

A PURIM STORY
By Rabbi Herbert Baumgard
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~~To be abetted by cartoon drawings as the narrators speak.~~

~~OR~~ *narrators could be attired in costumes.*

AHASUERUS, KING OF PERSIA: MY NAME IS AHASUERUS. A GALLANT KING YOU SEE. My kingdom runs a thousand miles, from mountain to the sea. I like to drink, I like to eat, I like a pretty girl. I said to Queen Vasti once, my Lady, take a twirl. But she refused to dance and sent my blood into a boil (birl).

I searched the country round for a maid to take her place. From far and near the ladies came, as if it were a race. Some were lean and some were fat; some were short or tall. But, gosh, I didn't go for even one of them, at all!

ESTHER: MY NAME IS ESTHER, A GALLANT DAME, YOU SEE. BEHIND ME RUN A THOUSAND MEN, to see what they can see. But I have no use for any man, who does not offer rings. And when it comes to marriage, I prefer rings from kings!

When Ahasuerus lost his queen who for him refused to dance. I visited him in court one day and set him in a trance. He sent away all others maids, and took me in his arms. He said, "Oh stay with me I pray, I'm dazzled by your charms."

HAMAN: (wringing hands) MY NAME IS HAMAN, A SCHEMING SKUNK, YOU SEE. Upon my sword a thousand notches of men who used to be. If you would live and not become a notch upon my sword Than bow your knee, when me you see, and kneel before your lord.

What! Look at yonder fellow there, who walks so proud and brave. He walks right by; he does not kneel; an insult from a knave! I'll have his head. He'll soon be dead. I'll hang him from a tree. Let no one live who is so crude as not to honor me!

ESTHER: YON HAMAN HAS upset my plans. He has declared a law. All Jews must die, my uncle, too, my maw and my paw. But what he does not know is that I am a Jewess too! He'll soon find out, what happens, when you tangle with a Jew.

I shall prepare a banquet scene, with steak and with wine.
King and queen and Haman mad shall all sit down to dine.
Then while we sup and drink, I shall ask a favor of the king.
And get his view of this most scandalous thing.

AHASUERUS: Truly, Esther, dear, this is a sumptuous meal.
For dessert, my sweet, might I just one/kiss steal?
Yon Haman will his face turn way while we do pitch our woo
And if he dares to look around, this day fore'er he'll rue.

ESTHER: Oh, master mine let me this say.
Thou art both good and kind.
Yet ere we pitch out little woo
There is a nasty business to do.
Yon Haman would do me ill.
He, the queen, would like to kill.

AHASUERUS: WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY at this great feast!
DO YOU IMPLY HAMAN'S A BEAST?
How dare he look upon my wife
With plans of taking way her life.

'TIS beauty 'gainst the beast I fear
Who would his own queen destroy
Even though he thought she was a goy.

PAUSE

GALLOWS: I AM THE GALLOWS, TALL AND HIGH, YOU SEE
Upon my frame a thousand men have ceased to be.
Behold the elegance of my noose.
Waiting for the necks of Jews.

What's that I see before my eyes?
Whose body is this that starts to rise.
It looks like Haman who had me made.
The blood in his face does seem to fade.

Sure enough his day has come.
A welcome ending for a bum.
To you, Oh Haman, let me say with love
From me and the world, mazal tov!