylon. (7) He was entrusted with Hadassah (the Hebrew name her family and friends knew her by)-that is, Esther (the vernacular name outsiders knew her by)-his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father or mother. The young woman was shapely and beautiful, and when her father and mother died, Mordecai took her in as his daughter. (8) When the king's order and law were proclaimed and many young women were gathered in the imperial acropolis of Shushan under the supervision of Heigai, Esther was also taken to the king's palace under the supervision of Heigai, guardian of the women. (9) The young woman pleased him and won his favor, and he hastened to furnish her with

א אַחַר הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵׁלֶה כְּשְׁדָ חֲמַת הַמֵּלֶדְ אָחַשְׁוּרִוֹש זָכַר אֶת־וַשְׁתִּיֹ וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר־עָשְׁׁתָה וְאֵת אֲשָׁר־נִגְזַר עָלֶיָהָ: ב וַיְּאמְרוּ נַעֲרֵי־הַכָּאֶלֶד מְשְׁרְתָּיו יְבַקְשׁוּ לַמֵּלֶדְ נְעָרִוֹת בְּתוּלָוֹת טוֹבִוֹת מְשְׁרְתָיו יְבַקְשׁוּ לַמֵּלֶדְ נְעָרִוֹת בְּתוּלָוֹת טוֹבִוֹת מַרְאֶה: ג וְיַכְּקַשׁוּ לַמֵּלֶדְ כְּלַיְבָרֵה־בְּתוּלָוֹת טוֹבַוֹת מַרְאֶה: ג וְיַכְקַבַּיָד הַמֵּלֶדְ פְּקִידִים מַרְאֶה: ג וְיַפְבְּיוּ הַמֵּלֶדְ פְּקִידִים מַרְאֶה אֶל־שׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה אָל־בַּעָרָה־בְּתוּלָה טוֹבַׂת מַרְאֶה אֶל־שׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה אָל־בַּעָרָה־בְּתוּלָה טוֹבַּת הַמָּלֶדְ הַמָּלֶדְ שִׁתִים הַמָּלֶדְ שִׁמִר הַנָּשְׁים הַמֶּלֶדְ וַיִּעָשׁ מֵןי הַמֵּלֶדְ וַיַּעַשׁ בְּוֹד הַמֵּלָדְ וַיָּעַשׁ בֵּן:

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ה אַישׁ יְהוּזִלִי הָיָה בְּשׁוּשׁן הַבִּירָה וּשְׁמִוֹ מְרְדָכַי בֶּן יָאַיֵר בָּן־שִׁמְעֵי בָּן־קִישׁ אַישׁ יְמִינְיּיּ וּ אֲשֵׁר הְגְלָה מִירִוּשָׁלַיִם עִם־הַגֹּלָה אֲשֶׁר הְגְלְתָה עִם יְכָנְיָה מֵלֶדְ יְהוּדָה אֲשֵׁר הְגִלְה נְבְוּכַדְנָצַר מֵלֶד בָּבֶל: ז וַיְהִי אֹמֵו הָגְלָה נְבְוּכַדְנָצַר מֵלֶד בַּתִ־דֹּדוֹ כֵּי אֵין לָה אֶב וָאֵם וְהַנַּעֵרָה יְפַת־תֹּאַר וְטוֹבַת מַרְאָׁה אָב וָאֵם וְהַנַּעֵרָה יְפַת־תֹּאַר וְטוֹבַת מַרְאָי אָב וָאֵם וְהַנַּעַרָה יְפַת־תֹּאַר וְטוֹבַת מַרְאָה הַרְהַדַשָּה הַיָּא אֶסְתֵּר בַּתִידִלָּה וְנִינִה אָב וָאֵם וְהַנַּעָרָה יְפַת־תֹּאַר וְטוֹבַת מַרְאָי אָב וְאַם וְהַנַּעָרָה יְשָׁמָן הַבָּרִהַהָּאָר הַנְעָרוֹת רַבְּוֹת אָבִיהָ וְאַמָּה לְקָחָה מִרְדָבָי הַוֹין הַרְהַלָּקַח אֶסְתֵּר אָל־שִׁר אָל־בִיד הַגָּי שֹׁמֵר הַנָּשְׁים: ט וַתִּיטִב הַנָּעָרָה בְעִינִיוֹ וּבְהַקּבָּד הַתָּלָקַח הָאָרִבוּר אָל־בַר הַמָּלֶד וּדִרָּה הַתָּסִד לְפָנִיוֹ וְיִבָהל אֶת־תַבָּל אָת־תַרָה בְעִינָיוֹ וַתִּשָּׁר הַתָּסִד לְפָנִיוֹ וְיָבַהל אֶת־תְבַיָר הַנְעָרָה בְעִינִיוֹ וַתִּישָׁר לְתַרָת לָה וְאַתֹּר הָבָנִשְׁרָה אָרָרָרָית הַנָּעָרָירָ הָעָינִין הַרָּבָרָד הָעָי הָתַמָּר הַנָּישְׁרָשִים הַגָּעָרָה אָרַישָּרָים אָרָר הַבָּרָרָה הָעָרָה הָעָרָיקָים הַנָּרָה הָעָרָה אָרָר הַבָּרָר אָרָר הַבָּרָרָד הָצָרָר הָדָּבָר הַיָּתָרָה בְעִינִיוֹ וּתִילָבָה אָרָרָבָר הַנָּיָרָר הָנָרָרָה הָיָרָרָה הָעָרָרָה הָעָרָיעָרָה אָרִינוּת הַיָּרָר הַנָּעָרָה אָרַין הַיָּבָרָה אָרָר הַיָּרָרָה הָיָרָרָה הָעָרָיקָרָין הַיָּהָר בָנָיוּין הַיָּרָר הָנָין הַיָּים הַיּיָים הַיָּיָים הַיָּיָרָה הָיָרָר הָבָין הַנָּתוּילָין הַיָּים אָר הַיָּיָין הַיָּיָר הָיָרָה הָיָישָּרָים אָרָירָין הַיוּין הַרָּייָים הַין הַיּירָין הַיָּין הַיָרָר הַיָּייוּיין הוּינוּין הַיָּשָּרָין הַיּין הַיין הַיים הַין הַיּיןה הַיּשָּרָין הַיּרָרָים הַיּין הָיָרָרָין הַירָין הַיּין הַיּרָרָין הַבּיין הַיָּרָין הַרָּין הַיּין הַיּיָרָין הַין הָיןרָין הַיָין הַין הַיָּרָין הָיןין הַיָין הַיָּהָרָין הָירָין הַיָּרָרָין הַיּין הַין הַיָין הַין הָיָין הַיָּין הַיָין הַין הַיָרָין הַיָין הַיָיןין הַיָין הָיוּיָרָין הַייןן הַיָּין הַיָּיָין הַין הָין הָ

^{*}It is customary for the congregation to recite this verse before the reader.

her beauty treatments and her rations, as well as seven superior maids from the king's palace. He gave her and her maids preferential treatment in the harem. (10) Now, Esther had not revealed her people or her ancestry, because Mordecai had told her not to. (11) Every single day, expecting the worst, Mordecai walked about in front of the courtyard of the harem, seeking to learn how Esther was faring and what was being done to her. (12) When each young woman's turn came to go to King Ahashveirosh at the end of twelve months' treatment-for that was the period spent on their beautification, six months with oil of myrrh and six months with perfumes and women's beauty treatments- (13) whatever she requested would be given to her to take with her from the harem to the royal dwelling. (14) She would go in the evening and leave in the morning for the other harem under the supervision of Sha'ashgaz, the king's eunuch, guardian of the concubines. She would not go again to the king unless the king fancied her and she was summoned by name. (15) When the turn of Esther-daughter of Avihayil, the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her in as his daughter-came to go to the king, she asked only for what Heigai, the king's eunuch, guardian of the women, advised. So Esther won the favor of all who saw her.

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(16) Esther was taken to King Ahashveirosh in his royal house in the tenth month—that is, the month of Tevet—in the seventh year of his reign.
(17) The king loved Esther more than all the other women. She won his favor and devotion more than all the other young women. He put the royal turban on her head and made her a royal wife in place of Vashti. (18) The king made a great banquet for his lords and courtiers—the banquet of Esther! He made a reduction in taxes for all the

מְבֵּית הַמֵּלֶךְ וַיִשְׁנֵה וְאֶת־נַעֵרוֹתֵיהָ לְטָוֹב בֵּית י לא־הגידה אָסָתָּר אָת־עַמַה הנשים: ואת־מולדתה כֵּי מְרַדְּכֵי צְוָה עַלִיה אָשֶׁר לא־תַגִּיד: יא וּבְכַל־יוֹם וַיוֹם מַרְדַכַי מִתָהַלָּד לִפְנֵי חֲצַר בֵּית־הַנָּשִׁים לָדַ עַת אַת־שָׁלִוֹם אָסִתּר וּמַה־יָּעֵשָׂה בַּהּ: יב וּבִהַגִּיעַ תּר נַעַרָה וְנַעַרָה לַבוֹא | אָל־הַמֵּלָדָ אָחַשְׁוָרוֹש מִקָּץ הֶיֹּוֹת לְה כְּדָת הַנָּשִׁים שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר ה'דֵשׁ כֵּי כֵּן יִמִלָאוּ יִמֵי מִרוּקֵיהֵן שִׁשָּׁה חָדָשִׁים בּשֵׁמֵן הַמֹּר וְשִׁשֵׁה חֲדַשִׁים בַּבְּשַׂמִים וּבְתַמִרוּהֵי ַהַנַּשִׁים: **יג** וּבַזֶּה ה<u>ַנַּעָר</u>ָה בַּאָה אֵל־הַמֵּלָדְ אֶת כַּל־אֵשֶׁר תֹּאמֵר יִנָתֵן לַהֹ לַבִוֹא עִמֶּה מְבֵּית הַנַּשִׁים עַד־בֵּית הַמֵּלָדָ: יד בַּעָרָב | הֵיא בַאָה וּבַבּקֵר הֵיא שֲבָה אֵל־בֵּית הַנַּשִׁים שָׁנִי אֵל־יַד הַפֵּילַגִשִים שַׁעַשָּׁגַז סְרֵיס הַמֵּלָדְ שֹׁמֵר לָא־תַבָּוֹא עוֹד` אָל־הַמֶּׁלָדָ כָּי אָם־חַפֵּץ בַּה הַמֵּלֵדְ וְנָקָרָאָה בְשֵׁם: טו וּבְהַגֵּיעַ תֹּר־אֵסְתֵּר בַּת־אַבִיחַיָל דִּד מַרְדַּכֵּי אַשִׁר לָקַח־לוֹ לְבַת לַבִּוֹא אֱל־הַמֵּלֵדְ לַא בִקִשָׁה דָּבָר כִּי אֶם אָת־אַשֵׁר יאמַר הֵגַי סִרִיס־הַמֵּלָדְ שֹׁמֵר וַתָּהֵי אֶסְתֵּר נֹשֵׂאת הֶו בעיני הנשים ּכַּל־רֹאֵיהָ:

