

¹وَحَدَتْ فِي أَيَّامِ أَحْشَوِيرُوشَ. هُوَ أَحْشَوِيرُوشُ الَّذِي مَلَكَ مِنَ الْهِنْدِ إِلَى كُوشٍ عَلَى مِئَةِ وَسْعٍ وَعِشْرِينَ كُورَةً² أَنَّهُ فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ حِينَ جَلَسَ الْمَلِكُ أَحْشَوِيرُوشُ عَلَى كُرْسِيِّ مَلِكِهِ الَّذِي فِي شُوشَنَ الْقَصْرِ³ فِي السَّنَةِ الثَّالِثَةِ مِنْ مَلِكِهِ، عَمِلَ وَلِيمَةً لَجَمِيعِ رُؤَسَائِهِ وَعَبِيدِهِ جَيْشِ قَارِسَ وَمَادِي، وَأَمَامَهُ شُرَفَاءُ الْبُلْدَانِ وَرُؤَسَاؤُهَا⁴ حِينَ أَظْهَرَ عَنَى مَجْدِ مَلِكِهِ وَوَقَّارَ جَلَالِ عَظَمَتِهِ أَيَّامًا كَثِيرَةً، مِئَةً وَتَمَانِينَ يَوْمًا⁵ وَعِنْدَ انْقِضَاءِ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ عَمِلَ الْمَلِكُ لَجَمِيعِ الشَّعْبِ الْمَوْجُودِينَ فِي شُوشَنَ الْقَصْرِ مِنَ الْكَبِيرِ إِلَى الصَّغِيرِ وَلِيمَةً سَبْعَةَ أَيَّامٍ فِي دَارِ جَنَّةِ قِصْرِ الْمَلِكِ⁶ بِأَنْسِجَةٍ بَيَضَاءَ وَخَضِرَاءَ وَأَسْمَانُجُونِيَّةٍ مُعَلَّقَةٍ بِجِثَالٍ مِنْ بَرٍّ وَأَرْجَوَانٍ فِي خَلَقَاتٍ مِنْ فِصَّةٍ وَأَعْمِدَةٍ مِنْ رُحَامٍ وَأَسِرَّةٍ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَفِصَّةٍ، عَلَى مُجَرَّعٍ مِنْ تَهْتٍ وَمَرْمَرٍ وَدُرٍّ وَرُحَامٍ أَسْوَدَ⁷ وَكَانَ السَّقَاءُ مِنَ ذَهَبٍ وَالْأَيْنَةُ مُخْتَلِفَةً الْأَشْكَالِ، وَالْحَمُرُ الْمَلِكِيَّةُ يَكْتَرِي حَسَبَ كَرَمِ الْمَلِكِ⁸. وَكَانَ الشَّرْبُ حَسَبَ الْأَمْرِ. لَمْ يَكُنْ غَاصِبٌ لَأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا رَسَمَ الْمَلِكُ عَلَى كُلِّ عَظِيمٍ فِي بَيْتِهِ أَنْ يَعْمَلُوا حَسَبَ رِصَا كُلِّ وَاحِدٍ⁹ وَوَسَّيَ الْمَلِكَةُ عَمِلَتْ أَيْضًا وَلِيمَةً لِلنِّسَاءِ فِي بَيْتِ الْمَلِكِ الَّذِي لِلْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوِيرُوشَ¹⁰. فِي الْيَوْمِ السَّابِعِ لَمَّا طَابَ قَلْبُ الْمَلِكِ بِالْخَمْرِ قَالَ لِمَهُومَانَ وَبِزْثَا وَحَرْبُوثَا وَيَعْنَا وَأَبْنَعَا وَزَيْتَارَ وَكَزْكَسَ الْخِصْيَانِ السَّبْعَةَ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَخْدُمُونَ بَيْنَ يَدَيِ الْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوِيرُوشَ¹¹ أَنْ يَأْتُوا يَوْسَتِي الْمَلِكَةَ إِلَى أَمَامِ الْمَلِكِ يَتَاجُ الْمَلِكُ، لِيُرِيَ الشُّعُوبَ وَالرُّؤَسَاءَ جَمَالَهَا، لِأَنَّهُمْ كَانَتْ حَسَنَةً الْمُنْظَرِ¹² قَابَتِ الْمَلِكَةُ وَشَتِي أَنْ تَأْتِيَ حَسَبَ أَمْرِ الْمَلِكِ عَنْ يَدِ الْخِصْيَانِ. فَاعْتَاطَ الْمَلِكُ جِدًّا وَاشْتَعَلَ غَضَبُهُ فِيهِ¹³ وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ لِلْحُكَمَاءِ الْعَارِفِينَ بِالْأَرْمَةِ لَأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا كَانَ أَمْرُ الْمَلِكِ تَحَوَّ جَمِيعِ الْعَارِفِينَ بِالسُّنَّةِ وَالْقَضَاءِ¹⁴ وَكَانَ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ إِلَيْهِ كَرْشًا وَشَيْتَارَ وَأَدْمَاتًا وَتَرْشِيشَ وَمَرِسَ وَمَرِسَتًا وَمُموكَانَ، سَبْعَةَ رُؤَسَاءِ قَارِسَ وَمَادِي الَّذِينَ يَرَوْنَ وَجْهَ الْمَلِكِ وَيَجْلِسُونَ أَوَّلًا فِي الْمَلِكِ¹⁵ حَسَبَ السُّنَّةِ، مَاذَا يَعْمَلُ بِالْمَلِكَةِ وَشَتِي لِأَنَّهُمْ لَمْ يَفْعَلُوا كَقَوْلِ الْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوِيرُوشَ عَنْ يَدِ الْخِصْيَانِ¹⁶ فَقَالَ مُموَكَانُ أَمَامَ الْمَلِكِ وَالرُّؤَسَاءِ، لَيْسَ إِلَى الْمَلِكِ وَحْدَهُ أَدْبَتُ وَشَتِي الْمَلِكَةُ، بَلْ إِلَى جَمِيعِ الرُّؤَسَاءِ وَجَمِيعِ الشُّعُوبِ الَّذِينَ فِي كُلِّ بُلْدَانِ الْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوِيرُوشَ¹⁷ لَأَنَّهُ سَوَفَ يَبْلُغُ خَبَرُ الْمَلِكَةِ إِلَى جَمِيعِ النِّسَاءِ، حَتَّى يُخَفَّرَ أَرْوَاهُ فِي أَعْيُنِهِنَّ عِنْدَمَا يُقَالُ إِنَّ

