

Venture into Purim



The Purim Story

For 2-6 year olds:

A long time ago, many Jewish people lived in the country of Persia. The king loved to give big parties in his palace. At one of his parties, he wanted the queen to dance for his guests, but she did not want to so she said no. The king got so angry that she wouldn't do what he said, so he sent her away and started to look for a new queen. He chose a beautiful and kind woman named Esther and she became the new queen. She was Jewish, but the king didn't know it.

One day, the king's helper, a mean and greedy man named Haman was walking down the street and telling everyone to bow down to him. One man said he would not bow. He said, "I am a Jew and I don't bow to anyone!" This brave man's name was Mordechai and he was Queen Esther's cousin.

This made Haman angry and he decided to punish all the Jews. One night, Esther invited the King and Haman to a party so that she could tell the King in front of Haman that he planned to hurt her.

"I don't want to hurt you," exclaimed Haman, "You are my Queen."

"Well, you want to hurt the Jewish people and I am Jewish!" The King was shocked. He had no idea that his queen was a Jew! He immediately took Haman's job away and sent him away. The Jews were very happy. They sang and danced and gave big parties, which is how we celebrate the holiday of Purim today.

"Nobody says 'no' to the King! Vashti will no longer be my queen!" Ahashverosh sent Vashti away from the palace and called all young women to the palace so that he could choose a new queen. One was a Jewish girl named Esther. She did not want to go, but her cousin, Mordechai, said she must.

The King chose the beautiful and kind Esther to be his queen. Meanwhile, Haman, a selfish, mean, and greedy man who was the King's assistant, would walk down the streets and tell everyone to bow down to him. People were afraid of him so they bowed down to him as he ordered. But there was one man who refused to.

"I won't bow down to any man," he said, "I bow down only to my God." This brave man was Queen Esther's cousin Mordechai! Haman decided to punish all the Jews because of Mordechai, without knowing that Queen Esther was Jewish or that she was Mordechai's cousin.

One day, Mordechai was standing outside the palace walls when he overheard two guards whispering about harming the King. Mordechai warned the King and saved him. The King was grateful and to reward Mordechai, gave him his best clothes to wear and told Haman to lead him through the streets of Shushan on the King's beautiful horse. This made Haman even angrier and more determined to punish all the Jews. One night, Esther invited the King and Haman to a party so that she could tell the King in front of Haman that he planned to hurt her.

"I don't want to hurt you," exclaimed Haman, "You are my Queen."

"Well," responded Esther, "you want to hurt the Jewish people and I am Jewish!" The King was shocked. He had no idea that his queen was a Jew! He immediately took Haman's job away from him and gave it to Mordechai.

The Jews were very happy. They sang and danced and gave big parties, which is how we celebrate the holiday of Purim today.

For ages 7+

A long time ago, many Jewish people lived in the city of Shushan in the country of Persia. The king and queen of this country were named King Ahashverosh (A-hash-vay-rosh), and Queen Vashti. King Ahashverosh loved to give big parties in his palace. At one of his parties, he wanted Queen Vashti to dance for his guests. Vashti did not want to dance, so she sent a message that she would not attend the King's party.