ייגיי ∻

שז וַתִּלְקַח אֶסְתֵׁר אֶל־הַמֶּלֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ אֶל־בֵּית מַלְכוּתֹוֹ בַּחָדֶשׁ הֶעֲשִׂירִי הוּא־חָדֶשׁ אֶל־בֵּית מַלְכוּתֹוֹ בַּחָדֶשׁ הֶעֲשִׁירִי הוּא־חָדָשׁ טַבֵּת בִּשְׁנַת־שָׁבַע לְמַלְכוּתְוּ הַמֶּלֶדְ אֶת־אֶסְתֵר מִכָּל־הַנְּשִׁים וַתִּשָּׂא־חֵן הַמֶּלֶדְ אֶת־אֶסְתֵר מִכָּל־הַבְּתוּלֵוֹת וַיָּשָׁ וָחֶסֶד לְפָנָיו מִכָּל־הַבְּתוּלֵוֹת וַיָּשָׁ כֶּתֶר־מַלְכוּת בְּלִאשָׁה וַיַּמְלִיכֶה תַּחַת וַשְׁתְּי יח וַיַּעַש הַמֶּלֶדְ מִשְׁתֶּה גָדוֹל לְכָל־שָׁרָיוֹ וַעַבָדָיו אֵת מִשְׁתֵּה אֶסְתֵּר וַהַנָּחָה לַמִדיּנוֹת provinces, and he gave gifts in the royal style. (19) When the virgins were gathered again, Mordecai was stationed in the royal gateway administrative complex. (20) Esther continued to not reveal her people or her kindred because Mordecai had told her not to; Esther continued to follow the bidding of Mordecai just as she had during his guardianship.

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(21) In those days, when Mordecai was stationed in the king's gateway administrative complex, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs from the Guards of the Threshhold (of the king's private living quarters), fumed and sought to violently attack King Aḥashveirosh. (22) The intrigue became known to Mordecai. He told it to Queen Esther, and she told it to the king in Mordecai's name. (23) The intrigue was investigated and confirmed; the two of them were impaled on a stake, and it was recorded in the book of royal annals. עַשָּׁה וַיּתַן מַשְּׁאָת כְּזַד הַמֶּלֶדִּ: יש וּבְהַקָּבָץ בְּתּוּלֵוֹת שֵׁנְיָת וּמָרְדָּכַי ישַׁב בְּשַׁעַר־הַמֶּלֶדִּ: כַּ אֵין אֶסְתֵּר מַגֶּדֶת מְוֹלַדְתָּה[ֹ] וְאֶת־עַמָּק כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה עַלֶיָה מַרְדָּכַי וְאֶת־מַאֲמַר מָרְדָכַי אֶסְתֵּר עֹשֶׁה כַּאֲשֵׁר הַיָתֵה בָאַמְנַה אִתּוּ:

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כא בַּיָּמֵים הָהֵם וּמַרְדָּכַי יוֹשֵׁב בְּשִׁעַר־הַפָּאֶלֶה קַצַּף בְּגְתָן וָתֶׁרָשׁ שְׁנֵי־סָרִיסֵי הַפָּּלֶדְ מִשְׂמְרֵי הַשַּׁף וַיְבַקְשׁוּ לִשְׁלֹחַ לְּדַ בַּפָּאֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרשׁי הַשַּׁף וַיְבַקְשׁוּ לִשְׁלֹחַ לָד בַּפָּאֶדָ אֲחַשְׁוֵרשׁי כב וַיִּיָּדַע הַדָּבָר לְמָרְדָּלֵי וַיַּגֵּד לְאֶסְתַּר הַמַּלְכָּה וַתַּאמֶר אֶסְתַּר לַפָּאָדָ בְּשָׁם מָרְדָכֵי כג וַיְבֵקָשׁ הַדָּבָר וַיִּמָצֵא וַיִּתָּלָוּ שְׁנֵיהָם עַל־גֵּץ וַיְּכָּתַב בְּסַפֵר דְּבָרִי הַיָּמֵים לִפְנֵי הַמֵּלֵהָי





(1) Some time later, King Ahashveirosh aggrandized Haman, son of Hammedatha the Agagite, promoted him, and put his throne above all the lords who were with him. (2) Now all the king's courtiers who were in the king's gateway administrative complex used to kneel and bow down low before Haman, for so the king had commanded for him, but Mordecai would not kneel or bow down low. (3) The king's courtiers who were in the royal gateway complex said to Mordecai, "Why do you flout the command of the king?" (4) When they spoke to him day after day and he did not listen to them, they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's explanation would prevail, for he had told them he was a lew. (5) When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel or bow down low, he was filled with fury. (6) But he scorned laying hands on Mordecai alone once he was told who Mordecai's people were. Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, Mordecai's people,

throughout all the kingdom of Ahashveirosh.

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(7) In the first month, that is, the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahashveirosh, a *pur*, that is, a lot, was cast before Haman, taking the days and months one by one until it fell on the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar. (8) Haman said to King Ahashveirosh, "There is one people, dispersed and distinct among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Now, their laws are different from those of any other people, and the laws of the king they do not obey. It is not worth the king's while to tolerate them. (9) If it pleases the king, let it be written for their destruction, and ten thousand talents of silver will I weigh out to the executive officers to deposit in

ן הַדָּבַרֵים הַאֶּלֶה גְדַל הַמָּלָד **א** אחר בֵּן־הַמִדָּתָא את־המן אַחשורוש האגגי וַיִנַשָּׂאֶהוּ וַיַּשִׁם` אֶת־כָּסָאוֹ מֶעָּל כַּל־הַשָּׂרִים אַשֶׁר אִתְּוֹ: ב וְכָל־עַבְדֵׂי הַמֶּלֶדְ אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַמֵּלֶדְ כִּרְעֵים וּמֵשָׁתַּחֵוִים לְהַמֵּן כִּי־כֵן צַוּה־לוֹ הַמֵּלֵךְ וּמַרִדַּכֵּי לָא יִכְרָע וְלָא יַשִׁתַוַה: ג וּיֹאמָרוּ עַבְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַמֵּלֶדְ לְמֵרְדֵּכֵי מֵדֹּוּעֵ אַתַּה עוֹבֶיר אֶת מִצְוַת הַמֶּלֶד: ד וַיְהִי באמרם (כְּאָמְרֶם) אֵלָיוֹ יְוֹם ווּיוֹם וִלָּא שַׁמַע אַלֵיהֵם וַיַּגֵּידוּ לְהַמָן לָרָאוֹת הַיַעַמִדוּ דְּבָרֵי מַרְדָּלֵי כֵּי־הָגֵּיד להם אַשֵּׁר־הוּא יִהוּדֵיי ה וַיַּרָא הַמָּן כִּי־אֵין מַרדַכִי כֹּרֵעַ וּמֵשִׁתַּחֵוָה לִוֹ וַיִּפָּלָא הַמָן חֵמָה: ו וַיָּבֵז בּאֵינָיו לִשְׁלַחַ יַד[ֹ] בִּמַרְדָּכֵי לְבַדּוֹ כֵּי־הָגֵּידוּ לְוֹ הַמַּן לְהַשָּׁמֵיד <u>ויִב</u>קש מָרדַכָּי אַת־עַם <u>בְּכַל־מַלְכ</u>וּת אֶת־כָּל־הַיָּהוּדֵים אַשֵׁר אַחַשְׁוָרִוֹש עֵם מַרְדָּכֵיּ ז בַּחָדֵש הָרָאשוֹן הוּא־חִדָשׁ נִישָׂן בִּשְׁנַת שִׁתֵּים עֵשָׂרָה לַמֵּלָדָ אָחַשְׁוֵרִושׁ הִפְּיל פּוּר הוּא הַגּוֹדָל לִפְנֵי הָמָן מִיָּוֹם | לְיֵוֹם וּמֵחֵדֵשׁ לְחֵדֵשׁ שְׁנֵים-עַשָּׂר

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ח וַיָּאמֶר הָמָן לַמֶּלֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרְוֹשׁ יֶשְׁנֵוֹ עַם־אֶחָד מְפֵאָר הִמְרֹד בֵּין הֲעַמִּים בְּכָל מְדִינֵוֹת מְפֵאָר וּמְפֹרָד בֵּין הֶעַמִּים בְּכָל מְדִינֵוֹת מַלְכוּתֶדְ וְדְתֵיהֶם שׁׁנֵוֹת מִכָּל־עָם וְאֶת־דְּתֵי הַמֶּלֶדְ אֵינָם עֹשִׁים וְלַמֶּלֶדְ אֵין־שׁוֶה לְהַנִּיחֶם: ס אִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶדְ טוֹב יִכָּתֵר לְאַבְּדֶם וַעֲשֶׂיֶרת the royal treasuries." (10) The king removed his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, son of Hammedatha the Agagite, adversary of the Jews. (11) The king said to him, "The money is granted to you, and the people are yours to deal with as you see fit."

