

Brave Queen Esther Saves her People from Genocide

About 5 minutes, from the Book of Esther

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Mordecai

King

Esther

Haman

Prompter

Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes

Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Mordecai

Captain of the Guard!

Prompter & Echoes

Come quickly!

Mordecai

Captain, I overheard a plot to slay king Ahasuerus.
Sir, even though we Jews are here in exile,
we respect and obey the king that God has put over us.

Prompter & Echoes

We are loyal!

Mordecai

The captain promises to enter my report in the royal record.

Haman

Hey! You there! You, Mordecai, bow before me, you filthy Jew!
I am Haman, the king's Chief-of-Staff. Bow, I say!

Mordecai

With all respect, Master Haman, God's people bow only to him.

Haman

Oh really! I'll tell the king how you seditious Jews rebel against us.
Then I will hang every last Jew in the kingdom on a gallows!
(*Laugh fiendishly. Then go to Esther and reach for her.*)
Hi, beautiful!

Esther

(*Slap Haman's hand*) Don't touch me!

Mordecai

Esther, my niece, listen to me.
You are my daughter now that your father has died.
Now the king is furious with his insubordinate wife, Vashti,
He's holding a beauty pageant to choose another queen.
You'll win it!

Esther

I'm no beauty queen, uncle Mordecai, and I've nothing to wear!

Prompter & Echoes

We will fix you up!

Mordecai

We prepare Esther. We pray, and she is now our queen!

Prompter & Echoes

Beautiful Queen Esther!

Mordecai

Meanwhile, sneaky Haman works out his evil plot. `Hear him lie.

Haman

Long live the King!
A rebellious people are plotting to destroy you, O King!
You must make a decree to exterminate them all.

King

Well done, Haman. Write the decree and I will seal it;
the law of the Medes and Persians cannot be broken.

Mordecai

Haman gleefully builds a very high gallows to hang all Jews.
He alerts all the land to slay us on the appointed day.

Prompter & Echoes Destined to die!

Mordecai Esther, you must intercede for us.
For this purpose God put you in the court at this time.

Esther But anyone entering the king's presence unbidden is slain at once!

Mordecai After much prayer, brave Queen Esther takes the risk.

Prompter & Echoes Courageous girl!

King Hey! I hear someone coming unbidden. Captain of the guard!
Bring swords! No, wait! It's Queen Esther!

Esther *(Approach King and bow.)*
If I've found favor in the king's sight, accept my invitation
to a banquet for you and Haman.

Prompter & Echoes A private banquet!

Haman Now see how high my gallows are for those rebel Jews! Ha!
How important I am! Even Queen Esther invited me to a banquet
just for me and the king.

Mordecai The king cannot sleep that night, and reads the royal records.

King Haman! I read that Mordecai averted a seditious conspiracy.
Put my royal robe on him, and put him on my horse.
Lead him through the city! Shout that he's the man that I honor.

Haman But, my Lord, Mordecai is a Jew!

King Do as I say, Haman! Be back in time for Esther's banquet.

Esther That evening, I host the King and Haman.

King Queen Esther, I'll grant your petition, even to half of my kingdom.

Esther O king, if I've found favor in your sight, please rescue my people.

Prompter & Echoes Spare our lives!

King *(Shout)* What? What did you say?

Esther We've been sold, my Lord. My people are to be annihilated.
If we'd just been sold as slaves,
I wouldn't have bothered your Majesty.

King Who dares to do such a wicked thing? Tell me!

Esther A foe and an enemy is this wicked Haman!

Haman *(Back away)* No! It's a mistake. A mistake, I say!

King Esther, who built those high gallows out there?

Esther This man Haman built them to hang all of us Jews.

King Captain, let the Jews defend themselves,
and hang Haman on his own gallows!

Prompter & Echoes God brings justice!