

**Narrator #1:** This is the month of Adar, and Purim has come along  
We celebrate with food, masquerade, and song  
Enjoy, enjoy, adult and child  
We're allowed to drink and have a time so wild  
A tale will be told of what it was to be a Jew  
"A fact that is boring is not true"  
Isaac Bashevis Singer is the author of that quote  
It is of the Purim story that he took note

**Narrator #2:** Faced with a powerful villain who decreed to see them dead  
The Jews of ancient Persia, in the Megillah it is said  
Let the king know of Haman's evil plot  
And before even one could draw his lot  
Haman was destroyed, Esther came to the Jews' defense  
But sometimes things happen that do not make sense  
But we'll retell the story for your enjoyment and your pleasure  
For the story of this holiday is a Jewish history treasure

**Narrator #2:** Long ago in Persia, which is now called Iran  
There was royal ruler, a very powerful man  
His name was Ahasuerus, and Vashti was his queen  
At many a palace party, Ahasuerus could be seen

**N3:** And interesting it is according to the story  
For 180 days he displayed his majesty and glory  
At the end of this time he gave a banquet for seven days  
To show off for the Shushanites in so many different ways.  
The food was abundant and so many varied dishes!  
Palace stewards were commanded to comply with each man's wishes.  
Wine flowed freely and the king was staunch in his convictions  
That the rule for the drinking was that there were no restrictions!

**Ahashverosh:** I rule all of Persia and provinces by the score  
The total is 127, but perhaps there are more  
Shushan is the capital, a very lively place indeed  
For here live many people of every race and creed  
There are Persians, Indians, and many a Jew  
Medes and Babylonians to name but a few

**Narrator #1:** The people who resided here have a happy life  
But it won't be long before the Jews feel terror and strife

**Narrator #2:** So Ahasuerus planned a party for each and every guest

**Ahashverosh:** I want this party to be one of my best.

**Narrator #1:** Vashti was permitted to have a party blast  
Little did she know that this one would be her last  
The party went on for many a day and night

When finally no one could eat even one more bite  
The food was so delicious it all tasted fine  
Ahasuerus said

**Ahashverosh:** Serve the kingdom's finest wine  
I have a wonderful kingdom, I have a royal life  
My rule is undisputed, I have a beautiful wife.  
As a matter of fact it would please me so  
If Vashti's great beauty I were able to show.  
Zeresh go for my wife and command her to appear  
I am so greatly pleased when her beauty is so near.

**Narrator #4:** Now Zeresh went along with the eunuchs who served the king  
They went to Vashti's quarters in the palace's women's wing  
If Vashti obeyed then all would be quite right in the king's domain  
But if she refused wifely chaos would surely reign  
For refusing her husband would not be so wise  
Because if she did then all women would then despise  
Their very own husbands because Vashti had said no  
This would not do and the king's advisors told him so

**Zeresh:** Queen Vashti, excuse me, I know your partying with the gals  
But Ahasuerus wants to see you, to show you off to his pals.

**Narrator #2:** Well she became quite upset, she really showed her ire  
From ranting and raving she did not soon tire, she said

**Vashti:** Oh my husband, so crass and so glib  
Has he never =, ever heard of women's lib?  
Perhaps over Persia he can spread his rule  
But what he is really, is a drunken fool.  
I am a princess of Babylon, that is my role in life  
It is more important than to simply be his wife!  
Who are you anyway to be barging in unannounced  
I am the queen and I should have you bounced.

**Zeresh:** My name is Zeresh, I am Haman's lady  
And your nasty attitude is really rather shady  
Now if you don't mind I have a message to convey  
And I have a feeling that it is really going to make your day  
You must come now, I know the King does await  
And to make him angry, we all would hate

**Vashti:** I will not obey, I will not do his bidding  
Please do tell me, that he is kidding.

**Zeresh:** You really should reconsider, you surely must obey  
For if you don't, you'll be sent from here today.

**Vashti:** You have my word, now go to the King  
Tell him I will not take part in his macho thing

**Zeresh:** I will go queen Vashti, but I go with regret  
To think of the punishment, for your actions, you will get

**Narrator #1:** When the king heard of her refusal, his temper flared , he roared,

**Ahashverosh:** How dare the queen disobey her husband, king and lord.  
This will never, never do, I am angry and ashamed  
My reputation's ruined, and Vashti is to be blamed.  
I love her very dearly, my love will never vanish  
But, sadly I must tell you, Vashti you must banish.

**Narrator# 3:** The king 's ministers said that all women must treat husbands with respect  
There would not be acceptance of spousal abuse or neglect  
The king had to accept this and serve as a role model for his flock  
This was the way it was and Vashti was in shock.

**Narrator #2:** Now there was in the king's court a man so cruel and sinister  
His name was Haman of Agag, who soon became prime minister  
He loudly agreed as to Vashti's fate  
For he thought his daughter would become the king's new mate  
The king missed Vashti, he would wail and moan,

**Ahashverosh:** I am the king of Persia, I should not be alone,  
Please my dear ministers if you love your king  
Please find a maiden to whom I can give a wedding ring  
Go into the countryside, go into the city  
Find a girl obedient and she also must be pretty,  
Please do your very best, hurry do not tarry  
Find the best maiden for your king to marry.

**Narrator #1:** Now it happened that in Shushan all men were not so very bright  
Though some of them were able to read well and to write  
One of these was Mordechai and he became a scribe extraordinaire  
He also was the guardian of Hadassah, young and fair.  
She was an orphan baby, whom Mordechai did raise  
For her exceptional beauty, she oftentimes received much praise. Mordechai said

**Mordechai:** Dearest niece, when the ministers see your face  
They'll stop in their tracks, then to the palace race  
To tell the king of your beauty, your fairness, and your eyes so blue  
But never, never tell them you are a Jew.