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(12) The scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written, as Haman commanded, to the satraps of the king, to the governors of every single province, to the lords of every single people, every province in its own script and every people in its own language. In the name of King Ahashveirosh it was written, and it was sealed with the signet ring of the king. (13) Written instructions were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces to destroy, kill, and finish off all the Jews, from young to old, children and women, on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, and their possessions to plunder. (14) The text of the writ was that a law should be promulgated in every single province, publicly disclosed to all the peoples so that they would be ready for that day. (15) The couriers went out posthaste at the command of the king, and the law was promulgated in the royal acropolis of Shushan. The king and Haman sat down to feast, but the

city of Shushan was in consternation.

אַלָפִים כּכַּר־כָּּסֶף אָשְׁקוֹל עַל־יְדֵי עֹשֵׂי הַמְּלָאבָה לְהָבִיא אֶל־גִּנְזֵי הַמֶּלֶדִ: י וַיָּחֲר הַמְּלֶאדָה לְהָבִיא אֶל־גִּנְזֵי הַמֶּלֶדִ: י וַיָּתְּ הַמֶּלֶדְ אֶת־טַבַּעְתוֹ מַעַל יָדִוֹ וַיִּתְּנָה לְהָמָן בּמְלֶדְ אָתַיַם לַעַשִׁוֹת הַיָּה בּמָלֶדְ לְהָמָן הַכָּסֶף נָתַוּן לֶדְ וְהָלֶם לַעַשׂוֹת בָּוֹ כַּטִוֹב בְּעֵינֵידָ:

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יב וַיָּקַראוּ סִפְרֵי הַמָּלָדְ בַּחִדֵש הַרָאשוֹן בּשָׁלוֹשָׁה עַשֵׂר יוֹם בּוֹ וַיָּכַתֶב כָּכַל־אֲשֶׁר־צְוָה הַמַן אֶל אֶחַשִׁדָּרִפְּגֵי־הַמֵּלָדְ וָאֶל־הַפָּחוֹת אֲשֵׁר ן עַל־מִדִינָה וּמִדִינָה וָאֶל־שָׁרֵי עָם וַעָּם מִדִינָה | וּמִדִינַה כִּכְתַבָּה וָעֵם וַעֵם כִּלְשׁוֹנִוֹ בִּשָּׁם הַמֵּלְדָ אַחשורש נְכַהַּב וְנָחַתַּם בְּטַבַּעַת המלדי קפַרים הַרַצִים בּיַד ונשלוח 3) אֶל־כָּל־מִדִינְוֹת הַמֶּלֶדְּ לְהַשְׁמִיד לְהֵרְג וּלְאַבֵּד אֶת־כַּל־הַיָּהוּדִים מִנַּעַר וְעַד־זַקָּן טַף וְנַשִׁים בּיוֹם אֶחֵׁד בִּשָּׁלוֹשֵה עַשֵּׁר לְחִדֵשׁ שְׁנֵים-עַשֵּׁר הוא־חדש אַדָר ושָׁלַלָם לַבוֹז: יד פַּתָשָׁגו הַכִּתָב לְהַנַתֵן דַת בָּכָל־מִדִינֵה וּמִדִינֵה גַּלוּי לכל־הַעַמִּים לְהָיוֹת עַתְדָים לַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: טו הָרָצִים יָצְאָוּ דְחוּפִים בִּדְבַר הַמֶּלֶדְ וְהַדָּת נְתַנָה בִּשׁוּשֵׁן הַבִּירָה וְהַמֵּלֵדְ וְהַמֵּן יַשִׁבוּ לִשִׁתֹּוֹת וְהַעֵּיר שׁוּשֵׁן נַבִוֹכַה:



(1) When Mordecai found out what had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and dressed in sackcloth and ashes. He went forth in the midst of the city and shouted loudly and bitterly. (2) He came up to the royal gateway complex, for there was no entry to the royal gateway complex when dressed in sackcloth. (3) In every single province, where the king's command and law had reached, the Jews were in great sorrow, fasting, weeping, and mourning, and sackcloth and ashes were laid out in vast numbers. (4) Esther's servants and eunuchs came to her and told her, and she shuddered greatly. She sent clothes for Mordecai to wear and to remove his sackcloth from him, but he did not accept them. (5) Esther summoned Hatakh, one of the king's eunuchs whom the king had put in her service, and she commanded him to speak to Mordecai to learn "what's going on" and "what's this about." (6) Hatakh went forth to Mordecai, to the city plaza in front of the royal gateway complex. (7) Mordecai told him what had happened to him and the matter of the silver that Haman said he would weigh out into the royal treasuries against the Jews in order to destroy them; (8) and the text of the writ of the law that was promulgated in Shushan to destroy them he gave to him to show to Esther and inform her of the matter, to command her to go to the king to appeal to him and plead with him for her people. (9) Hatakh came and told Esther Mordecai's words. (10) Esther said to Hatakh, and commanded him to speak with Mordecai, (11) "All the king's courtiers and the people of the king's provinces know that every man or woman who comes to the king in the inner court who has not been summonedthere is one law for him, to be put to death. The א וּמַרְדַּכַּי יַדַע אֶת־כַּל־אָשֶׁר נַעֵשָׂה וַיָּקָרָע מְרִדָּכַיֹ אֵת־בְּגָדָיו וַיִּלְבֵּשׁ שַׂק וָאֵפֵר וַיֵּצֵא בתוך הַעִיר וַיָּזְעֵק זְעָקָה גִדוֹלָה וּמַרָה: ב וַיָּבֿוֹא עַד לִפְנֵי שַׁעַר־הַמֶּלֶדְ כִּי אֵין לָבֶוֹא ב אָל־שַׁעַר הַמֵּלָדְ בְּלְבוּשׁ שֵׂק: ג וּבְכַל־מִדְינַה וּמִדִינֵה מִקוֹם אֵשֵׁר דְּבַר־הַמֵּלֶךְ וְדַתוֹ מַגִּיעַ אָבָל גַּדוֹל לַיָּהוּדִים וצום וּבַכִי וּמַסְפָּד שָׁק ואֶפֶר יָצַע לַרַבָּים: ד ותבואינה (ותַבוֹאנָה) נַעַרוֹת אָסְתֵּר וְסֵרִיסֵיהַ וַיָּגֵּידוּ לֵה וַתְּתָחַלָחַל הַמַּלְכֵּה מָאָד וַתִּשָׁלֵח בְּגַדִים לְהַלְבֵּישׁ אֶת־מַרדַכִּי וּלָהַסֵיר שַׂקָוֹ מֵעַלָיו וְלָא קָבֵּלי וּתַקָרָא אָסְתֵּר לַהַתַּדְ מִפֶּרִיסֵי הַמֵּלְדְ אֲשֵׁר ה הַעֵמִיד לְפָנֵיה וַתִּצַוְהוּ עַל־מִרְדָכָי לָדַעַת מַה־זֶּה וְעַל־מַה־זֵּה: ו וַיָּצֵא הַתָדָ אֱל־מַרְדָכָי אָל־רְחוֹב הַעִיר אַשָּׁר לִפְנֵי שַעַר־הַמֵּלֶדָי ו וַיַּגֶּד־לִוֹ מַרְדַּכֵּי אֶת כַּל־אֲשֵׁר קַרָהוּ וָאֵת | פַרַשַׁת הַכָּסָף אֲשֶׁר אָמַר הַמָן לְשָׁקוֹל עַל־גָּנְזֵי ביהודיים (בַּיָהוּדָים) לְאַבְּדָם: המלד ואָת־פַּתִשֵׁגֵן כִּתָב־הַדָּת אֲשֵׁר־נִתַּן בִּשוּשָׁן **ח** לְהַשְׁמִידָם נַתַן לוֹ לְהַרְאוֹת אֶת־אֵסְתֵּר וּלְהַגֵּיד לָה וּלְצַוּוֹת עַלֵיהָ לָבוֹא אֱל־הַמֵּלָדָ לְהֶתְחַנֵּן־לְוֹ וּלְבַקֵּשׁ מִלְפַנָיָו עַל־עַמָּה: ט וַיָּבוֹא הַתַּךְ וַיַּגֵּד לְאֵסְתֵּׁר אֵת דְּבְרֵי מַרְדָכֵי: י וַתַּאמֵר אַל־מַרדַכַי אַסַתּר ותצוהו להתק ַהַמֶּלֶךְ וְעַם־מִדִינוֹת הַמֵּלֶך כַּל־עַבָדֵי יא ואשה אַשֵׁר כַּל־אֵישׁ ידעים אשר יָבְוֹא־אֶל־הַמֶּלֶדְ אֶל־הֶחָצֵּר הַפְּנִימִׁית אֲשֶׁר

one alone to whom the king extends his golden scepter may live. But I, I have not been summoned to go to the king in these thirty days." (12) They told Mordecai Esther's words.

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(13) Mordecai said in response to Esther, "Don't imagine that, of all Jews, you can escape with your life in the king's house. (14) For if you remain completely silent at this time, ease and rescue will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house shall perish. Who knows whether for a time like this you have reached royal status?" (15) Esther said in response to Mordecai, (16) "Go, assemble all the Jews found in Shushan, and fast for me; don't eat or drink for three days, night and day. My girls and I will also fast in this manner, and when I come in to the king against the law, if I perish, I perish." (17) Mordecai traversed the city and did all that Esther had commanded him.

