

because she hath not performed the commandment of HaMelech Achashverosh at the agency of the sarisim (eunuchs)?

| 16| And Memuchan answered before HaMelech and the sarim (princes), Vashti HaMalkah hath not done wrong to HaMelech only, but also to all the sarim (nobles), and to kol haAmim that are in all the provinces of HaMelech Achashverosh.

| 17| For this deed of HaMalkah shall spread abroad unto all the nashim (women, wives), so that they shall despise their be'alim (husbands) in their eyes, when it shall be reported that HaMelech Achashverosh commanded Vashti HaMalkah to be brought in before him, but she came not.

| 18| Likewise, when they will have heard of the conduct of HaMalkah, the sarot (ladies of the nobility) of Persia and Media shall similarly respond this day unto all the sarim (nobles) of HaMelech. Thus shall there arise too much bizzayon (contempt) and ketzef (wrath).

| 19| If it please HaMelech, let there go forth a royal decree from him, and let it be written in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, laws that shall not pass away, that Vashti come no more before HaMelech Achashverosh; and let HaMelech give her royalty unto another that is better than she.

| 20| And when the edict of HaMelech which he shall make shall be published throughout all his Malkhut (realm)—for it is great—all the nashim (women, wives) shall give to their be'alim (husbands) yekar (honor, respect), both to gadol and katan.

| 21| And the proposal was good in the eyes of HaMelech and the sarim (nobles); and HaMelech did according to the devar Memuchan;

| 22| For he sent sefarim into all the provinces of HaMelech, into every province according to the script thereof, and to every people after their leshon, that every ish should bear rule in his own bais, and speak in the leshon of his own people.

2 After these things, when the wrath of HaMelech Achashverosh was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

| 2| Then said the attendants of HaMelech that ministered unto him, Let there be beautiful ne'arot betulot (young virgins) sought for HaMelech;

| 3| And let HaMelech appoint pekidim (overseers) in all the provinces of his malkhut (kingdom, realm), that they may gather together all the beautiful na'arah betulah (young virgins) unto Shushan the capital, to the Bais HaNashim (House of the Women, Harem), unto the custody of Hegai the Saris HaMelech (the Eunuch of the King), the Shomer HaNashim (Custodian of the Women); and let their (bodily) rubbings be given them.

| 4| And let the na'arah which pleaseth HaMelech be Malkah (Queen) instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased HaMelech; and he did so.

| 5| Now in Shushan the capital there was an ish Yehudi, shmo Mordechai ben Yair ben Shim'i ben Kish, a Binyamini.

| 6| He had been carried away from Yerushalayim in the Golus among those taken

captive with Yechanyah Melech Yehudah, whom Nevuchadnetzar Melech Bavel had carried away.

| 7| And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Ester, the bat of his dod (uncle); for she had neither av nor em, and the na'arah was lovely in form and beautiful in appearance, whom Mordechai, when her av and em were dead, took for the bat of his own.

| 8| So it came to pass, when the commandment of HaMelech and his dat (decree, law) was heard, and when ne'arot rabbot (many maidens) were gathered together unto Shushan the capital, to the custody of Hegai, that Ester was brought also unto the Beis HaMelech, to the custody of Hegai, Shomer HaNashim.

| 9| And the na'arah pleased HaMelech, and she took up chesed before HaMelech; and he speedily had her be given her (bodily) rubbings, with her portion of special food; and also he selected sheva hane'arot (seven maids) for her from the Beis HaMelech; and he transferred her and her ne'arot to the preferred quarters in the Bais HaNashim.

| 10| Ester had not revealed her Am (People, *i.e.*, the Jewish people) nor her moledet (*kindred, i.e.*, her Jewishness), for Mordechai had charged her she should not show it.

| 11| And Mordechai walked kol yom vayom before the khatzer Bais HaNashim (courtyard of the House of the Women, Harem) to have da'as of the shalom Ester (welfare of Ester), and what would become of her.

| 12| Now before the turn of every na'arah came to go in to HaMelech Achashverosh, she had to complete the yemei merukeihen (the days of