

Songs: Fiddler on the Roof, Purimspiel

MEGILLAH! (to the tune of "Tradition")

Megillah, megillah, megillah!
Megillah, megillah, megillah!

_____ *Here in Shushan, we've come to expect a lot from our kings. A lot of taxes. A lot of corruption. And a lot of... how can I say this delicately ... words that don't exactly inspire us. You may ask, why do we stay in Shushan? I'll tell you – I don't know. We're "pur" people, and living here is our "lot." We stay because Shushan is our home. And if the King wants to make a fool of himself, we'll then, at least it's our king who's playing the fool.*

- I. Ahashuerus thought he'd be a smarty
Throw a royal party
Only men allowed
Then seven days later, in a fit of boredom,
Sought a visit by the queen.

Queen Vashti, Queen Vashti, megillah!
Queen Vashti, Queen Vashti, megillah!

- II. Vashti was the victim who declined to come
To save the face of the royal bum.
Wouldn't dance before the men in just her crown.
She earned a one-way ticket out of town.

King Bachelor, King Bachelor, megillah!
King Bachelor, King Bachelor, megillah!

- III. So now a new queen must be found.
The search would take a year.
They'd have to find a bride for him who's oh - so pretty.

Hadassah, a queen, megillah!
Hadassah, a queen, megillah!

- IV. So Esther, though a Jew,
Decided to step in.
Her cousin Mordechai,
He was certain she could win.

A contest, a contest, megillah!
A contest, a contest, megillah!

_____ *Life can be quite exciting here in Shushan. A king banishes his queen. A simple girl from the shtetl is offered the royal crown. A sinister plot develops in the king's inner court. A little something for everyone! We don't bother them, and for the most part, they don't bother us.*

_____ *And among ourselves, we get along perfectly well. Of course there was the time when Kishka and Pupik argued over that time the King gave his State-of-the-Kingdom message and everybody thought it was a lot of ... how can I say this delicately ... well ... (whispered) that which emerges from the rear end of a horse.*

_____ *It was a mule!*

_____ *It was a horse!*

Cast 1 *It was a mule!*

Cast 2 *It was a horse!*

Cast 1 *Mule!*

Cast 2 *Horse!*

Megillah, megillah, megillah!
Megillah, megillah, megillah!

HAMAN'S PLOT (to the tune of "If I Were a Rich Man")

Gotta bow to Haman
Tho he isn't what we'd call a hero, model, or a mensch.
Says we've got to grovel and obey
Or he's going to make us pay.

Really has an ego
And he thinks the sun will rise and set according to his will.
In reality, he is a fool –
Not a jewel, a really cruel man.

One day while on the town surveying his subjects,
Who should he meet but Mordechai,
An honest Jew just out for a daily trek.
But when the royal guards insisted he bow to Haman, he patently refused,
For Haman's line was that of Amalek.

'Twas in our journey through the desert that Amalek,
He attacked us from behind.
We are told remember and don't forget.
But Mordechai's refusal didn't sit well with Haman, so evil and unkind.
Swore Haman to himself, "I'll get them yet."
[sigh]

Cast some lots called *pu-reem*²
To determine on what day he would initiate his plan.
Told the king about those awful Jews,
Disobeying his command.

King Ahashuerus granted Haman an appointment at a quarter after six.
Haman told the king, "I've awful news. Someone's playing dirty politics."
Then Haman told the king about a certain people, scattered across his royal realm,
Instituting laws of their own devise.
"Although they've lived a long time in town, they don't belong here.
Oy! Prob'ly settled here from Chelm.
Tolerating them just isn't wise."

"Your majesty, we must prepare an edict to destroy.
Their contempt for you is heinous.
We must stop them in their tracks.
If you please, your Highness. Pardon me, your Highness.
I've a few maneuvers that we should deploy.
Boi – boi boi boi – boi boi boi – boi."

Haman told the King that he'd pay the costs to terminate the Jews.
"Such a fine *metziah*³, don't you know?"

² Hebrew for "lots."

³ Hebrew for "a bargain."

Ten thousand talents⁴ is a steal for the joy of seeing my vision come to pass.
Far more than a first-class round-the-world cruise.
To watch this abject people meet their new savior,
Paying respect to me *en masse*.
Such an option I would gladly choose.”
[sigh]

Thereupon the king, he
Took his signet ring and slipped it off the finger on his hand.
Gave it to *Hamahn* and said these words,
“They are all at your command.”
Thus, he got permission
To attack and to destroy us on the thirteenth of Adar.
Mordechai, whatever does this mean?
Can we stop the devilish machine?
We must find someone to intervene?
You must go and see the queen!!

⁴ A measure of silver.