לְא־יִקָּרָא אַחַת דָּתוֹ לְהָמִית יְבַד מֵאֲשָׁר יְוֹשִׁיט־לִוֹ הַמֶּלֶדְ אֶת־שַׁרְבִיט הַזָּהָב וְחָיָה וַאֲנִי לְא נִקְרַאתִי לְבַוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּׁלֶדְ זֶה שְׁלוֹשִׁים יִוֹם: יִב וַיַּגַּידוּ לְמַרַדַּכֵי אֶת דְּבָרֵי אָסָתֵר:

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אַל־אֵסָתֵּר מרדכי להשיב ויאמר 3) <u>בֵּית־הַמֵּל</u>ָדְ להַמַּלֵט בנפשׁר אל־תּדַמִּי מִכַּל־הַיָּהוּדֵים: **יד** כֵּי אָם־הַחֵרָשׁ תַּחַרִישִׁי בָּעֵת הַזֹּאת רֶוַח וְהַצָּלָָה יַעֲמָוֹד לַיְּהוּדִים מַמַקוֹם אַהֶר וְאָתָ וּבֵית־אַבִיך תֹאבֵדוּ וּמֵי הגּעַתּ לַמַּלְכוּת: אָם־לַעָת כַּזאת יוֹדֹע **טו** וַתָּאמֵר אֵסְתֵּך לְהָשֵׁיב אֱל־מָרדָכָי: **טו** לֵדְ כָּנֹוֹס אֵת־כָּל־הַיָּהוּדִֿים הַנִּמְצְאֵים בְּשׁוּשָׁן וְצִוּמוּ עֵלַי וְאֵל־תָּאכָלוּ וְאֵל־תָּשָׁתוּ שָׁלַשֶת יַמִים לַיִלָה וָיֹוֹם גַּם־אֲנִי וְנַעֲרֹתַי אָצְוּם כֵּן וּבְכֶּן אַבַוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֵׁר לְא־כַדָּת וְכַאֲשֵׁר אַבַדְתִי אַבַדְתִי: זו וַיּעַבִר מַרְדָכֵי וַיּעַשׂ כָּכָל אשר־צותה עליו אסתר:







(1) On the third day, Esther dressed in royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the royal palace, facing the royal palace, while the king was seated on his royal throne in the throne room facing the entrance of the palace. (2) As soon as the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won his favor. The king extended the golden scepter which he had in his hand toward Esther. Esther approached and touched the tip of his scepter. (3) The king said to her, "What distresses you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it shall be granted you." (4) Esther said, "If it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come today to a banquet that I have made for him." (5) The king said, "Speed Haman to do Esther's bidding!" The king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

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(6) During the wine course, the king said to Esther, "What is your wish? It shall be granted to you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." (7) Esther answered formally, "My wish, my request—(8) if I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my wish and fulfill my request—may the king and Haman come to a banquet I shall make for them, and tomorrow I shall do the king's bidding."

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א וַיְהֵי | בַּיְּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַתִּלְבַּשׁ אֵסְתֵּר מַלְכוּת וַתַּעֵמֹד בַּחֲצַר בֵּית־הַמֵּלֵדְ הַפָּנִימִית נְכַח בֵּית הַמֵּלֶדְ וְהַמֵּלֶדְ יוֹשֶׁב עַל־כִּסֵא מַלְכוּתוֹ בְּבֵית הַמַּלְכוּת נְכַח מֵתַח הַבַּיָת: ב וֵיָהָי כָרָאוֹת הַמֵּלְדָ אֶת־אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה עֹמֶׁדֶת בָּחַצֶּׁר נַשָּׁאָה הֵן בְּעֵינֵיו וַיּוֹשָט הַמָּלָדָ לָאָסָהָר אֶת־שַׁרְבֵיט הַזָּהָב אָשֵׁר בְּיָדוֹ וַתִּקְרֵב אֶסְהֵי וַתִּגַּע בִּרָאשׁ הַשַּׁרְבִיט: ג וַיָּאמֶר לָה הַמֶּלֶד מַה־לַךָּ אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וּמַה־בַּקֵשׁתֵך עַד־חֵצִי לַדְּי ד וַתִּאמֵר אֵסְתֵּר וינתן הַמַּלְכוּת אָם־עַל־הַמֵּלֶדְ טִוֹב יַבוֹא הַמֵּלֶדְ וְהַמֵן הַיוֹם אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֵּה אֲשֵׁר־עַשִׂיתִי לוֹ: ה וַיִּאמֵר הַמֶּלָדָ מַהַרוֹ אֶת־הַמָּן לַצַשְׁוֹת אֶת־דְבָר אֵסְתֵּר וַיָּבָא אַשר־עשׂתה הַמֵּלָדְ וָהַמַּן אֵל־הַמִּשִׁתָּה אַסִתֵּרי

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ו וַיֹּאֹמֶר הַמָּלֶדְ לְאָסְתֵּר בְּמִשְׁתֵּה הַלַּיִן מַה־שְׁאַלְתֵדְ וְיִנְּתֵן לֶדְ וּמַה־בַּקָשְׁתֵדְ עַד־חַצִי מַה־שְׁאַלְתַדְ וְיִנְתֵן לֶדְ וּמַה־בַּקָשְׁתֵד עַד־חַצִי הַמַּלְכוּת וְתַעֲשּׂ ז וַתַּעַן אָסְתֵּר וַתּּאַמֵר שְׁאַלְתִי וּבַקּשְׁתֵי ז וַתַּעַן אָס־מַצָּאתִי חֵו בְּעֵינֵי הַמָּלֶדְ וְאִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶדְ טוֹב לְתַת אֶת־שְׁאַלָתִי וְלַעֲשׁוֹת אֶת־בַּקָשְׁתֵי יָבַוֹא הַמֶּלֶדְ וְהָמָן אֶל־הַמִּשְׁתֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֶעֲשֶׂה לָהֶם וּמָתָר אֶעֲשֶׁה

ּכִּדְבַר הַמֶּלֶדִי

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(9) That day Haman went out happy and in good spirits, but when he espied Mordecai in the royal gateway complex-and Mordecai did not rise or even budge for him-he was filled with fury at him. (10) Yet he kept control of himself and went home. He sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh. (11) He told them about his great wealth and his many sons, and all about how the king had aggrandized him and advanced him above the lords and the king's courtiers. (12) "Even more," he said, "Queen Esther brought only me to the banquet she made for the king, and again tomorrow I am invited by her along with the king. (13) But all this is worthless every time I see Mordecai the lew stationed in the royal gateway complex." (14) His wife Zeresh and his friends said to him, "Let a stake fifty cubits high be set up, and in the morning ask the king to impale Mordecai on it so that you can go happily with the king to the feast." The suggestion pleased Haman, and he had the stake set up.

ט וַיָּצֵא הַמָן בַּיָּוֹם הַהוּא שַׂמָח וָטוֹב לָב וְכָרָאוֹת הַמַּן אֶת־מַרְדַּכֵי בָּשָׁעַר הַמָּלָדָ וְלֹא־קָם וְלֹא־זֶע מִמֶּנוּ וַיִּמָּלֵא הָמֶן עַל־מָרְדָּכַי הַמַה: י וַיִּתָאַפַּק הַמָּן וַיָּבְוֹא אֱל־בֵּיתָוֹ וַיִּשְׁלָח <u>וַיַּב</u>ָא אֶת־אָהַבַיו וָאֶת־זֵרֵשׁ אָשְׁתָוֹ: יא וַיִסַבָּי לַהֶם הַמֵּן אֶת־כִּבְוֹד עַשִׁרָוֹ וְרָב בָּנַיִו וְאֶת ַכַּל־אֲשֶׁר גִּדְּלַוֹ הַמֵּלֶדְ וְאֶת אֲשֵׁר נִשָּׂאוֹ עַל־הַשָּׂרָים וְעַבְדֵי הַמֵּלֶדְ: יּב וַיֹּאמֵר הָמָןֹ אַף ַלָא־הֵבִיאַה אֶסָתַּר הַמַּלְכַּה עם־המלד אַל־הַמִּשִׁתַּה אַשֵּׁר־עַשַּׁתַה כִּי אָם־אוֹתִי עם־הַמֵּלָדְ: קרוּא־לַהָ אַני וגַם־לִמַחֵר יג וְכַל־זֶה אֵינֵנּוּ שׁוָה לִי בְּכַל־עָת אֲשֶׁר אַנִי רֹאֶה אֶת־מַרְדֵּכֵי הַיָּהוּדִי יוֹשֶׁב בִּשַׁעַר הַמֵּלֶדִי יד וַהָּאמֵר לוֹ זֶרִשׁ אָשָׁתוֹ וְכַל־אָהָבָיו יַעשוּ־עֵץ גָּבְהַ חַמִשִּים אַמָּה וּבַבְּקֵר | אֵמִר לַמֶּלֶךְ וִיְתָלַוּ אֶת־מַרְדֵּכֵיֹ עַלֵיו וּבָא־עִם־הַמֵּלֶך אֵל־הַמִּשִׁתֵּה שָׁמֵחַ וַיִּיּטָב הַדָּבָר לִפְגֵי הָמָן ויּעש העץ:



