

SAMPLE: “AN ALADDIN PURIMSPIEL!”

New Purim Lyrics by Rabbi Billy Dreskin & Cantor Ellen Dreskin
Music adapted from Disney’s “Aladdin”

_____ Our story begins pretty much as all stories do, with once upon a time. Once upon a time, there was a king, and he had a queen. Only, he didn’t like his queen, so he decided he’d find himself a new queen. He held a kingdom-wide beauty contest, in order to see all available women from which he might choose his new wife ...

As this reader begins to tell the story, cantor begins to chant the megillah. The reader fades out very soon after cantor begins.

_____ Chant 1:1 (megillah held high).

_____ *It happened in the days of King Ahashuerus, who reigned over a hundred & twenty-seven provinces - from India to Nubia. In those days, when King Ahashuerus occupied the royal throne in Shushan, in the third year of his reign, he gave a banquet for all the officials and administrators of Persia and Medea. He threw a royal bash for all the nobles and the governors of all the provinces in his kingdom.*

_____ King Ahashuerus thought it would be a great idea for his guests to meet his wife, Queen Vashti. But all he was really interested in doing was showing off her beauty, a party idea which Vashti (who was a pretty together lady) did not like. She refused to be paraded before her husband’s drinking buddies.

_____ Well, as you might imagine, King Ahashuerus was rather upset that his wife refused to obey him. And he was embarrassed too, what with all his buddies watching and making fun of him that he couldn’t control his wife very well.

_____ So King Ahashuerus, in all his vast wisdom, decided to make Vashti an example -- so that other men’s wives wouldn’t go and start having ideas of their own -- and he banished Vashti from the kingdom (that means he threw her out of his home, and he made her move to another country).

_____ Now King Ahashuerus had a problem: no wife. And that made him lonely. So he ordered a royal proclamation be read throughout his kingdom, announcing a royal beauty contest to look for a new queen. And so it was done. From across the nation, eligible young ladies heard the news, and each wondered if she might be the lucky one to be chosen by the king. A man by the name of Mordechai had very specific ideas as to who might win that contest.

Song: ESTHER (to the tune of “Arabian Nights”)

Mordechai had a plan.
Knew he had just the girl
Who could sweep the king off his feet.

She was wise, she had brains,
She had style, like a pearl,
‘Tho she wasn’t Shushan’s elite.

Mordechai told his cou-
-sin to put on her best.
C’m on Es-
-ther, let’s have some fun.

Stop and think,
You're eighteen,
Maybe our newest queen.
It's no long shot; you could be the one!

Arabian girls
Came from miles around.
They're chances were shot,
'Cuz Esther was hot --
The winner, hands down.

Arabian girls
Came from miles around.
But Esther was best.
Her sweet head would rest
Beneath the queen's crown.

_____ So Esther, amazingly, became Queen Esther, moved in with the king, and began living quite a ritzy life. Her cousin Mordechai, meanwhile, took a walk into town and overheard a sinister plot to kill King Ahashuerus. When the coast was clear, Mordechai stole away to the palace and told queen esther. She then warned the king, the would-be assassins were caught, and the king was saved!

Cast Hooray!

_____ But while Mordechai's brave deed was being recorded in the king's official chronicles, something even more dangerous was unfolding. An evil, dispicable and vile man -- a direct descendant of that arch-foe of Israel, Amalek -- was appointed as prime minister, King Ahashuerus' number one, his right hand man. This loathsome louse's name? Haman!

_____ The king ordered that his prime minister was to be treated with the same honor given him, which included bowing down and kneeling low when in the presence of royalty. But while Jews may bow down to royalty, they may never bow down to a descendant of Amalek. And that means never bow down to Haman!

_____ And that's exactly what Mordechai did (or rather, did not do). When the prime minister saw this, he was furious. He was incensed. He was in a tizzy. He decided, right then and there, to do away with all the Jews. "That'll teach 'em," he hissed, "it'll be a long, long time before they ever think again about hassling Haman!"

_____ Chant 3:7 (megillah held high).

_____ *In the first month, that is, the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahashuerus, pu-reem, which means "lots," were cast before Haman, concerning every day and every month. The pu-reem fell on the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar.*