ENLISTING ESTHER (to the tune of “Miracle of Miracles”)

Esther sent servants on the sly to Mordechai.
“What’s with the sackcloth? Why so down?
Shushan is quite the place to be. It’s good for me.
What would give you cause to frown?”

Mordechai told her, “Esther, don’t you read the news?
Your precious king has sealed our fate.
Bad for the Jews. There really is no time to lose.
Talk to him. Don’t hesitate!”

But Esther said, “That’s suicide!
Marching before the king.
Demanding that he abort this genocide,
That would be suicide too.
So although I love you, dear Mordechai.
On this solution, you can’t rely.
For although I am queen of all I see,
A hero I will never be.”

Mordechai couldn’t let her make this big mistake.
“Esther, please don’t think me unkind.
But if we’re saved in spite of you, with what you knew,
You might just as well resign.”

So Esther finally came to see.
She had a job to do.
But she couldn’t do it without company.
All had a job to do, too.

So she told her cousin to alert the Jews,
To pray and fast or she was bound to lose.
And then three days later, armed with strength and grace,
In history she took her place.

DINING WITH ESTHER (to the tune of "Matchmaker, Matchmaker")

After no food and no drink for three days,
Esther got dressed, spirit ablaze.
Entered the throne room which harbored the king
With whom she'd be reasoning.

Akhashverosh saw his bride right away,
Lifted his staff, started to say,
"Esther my queen, tell me what's your desire.
I'll grant all that you require."

Then Esther, tense and uneasy,
Came forward and began to express,
"Oh, king, I wanted to ask you
To stop by with Haman to *nosh* and *fress*."

Moved and delighted, the king answered, "Yes!"
Sent Haman word, "Hurry. Get dress(ed).
Didn't you hear Esther bidding us to
Partake of a lavishly
Royal stew."

"Heshy and Haman. I've got a surprise for you!
It's tasty. It's rich. It comes with a fondue.
Join me tomorrow for a bar-be-cue!
That made each man so happy
Their hearts were filled with light
Which went together with
An appetite."

Later, when Haman was out by the palace gate,
Saw something down there
That made him so irate.
Each person but Mordechai stood up. Yup.
Which made that man so angry, his soul was filled with bile.
He told his wife what happened. It took a while.

Haman spoke about his children and of his unbounded wealth,
Of his royal promotion and Esther's great cooking,
And his clean bill of health.
But when he mentioned his foe Mordechai,
How he did burn cuz of that guy,
Zeresh his wife and their friends all replied,
"Why not have him mortified?"

Delighted, Haman stood up and announced that he'd

Go right to the king.
Before they gather with Esther,
This link he'll be severing!

Tho it was late and about time to crash,
Haman was out the door in a flash.
Off to the king long before their next bash.
He'd get Mordechai. Put him away.
Polish him off. Send him out west.
Be rid of this loathsome pest!

SONG: BEING JEWISH
BEING JEWISH (to the tune of "To Life")

*lyrics to *Being Jewish* slightly rewritten by the TBI Purim Spiel production company

Hats off to be-ing Jewish!
It's wondrously precious to us.
Thanks to our forebears in Shushan time
Esther and Mordechai
Purim makes us rejoice!

Rejoice, rejoice on Purim!
A mix of high spirits and fun
Life has a way of amazing us
Like Esther saving us
Drink to Purim, to Life

We'll raise a glass and nosh some hamentaschen
Honoring the luck that followed Shushan's Jews
G-d would like us to remember
Haman's evil plot did not destroy the Jews!

To Mordechai, to Esther
They knew just what had to be done
May generations still yet to be,
Cherish their liberty
Give thanks to those who won

The king Ah-chash-ve-rosh he decreed the Jews would flourish,
He gave Mor-de-chai the news he wanted to hear!
Haman has departed leaving Shushan free from strife
Mean old Haman Paid his dues and gave up his life!

Now we celebrate on 14 Adar every year
twirl your groggers chant the megillah sing it loud and clear

Give a gift on Purim, fill a basket, do a mitzvah,
Mishloach manot makes our Purim complete
Matanot L'evyonim don't forget to help the needy.
Special gifts on Purim, make the day a treat.

To us and our great story! Be happy, be healthy, long life!
They tried to kill us, we won, let's eat!
That's Jewish history
This story can't be beat.

We close now the Megillah
Our story from ancient Shushan
The heroes, villains, and plots that twist
Could be a perfect fit
Coming soon to Netflix

It is a story ever so much more than
Verses that were written many years ago
Let's make a movie, bring it to the big screen
Maybe Mr Spielberg will make it his next Show

Hats on to being Jewish!
No matter the challenge in life,
We're going to reach out for one and all,
Learn much and stand up tall.
Be l'chayim ... to life!