א בַּלֵילָה הַהוּא נַדְדָה שְׁנַת הַמֵּלָך וַיֹּאמֵר

לְהַבְּיא אֶת־סֵפֵר הַזְּכִרֹנוֹת דְּבְרֵי הַיָּמִים וַיֶּהִיוּ

ּנְקָרָאִים לִפְנֵי הַמֵּלְדִּי ב וַיִּמַּצֵא כָתוּב אֲשֵׁר

הִגִּיד מְרְדָּכֵי עַל־בִּגְתָנָא וַתֵּרִשׁ שְׁנֵי סַרִיסֵי

הַמֶּלֶדְ מִשִׁמְרֵי הַסֵּף אֲשֵׁר בִּקָשׁוּ לִשְׁלָחַ לָּד

בַּמֵּלַדְ אָחַשְׁוָרוֹשׁ: ג וַיָּאמֵר הַמֶּלָדְ מָה־נַּעֲשֶׁה

יַקַר וּגִדוּלָה למָרדַכַי עַל־זָה וַיּאמְרוּ נַעָרֵי

הַמֵּלֶדְ מִשֶׁרְתָיו לְא־נַעֲשָׁה עִמְוֹ דָּבָרי ד וַיָּאמֵר

ַהַמֶּלֶדְ מֵי בֶחָצֵר וְהָמָן בָּא לַחֲצַר בִּית־הַמֵּלֵדְ

(1) On that very night, sleep eluded the king, so he ordered that the book of memoranda, the royal annals, be brought in, and as they were read before him, (2) it was found recorded there that Mordecai had informed on Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs from the Guards of the Threshhold (of the king's private living quarters), who sought to violently attack King Ahashveirosh. (3) "What honor or advancement," the king asked, "has been done for Mordecai for this?" The king's servants who were attending him replied, "Nothing at all has been done for him." (4) The king asked, "Who's in the court?" Now, Haman had come to the outer court of the royal palace to tell the king to impale Mordecai on the stake he had prepared for him. (5) The king's servants said to him, "Haman is now standing in the court," and the king said, "Let him in." (6) Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What should be done for a man whom the king wants to honor?" Haman thought to himself, "Whom would the king want to honor more than me?" (7) Haman said to the king, "The man whom the king wants to honor-(8) let royal apparel that the king has worn be brought, as well as a horse on which the king has ridden, with a royal diadem on its head, (9) and let the apparel and the horse be put in the charge of one of the king's aristocratic lords. Let them dress the man whom the king wants to honor and lead him mounted on the horse in the city plaza, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man whom the king wants to honor!'" (10) "At once, take the apparel and the horse," the king said to Haman, "as you have said, and do this to Mordecai the Jew who is stationed in the royal gateway complex. Do not omit anything of what

הַחֵיצוֹנָה לֵאמִר לַמֵּׁלֶךְ לְתָלוֹת אֲת־מַרְדָּכַי עַל־הָאָץ אֲשֶׁר־הַכֵּין לְוֹ: ה וַיֹּאֹמְרוּ נַעֵרֵי הַמֵּלֶדְ` אֱלָיו הְנֵה הַמָן עֹמֵד בֶּחָצֵר וַיָּאמֵר הַמֶּלֶדְ יָבְוֹא: וּ וַיָּבוֹאֹ הָמָן וַיָּאמֵר לוֹ הַמֶּלֶד מַה־לַעֲשוֹת בָּאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הַמֵּלֶדְ חָפֵץ בְּיקָרָוֹ וּיָּאמֵר הַמַן בּּלְבּוֹ לְמִי יַחִפּּץ הַמֵּלֶךְ לַעַשְׂוֹת יַקָר יוֹתֵר מִמֵּנִי: ז וַיָּאמֵר הַמָן אֵל־הַמֵּלֶך אָישׁ אַשֵׁר הַמֵּלֵך חַפֵּץ בַּיקָרוֹ: ח יַבִּיאוֹ לְבוּשׁ מַלְכוּת אַשֶׁר לָבַשֹּ־בָּוֹ הַמֵּלָדְ וְסוּס אַשֶּׁר רַכָב עַלִיוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ וַאֲשֵׁר נִתַּן מֵתֶר מַלְכָוּת בְּרֹאשׁוֹי ט וְנַתוֹן הַלְבוּשׁ וְהַסוּס עַל־יַד־אָישׁ מִשָּׂרֵי הַמֶּלֶדְ הַפַּרְתָּמִים וְהָלְבָּישׁוּ אֱת־הַאִישׁ אֲשֵׁר ַהַמֶּלֶדְ חָפֵץ בְּיקָרֵוֹ וְהִרְכִּיבֵהוּ עַל־הַסּוּס בּרְחוֹב הַעִּׁיר וְקֵרְאוּ לְפַנֵיו כַּכָה יֵעֲשֵׂה לַאִישׁ אַשֶׁר הַמֵּלָדְ חָפֵּץ בִּיקָרוֹ: י וַיּאמר הַמֵּלָדְ <u>ּלְהַמָּן מַהֵר ק</u>ַח אֵת־הַלְבַוּשׁ וְאֵת־הַסּוּס כַּאַשֵׁר דְּבָּרִתָּ וַעֵשֵׂה־כֵן לְמַרְדָּכֵי הַיָּהוּדְי הַיּוֹשֵׁב בְּשֵׁעַר הַמֵּלֶךְ אַל־תַּפֵּל דָּבָׂר מִכִּל אֲשֵׁר

you have spoken." (11) Haman took the apparel and the horse, and he dressed Mordecai and led him mounted on the horse, proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man whom the king wants to honor!" (12) Mordecai returned to the royal gateway complex, but Haman hurried home in grief, his head covered. (13) Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends what had happened to him. His advisors and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish lineage, you will not overcome him. You will surely fall before him." (14) While they were still speaking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived, and they moved Haman hurriedly off to the banquet Esther had prepared. דְּבְּרְתָּ: יא וַיֵּקָח הָמָן אֶת־הַלְבַוּשׁ וְאֶת־הַשְׁוּס וַיַּלְבֵּשׁ אֶת־מִרְדָּכָי וַיַּרְכִּיבֵּהוּ בְּרְחֵוֹב הָעִיר וַיִּקְרֵא לְפָנִיו כָּכָה יֵעָשָׁה לָאִישׁ אֲשָׁר הַמָּלֶד חָפֵּץ בְּיקָרְוּ: יג וַדַיַשָּׁב מְרְדָּכַי אָל־שַׁעַר הַמָּלֶד חָפֵּץ בְּיקָרְוּ: יג וַדַיַשָּׁב מְרְדָכַי אָל־שַׁעַר הַמָּלֶד וְהָמָן נִדְחַף אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ אָבֵל וַחַפּוּי רְיאשׁי גע וִיְסַבֵּר הָמָן לְזֶכָשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ וּלְכָל־אֹהֲבָיו אֵת גע וַיְסַבֵּר הָמָן לְזֶכָשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ וּלְכָל־אַהְבָיו אֵת גע וַיְסַבֵּר הַמָן לְזֶכָשׁ אִשְׁתּוֹ אָבַל וַחַפּוּי רְיאשׁי גע וַיְסַבֵּין נִדְחַף אֶל־בַּיּלוּוֹ אָבָל וּהְכָל־אַהְבָיו אַת גע וַיְסַבּּר הַמָּן לְזֶכָשׁ אַשְׁתּוֹ וֹשְׁרָבָל־אַהְבָיו אָת גע וַיְסַבּּר הַמָּן הָזָרָש אַשְׁתּוּ אָשַׁר קָרָבִיש אַשְׁרוּ לָי הָרָיסַי הַמָּלֶדָ הָגִיעוּ וַיַּבְהָלוּוֹ לְסָנִיוֹ לָאַרתוּכַל לוֹ הְכָכָמִיו וְזֶרָשׁ אָשָׁר הַחָלּוֹת אָשַׁר הַמָּלָן אָרַרָיסַי הַמָּלֶדָ הָגִיעוּ





(1) The king and Haman came to feast with Queen Esther. (2) On the second day during the wine course, the king asked Esther again, "What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted to you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it shall be done." (3) Queen Esther answered formally, "If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king, may my life be granted to me as my wish and my people as my request. (4) For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, killed, and finished off. If we were to be sold off as male and female slaves, I would have kept silent, for the adversary is not worth the king's trouble." (5) Not knowing at first what to say, King Ahashveirosh asked Queen Esther, "Who is he and where is he who thought to do this?" (6) Esther replied, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!" Haman cringed in sudden terror before the king and the queen. (7) The king arose furiously from the wine course into the pavilion garden, while Haman stayed to plead for his life from Queen Esther, because he realized that in the king's mind his fate was determined. (8) Now, when the king returned from the palace garden to the room for the wine banquet, Haman had flung himself on the divan on which Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, "Does he mean to make a conquest of the queen with me in the palace?" As soon as the words left the king's mouth, Haman turned pale. (9) Harbonah, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "In fact, there is a stake at Haman's house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, whose words saved the king." The king ordered, "Impale him on it!" (10) So they impaled Haman on the stake he had set up for

Mordecai, and the king's fury subsided.

