



## **The Purim Story, jkidphilly style**

Retold by Lisa Litman

A long time ago in the land of Persia many people lived and worked happily and peacefully together. The capital city was Shushan where the King's palace was. The King's name was Achashverosh. He wasn't such a great king. King Achashverosh was more interested in parties than in running the kingdom.

One night the king threw a party for his guy friends. King Achashverosh got bored. "Bring Queen Vashti to dance for my guests!" Vashti was having her own party for her lady friends, and she told the king "NO, I DO NOT want to dance!"

The king was furious! "How dare you say NO. You cannot be the queen any more!! Queen Vashti went away and never returned. Then the king got lonely. "Send for all the interested and unmarried women in the kingdom so I can choose a new queen."

Across town lived a man named Mordechai. He was a wise man. He had a niece named Esther. "Esther, you should be queen. You are smart, and you are kind to everyone. Go to the palace - but don't tell anyone yet that you are Jewish."

The women of Shushan came to the palace. They dressed in their fanciest clothes and jewels, but Esther wanted to be seen and known for who she was on the inside, not what she wore on the outside. The King chose Esther.

King Achashverosh was still more interested in fun than work, so he appointed a new prime minister to do his work for him. His name was Haman. Haman did not care about anyone but himself. He wanted money and power. "Here is my first new rule. Whenever I walk by, I want everyone to bow down to me like I am God.

Mordechai refused. "You're a man, you're not God."

Haman was shocked and angry. "I'll get revenge on Mordechai and his family and the Jewish people!" Mordechai went to speak with his niece, Queen Esther. "Esther, now is the time to tell the king you are Jewish and save our people."

"Uncle, I'm afraid. You know no one, not even the queen, can visit the king without an invitation." But Esther knew she had to do the right thing. She prayed for three days, "Give me strength and courage." She went to the king - and "Esther, my queen, how wonderful to see you. What can I do for you?"



“Come to a party at my palace. And bring Haman.”

“Hooray! I love parties!”

At the party the king said, “Esther my queen, my love, what can I do for you?”

“Come to another party - and another.” Finally at the third party the king once again asked

“My queen, what can I do for you?”

“Save me and my family and my people from the man who would hurt us - HAMAN!”

“Why would he hurt you and your family?”

“Haman has sworn revenge against the Jewish people - and I am Jewish.”

“Haman, you and your family are banished forever. My queen, I see you are smart and beautiful.”

“My Uncle has been my teacher.”

“Let him be my new prime minister!”

Mordechai made a great prime minister. His first new law was that all people should be proud to be who they are and respectful to others.

And to that we say - AMEN!