

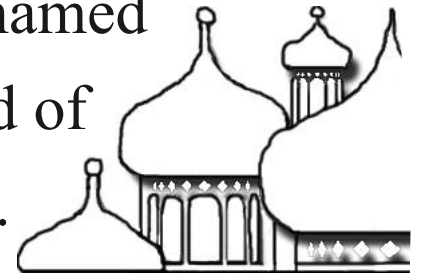
The

Story of Purim





Once upon a time there was a king named
ACHASHVEROSH who lived in the land of
SHUSHAN.



King Achashverosh  was a wishy-washy king.

He listened to whoever spoke to him first.

He liked being king, but he was not a good leader.

He was a not a wise person. Kings should be good and wise
leaders because they make important decisions and
people depend on them.

In the king's land, there lived a man named Haman.



Haman was the king's helper but he was not a nice man.



Haman was very proud and when people greeted him he wanted them to bow. But Jews do not bow down to anyone but God. That made

Haman angry, so angry that he didn't want to have anything to do



with people who would not play by his rules. If they

did not bow down to Haman



, then he wanted

them to just disappear!

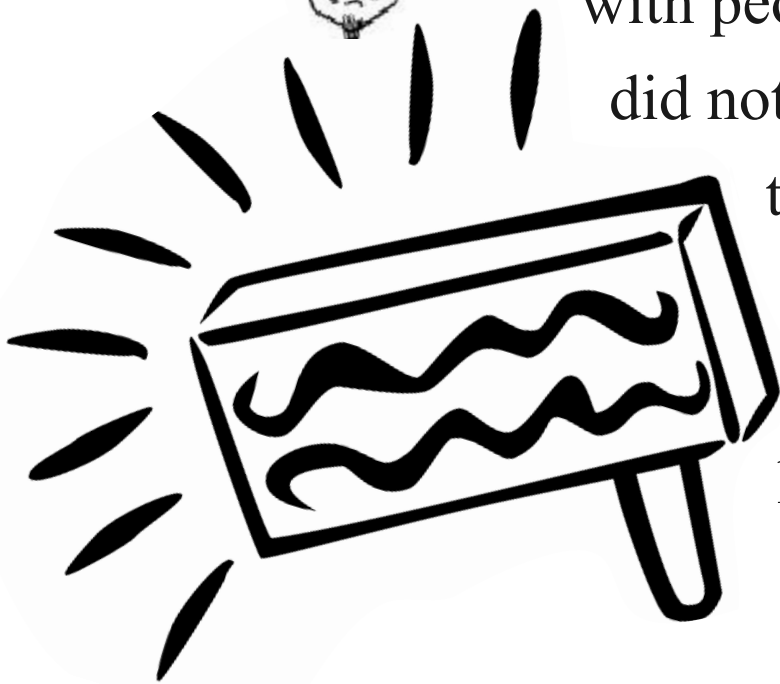


So Haman went to King Achashverosh

to say that the Jews should go away

and leave the

land because they won't bow down.



Because the king was wishy-washy, and because

Haman



was his friend, the king

gave his permission even

though he knew it was wrong.



A thoughtful, young woman named
Esther also lived in Shushan.

Like you,



she was Jewish, too.



Although Esther



seemed quiet, she actually was

very brave. Esther

didn't think that it was fair to be forced to

leave her country because of Haman's problems. Because she was brave

and smart, Esther



decided to tell King Achashverosh



how



she felt. She went





to the king and told him that






Haman

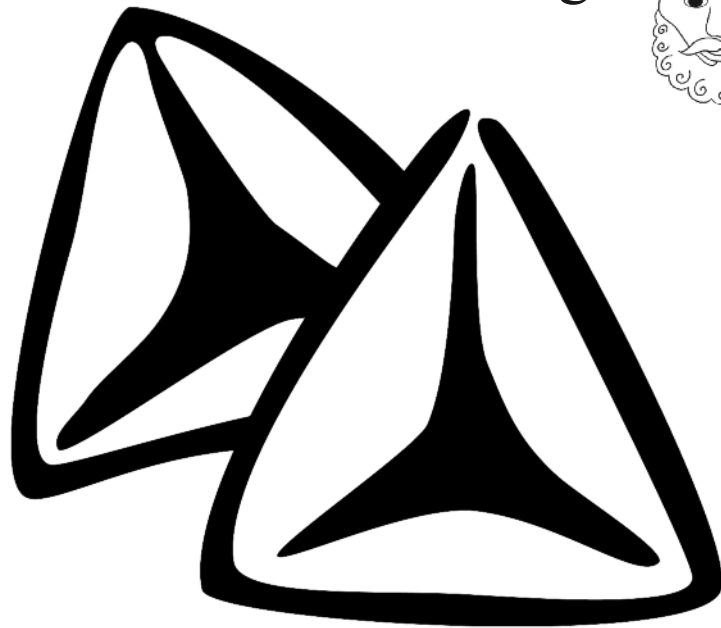


was planning was neither wise nor fair.

She said, “King Achashverosh , you can't please all the people all the time. Some day Haman  might want to do away with you!”

The king said, “Esther,  you are wise. Be our country's queen  and together we  will rule the people with love.” 

The king fired Haman  from his job as king's helper, and the people were so happy about Esther's  bravery and the king's  wise decision that they  made a holiday called Purim  to celebrate their happy feelings.



“And there was light,
joy, gladness and
honor for all Jews.”

פורים שמחה!

Happy

Purim!