א וַיַּבַא הַמֶּלָדְ וָהַמָּן לִשִׁתְּוֹת עִם־אֵסְתָּר הַמַּלְבֶּה: ב וַיֹּאמֶר הַמָּלֶדְ לְאֶסְתֵּר גַּם בַּיָּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִיֹ בָּמִשִׁתֵּה הַיַּיָן מַה־שָּׁאֵלָתֵךָ אֱסִתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וְתִנָּתֵן לֵדְ וּמַה־בַּקֵשָׁתֵדְ עַד־חֵצֵי ַהַמַּלְכָוּת וְתֶעֲשׂי **ג** וַתַּעַן אֱסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה וַתֹּאמֵר אָם־מַצַּאתִי חֵן בּעַינַידָ הַמָּלָד וְאָם־עַל־הַמֵּלֶדְ טִוֹב תִּנַּתָן־לִי נַפִּשִׁי בִּשָּאֵלַתִי וְעַמִּי הַבַקֵשׁתֵי: ד כֵּי נִמְכַּרְנוּ אֲנֵי וְעַמִי לעבדים <u>לה</u>רוג ולאבד ואלו להשמיד וִלְשִׁפַחוֹת נִמִכַּרְנוּ הֶחֵרִשִׁתִּי כֵּי אֵין הַצָּר שׁוֵה בְּנֵזֶק הַמֵּלֶדְ: **ה** וַיֹּאמֵר הַמֵּלֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹש וַיָּאמֶר לְאֵסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה מֵי הוּא זֶה וָאֵי־זֶה הוא אַשֶׁר־מִלַאוֹ לְבָּוֹ לַעֲשְׂוֹת כֵּן: ו וַתִּאמֵר אָסִתֶּר אָישׁ צַר וָאוֹיֶב הָמָן הָרָע הַזֵּה וְהָמָן נְבָעֶׁת מִלְפְנֵי הַמֵּלֶךְ וְהַמֵּלְכֵּה: ז וְהַמֵּלֶךְ קֵם בַּחַמָתוֹ מִמִּשְׁתֵּה הַיַּיִן אֶל־גִּנַּת הַבִּיתָן וְהָמֵן עַמַד לְבַקָשׁ עַל־נַפִּשוֹ מֵאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכֵּה כֵּי רַאָּה כֵּי־כָלִתָה אֵלַיָו הָרָאָה מֵאָת הַמֶּלֶדִי **ת** וְהַמֶּלֶךְ שֵׁב[°] מִגְּנֵּת הַבִּיתֵׁן אֶל־בֵּית | מִשִׁתֵּה הַיָּיָן וְהַמַן נֹפֶּל עַל־הַמִּטַה אָשֶׁר אָסְתֵּר עַלֶיה וַיָּאמֵר הַמֶּלֶךָ הָגָם לְכִבַּוֹש אֶת־הַמַּלְכֵּה עָמִי בַּבַּיָת הַדַּבָּר יַצָא מִפֵּי הַמֶּלֶך וּפְגֵי הָמָן חַפְוּ ט וַיָּאמֶר חַרָבוֹנָה אֶחָד מִן־הַפָּרָיסִים לָפְנֵי הַמֵּלֵדְ גַּם הִנֵּה־הָעֵץ אַשִׁר־עָשָׂה הָמָן לְמָרדָבַי אַשֵׁר דְּבֵּר־טִוֹב עַל־הַמֵּלֵךְ עֹמֵד בְּבֵית הַמָּן גַּבְהַ חַמִשִׁים אַמֵּה וַיָּאמֵר הַמֵּלָד תַּלָהוּ עַלַיוי יןיּתָלוֹ אֶת־הַמֶּׁן עַל־הַעָץ אֲשֶׁר־הֵכֵין לְמַרְדֵּכֵי וחמת המלך שכבה:





(1) On that very day, King Ahashveirosh gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the adversary of the Jews. Mordecai presented himself to the king, for Esther had revealed his relationship to her. (2) The king slipped off his signet ring, which he had taken back from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. Esther put Mordecai in charge of Haman's estate. (3) Esther once again spoke to the king, falling at his feet, weeping, and imploring him to frustrate the wickedness of Haman and the plot he devised against the Jews. (4) The king extended his golden scepter to Esther, and she arose and stood before the king. (5) Esther said, very formally, "If it pleases the king and if I have found favor with him, if the matter seems right to the king, and if I am pleasing in his eyes, let a decree be inscribed to reverse the written instructions devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he inscribed to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces. (6) For how can I bear to see the calamity that will befall my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?" (7) King Ahashveirosh said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "I have given Haman's estate to Esther and had him impaled on a stake for attacking the Jews. (8) Now, you may issue what seems right in your eyes about the Jews in the king's name and seal it with the king's signet ring, for a writ that was inscribed in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring cannot be reversed." (9) The king's scribes were summoned at that time, the twenty-third of the third month, that is, the month of Sivan, and everything that Mordecai commanded was written for the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the lords of the 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia, every

א בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא נַתֵּן הַמֵּלָדָ אָחַשָּׁוֵרוֹש לָאָסְתַר אֵת־בֵּית הָמָן היהודיים צבר המלפה (הַיָּהוּדֵים) וּמַרְדֵּכַי בָּא לִפְנֵי הַמֵּׁלֶךְ כֵּי־הָגֵּידָה המלד ב ויסר הוא־לה מה אַסָתַר אַמִ־טַבַּעִתוֹ אַשֵׁר הֵעֵבִיר' מֵהָמָן וַיּתַנַה למרדַכָּי וַתַּשָּׁם אֶסְתֵּר אֶת־מָרדָכָי עַל־בֵּית הַמַן: ג וַתּוֹסָף אָסְתָּר וַתִּדַבָּר לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלָד וּתִּפִּל לִפְנֵי רַגְלָיֵו וַתֵּבְדָ וַתִּתְחַנֶּן־לוֹ לְהַעֲבִיר אֶת־רָעַת` הָמָן הֶאֲגָגִי וְאֵת` מַחֲשַׁבְתוֹ אַשֵׁר חַשַּׁב עַל־הַיָּהוּדֵים: ד וַיָּוֹשֵט הַמֵּלְדְ לְאֵסְהָיר אֶת שֶׁרְבָט הַזַּהָב וַתַּקָם אֶסְתֶּר וַתַּעַמִד לִפְנֵי וַתּאמָר אָם־עַל־הַמָּלָד טוב ก המלדי וָאָם־מַצָאתִי חֵן לְפַנָיו וְכָשֵׁר הַדָּבָר לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶדְ וָטוֹבָה אַנִי בְּעֵינֵיו יִכַּתֶּב לְהַשִׁיב אֶת־הַסְּפַרִים מַחֵשֶׁבָת הַמֵן בֵּן־הַמָּדַתָא האַגַגִי אַשֶׁר כַּתָב לְאַבָּד' אֶת־הַיָּהוּדִים אַשֶׁר בְּכַל־מִדִינִוֹת הַמֵּלֶדָ: ו בִּי אֵיכַכֵה אוּכַל וָרָאָיתִי ברַעָה אַשֶׁר־יִמָצַא אֶת־עַמָּי וָאֶיכָכָה אוּכָל וָרָאִיתִי בּאָבִדַן מִוֹלַדְתֵּי ז וַיּאמר הַמֵּלָד אַחַשָּׁורשׁ לָאֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכֵּה וּלְמַרְדֵכֵי הַיָּהוּדֵי ָהְנֵּה בֵית־הַמַן נַתַתִּי לְאֵסְתֵּר וְאֹתוֹ תַּלִוּ אַשֶׁר־שַׁלַח יַדָוֹ ביהודיים על־הַעָּץ עַל (בַּיָּהוּדֵים): **ח** וְאַתֵּם כִּתָבוּ עֵל־הַיָּהוּדִים כַּטָוֹב בּאֵינֵיכֵם בּשֵׁם הַמֶּלֶךְ וְחָתָמִוּ בִּטַבַּעַת הַמֵּלֶך כִּי־כִתַּב אֲשֶׁר־נְכִתַּב בִּשֵׁם־הַמֵּלָדְ וְנַחִתּוֹם בּטַבַּעַת הַמֵּלָדְ אֵין לְהַשִׁיב: ט וַיָּקָרָאוּ סֹפְרֵי־הַמֵּלֵדְ בַּעֵת־הַהִיא בַּחֹדֵשׁ הַשִּׁלִישִׁי הוּא־חָדָשׁ סִיוָן בָּשָׁלוֹשֵה וְעֵשָׂרִים בּוֹ וַיִּכַּתֵב כָּכָל־אַשֶׁר־צְוֶה מְרְדָּכַי אֶל־הַיְהוּדִים וְאֶל

province in its own script and every people in its own language, and the Jews in their script and their language. (10) He wrote in the name of King Ahashveirosh and sealed with the king's signet ring. He dispatched written instructions by mounted couriers riding royal horses, of special breed:

(11) The king has permitted the Jews in each and every city to assemble and preserve their lives to destroy, kill, and finish off any corps of people or province adversarial to them, even women and children, and their possessions to plunder,
(12) on a particular day in all the provinces of King Aḥashveirosh, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar.

(13) The text of the writ was to be issued as law in each and every province, publicly disclosed to all the peoples so that the Jews would be ready for that day to retaliate against their enemies. (14) The couriers riding royal horses set out at accelerated speed at the king's command, and the law was

issued in the imperial acropolis of Shushan.

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(15) Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of tekhelet and white, with a coronet of gold and a cape of fine linen and purple. The city of Shushan was jubilant and joyful. (16) For the Jews, there was light and joy, happiness and honor. (17) And in each and every province and in each and every city, when the king's command and decree arrived, there was joy and happiness among the Jews, a banquet and holiday. Many people of the land sided with the Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen upon them.

