

**Megillah Madness:**

**“A HUNCHBACK PURIMSPIEL!”**

New Purim Lyrics by Rabbi Billy Dreskin & Cantor Ellen Dreskin

Music adapted from Disney’s *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*

\_\_\_ (quietly) Now listen, and you will hear the story ... of a monster and a man.

Cast And a woman.

\_\_\_ Yes, a man and a woman. It happened in a place far, far away from here. But the story ...

Cast Ahh, the story.

\_\_\_ The story is one that happens all the time, in every place ... whenever some people think they have the right to rule over others.

\_\_\_ But along come individuals who are willing to stand tall, and take upon themselves the dreams of thousands ... dreams to live freely and in peace. We call such people ...

Cast Heroes.

\_\_\_ Yes, heroes. So listen now ... to a story of heroes ... and monsters.

Song: **THE CITY OF SHUSHAN (“The Bells of Notre Dame”)**

Come now to Persia. Our story begins in the city of Shusan.  
No different from others in so many ways was the city of Shushan.  
It was home to the King of the nation,  
To his Queen, and his top echelon.  
Tonight, we’ll retrace the events that took place inside  
The city of Shushan.

*His name was Ahashuerus. And he was ruler over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces that stretched from Egypt across Saudi Arabia, Iran and Afghanistan, all the way to Pakistan and India. His throne was in Persia, in the fortress of Shushan. In the third year of his rule, boasting vast power, nearly limitless wealth, and a beautiful queen named Vashti, King Ahashuerus threw a great banquet for all his officials that lasted for six full months. He then gave a week-long banquet for all the men in his kingdom, while Queen Vashti did the same for the women.*

Day after day, they were feasting away in the city of Shushan.  
Plastered and sauced, the men all were exhausted from romping in Shushan.  
Ahashverosh called out for his Vashti.

Her allure would turn all his friends green.  
Green with envy, we mean, when they'd ogle his Queen here inside  
The city of Shushan.

Messengers were sent to Vashti; she was not amused.  
Busy at the women's feast; indignant, she refused.

*King Ahashuerus was flabbergasted. The Queen refused an order from her King? He consulted with his advisers as to how he could best manage his disobedient wife, and contain the damage she may have caused to his reputation. The royal sages minced no words with the King. They told him exactly what he had to do.*

“How will you reign when your Queen's such a pain in the city of Shushan?  
Men will be galled if wives sneer when they're called in the city of Shushan.  
Your response must be quick and decisive, for your wife she is no paragon.  
Kick her out! Cause a scene! And then find a new Queen from inside  
This royal city of Shushan.

Achasverosh agreed he had to find another wife,  
One who knew the status quo and wouldn't cause him strife.  
Told the Queen, “You're out of here! I'll find me someone new!  
Someone who will listen and do just exactly what ...  
I tell them to.”

The Queen's term expired when the King had her fired from the city of Shushan.  
He'd be no mouse. He'd be lord of his house!  
In the all-is-well-ish, pretty-swell-ish  
City of Shushan!

\_\_\_ So King Ahashuerus really showed Vashti – and all the women of Shushan – not to mess with their men.

\_\_\_ Oh yeah. But now he had a real problem!

Cast What s that?

\_\_\_ He had to find himself a new queen. Do you know where you have to look to find a new queen!?

Cast Woolworth's?

\_\_\_ No.

Cast Spencer Gifts?

\_\_\_ No.

Cast Sears?

\_\_\_ No! No! No! You've got to look everywhere!!

\_\_\_ Chant Esther 2:2-3.

\_\_\_ *The King's servants said: Bring all the beautiful women from throughout the realm. Let them assemble at the Shushan fortress, under the watch of Heh-gai, the King's guardian of the women.*

\_\_\_ *And let the girl who is most pleasing to King Ahashuerus become our new Queen.*

\_\_\_ It took over a year, but Ahashuerus found his queen.

\_\_\_ Her name was Esther. And the king just went ga-ga over her.