הַאָּחַשִּׁדַרְפְּנֵים־וְהַפַּחוֹת וְשָׂרֵי הַמִּדִינוֹת אֲשֵׁר ן מֵהִדּוּ וְעַד־כּוּשׁ שֵׁבַע וְעֵשְׂרֵים וּמֵאַה מִדִינֵה מִדִינֵה וּמִדִינַה כָּכִתַבָּה וָעֵם וַעֵם כִּלְשֹׁנִוֹ וְאֶׁל־הַיָּהוּדִים כְּכָתַבָם וְכָלְשׁוֹנֵם: י וַיְכָוּתָׁב בּשִׁם הַמֵּלֵך אֲחַשְׁוֵרִש וַיַּחְתָּם בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶד וַיָּשָׁלַח סְפַרִים בִּיַד הַרַאָּים בַּסּוּסִים רִכָבֵי הֶרְכֵשׁ הָאֲחַשְׁתִּרְנִים בְּנֵי הַרַמֵּכֵים: **יא** אֲשֵׁר נַתַּן הַמֵּלֶךְ לַיָּהוּדֵים | אֲשֵׁר בְּכַל־עִיר־וַעִיר לְהִקֵּהֵלֹ וְלַעֵמִד עַל־נַפִּשֵׁם לְהַשִּׁמִיד וְלָהֵרֹג וּלְאַבֶּד אֶת־כַּל־חֵיל עֵם וּמִדִינָה הַצָּרֵים אֹתָם טַף וְנַשִׁים וּשָׁלַלַם לַבְוֹז יב בִּיוֹם אֵחָד בְּכַל־מִדִינִוֹת הַמֵּלֶךְ אָחַשְׁוָרוֹש בְּשָׁלוֹשֵה עַשֵּׂר לְחִדֵשׁ שְׁנֵים־עַשָּׂר הוּא־חִדֵשׁ אֲדֵרי **יג** פַּתִשְׁגֵן הַכִּתָב לְהִנָּתֵן דַּת['] בְּכָל־מִדִינָה וּמִדִינָה גַּלִוּי לַכַל־הַעַמָּים וַלָהַיוֹת היהודיים (הַיָּהוּדַים) (עַתִידִים) לַיָּוֹם הזֹה עתודים להנקם הרצים הרכש רכבי 1) מאיביהם: הַאָחַשְׁתִּרְנִים יַצָּאָוּ מִבְהַלִים וּדָחוּפִים בִּדְבַר בשושן נּתּנַה הבירה: המלד והדת טו ומָרדָבי יָצָא | מִלְפְנֵי הַמֵּלָדָ בִּלְבַוּשׁ מַלְכוּת הְכֵלֶת וָחוּר וַעֵטֶרֶת זָהָב גְּדוֹלָה ותַכְרֵידְ בִּוּץ וִאַרְגַּמֵן וְהַעֵיר שוּשָׁן צָהַלָה ושמחה:*

טז לַיְהוּדִּים הֵיְתָה אוֹרָה וְשִׁמְחָה וְשָׁשָׁן וִיקֵר: יז וּבְכָל־מִדִינָה וּמִדִינָה וּבְכָל־עֵיר וִיקֵר: יז וּבְכָל־מִדִינָה וּמִדִינָה וּבְכָל־עֵיר וָעִיר מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר דְּבַר־הַמֶּלֶדְ וְדָתוֹ מַוּּיִע שִׁמְחָה וְשָׁשוֹן לַיְהוּדִים מִשְׁתֶּר וְיוֹם טִוֹב וְרַבִּים מֵעַמֵּי הָאָׁרֶץ מֶתְיַהְדִים כִּי־נָפַל מַתִדַהַיָּהוּדָים עֵלֵיהֵם:

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^{*}It is customary for the congregation to recite this verse before the reader.



(1) So on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, when the king's order and law came to be carried out, that very day on which the enemies of the Jews had hoped to gain control over them, the opposite happenedthe Jews themselves gained control over their enemies. (2) The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahashveirosh to attack those who sought their doom. No one could withstand them because fear of them had fallen upon all the peoples. (3) All the lords of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and the king's stewards were supporting the lews because fear of Mordecai had fallen upon them. (4) For Mordecai was now prominent in the royal palace, and his fame was increasing in all the provinces, as he was growing more prominent. (5) The lews struck at all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying. They did to their enemies as they wished. (6) In Shushan, the imperial acropolis, the

Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men,

- (7) and Parshandatha. Dalphon, Aspatha, Poratha,
- (8)
- (9)
- Arisai.
 - Aridai,

Adalia, Aridatha,

Parmashta.

and Vayaztha,

(10) the ten sons of Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the adversary of the Jews, but they did not take any plunder.

א וּבַשָּנֵים עשר חֹדֵש הוּא־חֹדֵש אַדָר בִּשִׁלוֹשָׁה עַשֵׂר יוֹם בּוֹ אֲשִׁר הִגֵּיע דְבַר־הַמֵּלָדְ וִדַתִּוֹ לְהֵעַשִׁוֹת בַּיּוֹם אֲשֵׁר שִׁבְּרוּ אִיְבֵי הַיָּהוּדִים לָשָׁלִוֹט בַּהֶֶם וְנַהַפְּוֹדָ הוּא אֲשֵׁר יִשְׁלְטַוּ הַיָּהוּדֵים הֵמֵּה בִּשְׂנְאֵיהֵם: ב נִקָהַלוּ בּעַרִיהֵם בְּכַל־מִדִינוֹת הַמֵּלִד היהודים אַחַשָּׁוֶרוש לִשְׁלֹחַ לִד בִּמִבַקָשָׁי רֵעַתֵם וָאִישׁ לפניהם ento כּי־נפל לא־עמד וְכַל־שַׁרֵי עַל־כַּל־הַעַמֵּים: המדינות 2 וְהַאֲחַשִׁדַּרְפְּנֵים וְהַפֵּחוֹת וְעֹשֵׁי הַמִּלַאכָה אָשֵׁר אָת־הַיָּהוּדֵים מַנַשָּׂאֵים כּי־נַפַל למלד פַּחַד־מַרְדַכַי עֵלֵיהֵם: ד כַּי־גַדַוֹל מַרְדַכַי בָּבֵית הַמֶּלֶךְ וְשַׁמְעִוֹ הוֹלֵךְ בְּכַל־הַמִּדִינִוֹת כֵּי־הַאֵישׁ מַרדַכַּי הוֹלֵדְ וְגַדְוֹלִי **ה** וַיַּכַּוּ הַיָּהוּדִים[`] בְּכַל־אִיְבֵיהֵם מַכַּת־חֵרֶב וְהֵרֶג וְאַבְדֵן וַיָּעֵשִׂוּ בְשְׂנְאֵיהֵם כִּרְצוֹנֵם: ו וּבִשׁוּשֵׁן הַבִּירָה הַרְגַוּ הַיָּהוּדַים ואַבָּד חַמַש מאות אישי

י עשרת בּנֵי הַמַן בּן־הַמִּדַתָּא צֹרָר הַיָּהוּדָים י

(11) When the number of those killed in Shushan, the imperial acropolis, was reported to the king, (12) the king said to Queen Esther, "In the imperial acropolis of Shushan, the Jews killed and finished off five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman. What must they have done in the rest of the royal provinces! What is your wish? It shall be granted to you. What else is your request? It shall be fulfilled." (13) Queen Esther said, "If it pleases the king, may tomorrow also be given to Jews in Shushan to act according to this day's law, and may the ten sons of Haman be impaled on the stake." (14) The king gave orders that this should be done: the law was issued in Shushan, and Haman's sons were impaled. (15) The Jews in Shushan assembled again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar. They killed three hundred men, but they did not take any plunder. (16) The rest of the lews who were in the royal provinces assembled in self-defense and had respite from their enemies, killing 75,000 of them, but they did not take any plunder. (17) That was on the thirteenth day of Adar, and on the fourteenth day of Adar they recuperated. They made it a day for banqueting and festivity. (18) However, the Jews who were in Shushan assembled on the thirteenth and fourteenth of the month and recuperated on the fifteenth. They made it a day for banqueting and festivity. (19) This is why the countryside Jews who live in villages observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day of festivity and banqueting, as a holiday for sending presents to one another. (20) Mordecai wrote down all these events and sent written instructions to all the lews in all the provinces of King Ahashveirosh, both near and far, (21) charging them to observe annually the fourteenth day and fifteenth day of Adar annually, (22) the same days on which the Jews had relief from their enemies and the same month that turned from grief to festivity and

הַרָגוּ וּבַּבְּזֶה לָא שֵׁלְחוּ אֶת־יָדָם: יא בַּיָּוֹם הַהוּא בָּא מִסְפַּר הַהַרוּגֵים בִּשׁוּשַׁן הַבִּירָה לפני הַמֵּלְדָי **יב** וַיֹּאמָר הַמֵּלְדָ לָאָסָתַר הַמַּלְכָּה בְּשׁוּשֵׁן הַבִּירָה הֶרְגוּ הַיָּהוּדָים וִאַבִּד ְחַמֵשׁ מֵאוֹת אִישׁ וָאֶת עשׂרֶת בְּנֵי־הַמֶּן בִּשָּׁאָר מִדִינִוֹת הַמֵּלֶךְ מֵה עַשִּׁוּ וּמַה־שָּׁאֵלָתָךְ וְיָנַתֵן לַדְ וּמַה־בַּקָשָׁתֵדְ אוֹד וְתֵעֲשׁ: יֹג וַתְּאֹמֶר אָסְתֶּר אָם־עַל־הַמֵּלֶדְ טוֹב יִנַּתֵן גַּם־מַחֵר לַיָּהוּדִים אֲשֵׁר בִּשוּשָׁן לַעַשְׂוֹת כִּדָת הַיָּוֹם ואָת עשׂרת בְּנֵי־הַמָן יִתְלָוּ עַל־הַעֵּץי יד וַיָּאמֵר הַמֶּלֶדְ' לְהֵעַשִׂוֹת כֵּון וַתְּנַתֵן דֵת בִּשׁוּשֵׁן וָאֶת עַשֵּׁרֵת בְּגֵי־הָמָן תַּלִוּ: טו וַיָּקָהַעוּ היהודיים (הַיָּהוּדֵים) אֲשֶׁר־בִּשׁוּשָׁן גַּם בִּיוֹם אַרְבָּעַה (הַיָּהוּדֵים) עַשַּׁר' לְחִדֵשׁ אֲדֵׁר וַיַּהַרְגָוּ בְשׁוּשֵׁן שָׁלִש מֵאוֹת אַישׁ וּבָּבָּוֹה לָא שֵׁלְחָוּ אֶת־יַדַם: טוּ וּשָאָר הַיָּהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בִּמִדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶך נְקָהֵלָוּ | וְעַמִד עַל־נַפִּשָּׁם וְנוֹחַ מֵאִיְבֵיהֵם וְהַרוֹג בִּשְׂנָאֵיהֵם חַמִשֵּׁה וִשְׁבָעִים אַלֶף וּבַבְּזֹּה לָא שֵׁלְחָוּ אָת־יַדַם: יו בִּיוֹם־שָׁלוֹשָה עַשָּׁר לְחָדֵשׁ אָדַר וְנוֹחַ בִּאַרְבָּעֵה עֲשָׁר בּוֹ וְעָשְׂה אֹתוֹ יָוֹם מִשְׁתֵּה (והַיָּהוּדֵים) והיהודיים יח ושמחה: ָאֲשֶׁר־בְּשׁוּשָׁן נִקְהַלוּ בִּשְׁלוֹשָָה עַשָּׁר בּוֹ וּבְאַרְבַּעָה עַשָּׁר בִּוֹ וָנוֹחַ בַּחַמִשָּה עַשָּׁר['] בּוֹ וְעַשָּׁה אֹתוֹ יִוֹם מִשִׁתֵּה וְשִׂמְחֵה: **יט** עַל־בֶּו הַיָּהוּדֵים הפרוזים (הַפְּרַזִים) הַיָּשָׁבִים בְּעָרֵי הַפְּרָזוֹת עֹשִׁים אֵת יוֹם אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׁר לִחִדֵש אַדָּר שִׁמְחָה וּמִשְׁתָּה וִיוֹם טוֹב וּמִשְׁלֹחַ מַנוֹת איש לרעהוי כ ויִכְתִּב מַרדַכִּי אָת־הַדְבָרִים הַאֶלֶה וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפַרִים אֶל־כַּל־הַיָּהוּדִים אַשֵׁר בּכַל־מִדִינוֹת הַמֵּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹש הַקּרוֹבִים והרחוקים: כא לקיה עליהם להיות עשים אֶת יוֹם אַרְבַּעָה עַשִׂר לְחִדָש אָדָר וָאָת from mourning to a holiday, to make them days of banqueting and festivity, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor. (23) The lews accepted the practice they had begun in accordance with Mordecai's letter. (24) For Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the adversary of the Jews, had devised to destroy the Jews and had cast a pur, that is, a lot, to crush and destroy them. (25) But when Esther came before the king, he ordered, "With this written instruction, let the plan he devised for the Jews recoil on his own head," and they impaled him and his sons on a stake. (26) Therefore, they called these days Purim, from the word pur, and therefore, on account of all the matters related in this letter, what they had seen in this regard and what happened to them, (27) the lews resolved and undertook, for themselves and their descendants and all those who join them, these two days without fail in the prescribed manner and proper season each and every year. (28) These days are remembered and observed in each and every generation, each and every family, each and every province, and each and every city, and these days of Purim will never lapse among the lews nor their memory perish from their descendants.

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יוֹם־חַמִשֵּׁה עַשָּׂר בּוֹ בְּכָל־שָׁנָה וִשְׁנָה: כב כַּיַמִים אַשָּר־נַחוּ בַהֵם הַיָּהוּדִים מָאִיָבֵיהָם וְהַחֹדֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר נֶהְפַּדְ לְהֵם מִיָּגוֹן לְשִׂמְחָה וּמֵאָבֶל לִיוֹם טוֹב לַעַשִׂוֹת אוֹתָם יְמֵי מִשְׁתָּה ושִׁמִחֵה וּמִשִׁלָח מַנוֹת אֵישׁ לְרֵעֶהוּ וּמַתַּנִוֹת לאַבִינִים: כג וַקְבָּל הַיָּהוּדִים אָת אַשֶׁר־הָחֵלוּ לעשות ואת אשר־כַּתָב מַרדַכַי אַלִיהָם: **כו**ד כִּי הַמַּן בֵּן־הַמִּדַתַא הַאָגַגִי צֹרָר כַּל־הַיָּהוּדִיס חַשֵּׁב עַל־הַיָּהוּדָים לְאַבְּדָם וְהָפֵּל פּוּר הָוּא הַגּוֹרָל לְהָמֵם וּלָאַבְּדֵם: **כה** וּבָבֹאַהֿ לְפָנֵי הַמֵּלָדְ אַמֵר עִם־הַשֶּׁפֵר יַשׁוּב מַחַשַׁבְתַּוֹ הַרַעֵה אַשֶׁר־חַשֵׁב עַל־הַיָּהוּדָים עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ וְתָלוּ אֹתֶוֹ ואָת־בַּנַיו עַל־הַעֵץי כו עַל־בֶּן קָרָאוּ לַיַּמִים הפור פוּרִים עַל־שֵׁם על־כֿו האלה עַל־כַּל־דִּבְרָי ומה־ראו הזאת האגרת עַל־כָּכָה וּמָה הִגְיִעַ אֲלֵיהֵם: כז קַיָּמוּ וקבל (וְקַבְּלִוּ) הַיָּהוּדִים | עַלֵיהָם | וְעָל־זַרִעָם וְעָל כַּל־הַנָּלוֵים עֵלֵיהָם וָלָא יַעַבוֹר לְהָיוֹת עֹשִׁים אֶת שְׁנֵי הַיָּמִים הַאֶּלֶה כְּרָתָבָם וְרָזְמַנָּם בְּכָל־שָׁנָה וְשָׁנֵה: כֹ**ח** וְהַיָּמֵים הָאֵלֶה נְזְפָרְים וִנַעַשִים בְּכָל־דְּוֹר וָדָוֹר מִשְׁפָּחָה וּמִשְׁפָּחָה מִדִינָה וּמִדִינָה וְעֵיר וַאֵיר וִימֵי הַפּוּרִים הַאֵּלָה לַא יַעַבְרוּ מִתְּוֹדְ הַיְהוּדִים וְזִכָרָם לְא־יָסָוּף <u>מַזּרְע</u>ַם:

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(29) Queen Esther, the daughter of Aviḥayil, and Mordecai the Jew wrote authoritatively to confirm this Purim letter a second time. (30) They sent letters to all the Jews in the 127 provinces in the kingdom of Aḥashveirosh, words of "peace and faithfulness," (31) to confirm these days of Purim at their proper season, just as Mordecai the Jew did, and now Queen Esther, just as they confirmed upon themselves and their descendants the fasts and their liturgy of grieving. (32) Esther's command confirmed the regulations of Purim, and

it was recorded in a written instruction.

כט ווּתִכְתֹב אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה בַת־אֲבִיחֵיָל וּמִרְדֵּכֵי הַיְּהוּדָי אֶת־כָּל־תִּקָף לְקַיֵּם אֵת וּמִרְדֵּכֵי הַיְהוּדָי אֶת־כָּל־תִּקָף לְקַיֵּם אֵת אָגֶרֶת הַפָּרֵים הַזֹּאת הַשִּׁנְית: ל וַיִּשְׁלֵח סְכָּרִים אָגָרֶת הַפָּרֵים הַזֹּאת הַשִּׁנְית: ל וַיִּשְׁלֵח סְכָּרִים אָל־כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים אֶל־שָׁבַע וְעָשְׁרֵים וּמֵאָה מְדִינָה מַלְכָוּת אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹש דִּבְרֵי שָׁלוֹם וֵאֱמֶת לא לְקַזֶּם אֶת־יְמֵי הַפָּרִים הָאֵלֶה בִּזְמַנֵיהֶם הַמַּלְכָּה וְכַאֲשֶׁר קִיְמוּ עַל־נַפְשָׁם וְעַל־זִרְעֶם הַמַּלְכָּה וְכַאֲשֶׁר קוּמוּ וַזְעַקַתֵם: לב וּמַאֲמַר אֶסְתֵּר קַזֶּם דָּבְרֵי הַצּוֹמוֹת וְזַעֲקַתֵם: לַב וּמַאֲמַר אֶסְתֵּר כַּמַלְכָּה וְכַאֲשָׁר הַיָּמוּ וַזַים הָאֵלָה וְנִכְתָּב בַּסַמָּרַים





(1) King Ahashveirosh set a tax on the land and the coasts. (2) All his powerful and majestic acts, and the account of the elevation of Mordecai whom the king advanced—are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? (3) For Mordecai the Jew ranked second to King Ahashveirosh. He was a great man among the Jews and was popular with the vast number of his brethren, seeking the good for his people, and promoted the welfare of their descendants.

א וַיָּשֶׁם הַמֶּלֶדְ אחשרש (אֲחַשְׁוַרָשׁ) מֵס עַל־הָאָרֶץ וְאִיֵּי הַיֶּםּ: בּ וְכָל־מִעֲשֵׂה תָקְפּוֹ וּגְבַוּרָתוֹ וּפָרַשַׁת גַּדַלַת מְרְדָּכַי אֲשֶׁר גִּדְּלָו הַמֶּלֶדְ הַלוֹא־הַם פְתוּבִים עַל־מַפֶר דִּבְרַי הַמָּלֶדְ הַלוֹא־הַם פְתוּבִים עַל־מַפָר דִּבְרַי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי מִדַי וּפָרֶס: ג פֵי | מְרְדָכַי הַיָּהוּדִי מִשְׁנֶה לַמֵּלֶדְ אֲחַשְׁוֹרוֹש וְגָדוֹל הַיְהוּדִים וְרָצוּי לְרֵב אֶחָיו דְּרֵשׁ טוֹב לַעַמּׁו וִדֹבֵר שָׁלוֹם לָכָל־זַרְעוֹיּ

*It is customary for the congregation to recite this verse before the reader.

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