¹Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)²That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace,³In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him:⁴When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.⁵And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;⁶Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.⁷And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.⁸And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.⁹Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus.¹⁰On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona,

الْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوْبَرُوشَ أَمَرَ أَنْ يُؤْتَى بِوَشْتِي الْمَلِكَةِ إِلَى
 أَمَامِهِ فَلَمَّ تَأْتِ. ¹⁸ وَفِي هَذَا الْيَوْمِ تَقُولُهُ رَئِيسَاتُ قَارِسَ
 وَمَادِي اللَّوَاتِي سَمِعْنَ خَبَرَ الْمَلِكَةِ لِجَمِيعِ رُؤَسَاءِ الْمَلِكِ.
 وَمِثْلُ ذَلِكَ اخْتِفَازُ وَعَصَبُ. ¹⁹ فَإِذَا حَسَنَ عِنْدَ الْمَلِكِ
 فَلْيُخْرِجْ أَمْرُ مَلِكِيٍّ مِنْ عِنْدِهِ، وَلْيَكْتَبْ فِي سِتْنِ قَارِسَ
 وَمَادِي فَلَا يَتَغَيَّرَ، أَنْ لَا تَأْتِ وَشْتِي إِلَى أَمَامِ الْمَلِكِ
 أَحْشَوْبَرُوشَ، وَلْيُعْطِ الْمَلِكُ مُلْكَهَا لِمَنْ هِيَ أَحْسَنُ
 مِنْهَا. ²⁰ فَتُسْمَعُ أَمْرُ الْمَلِكِ الَّذِي يُخْرِجُهُ فِي كُلِّ مَمْلَكَةٍ
 لِأَنَّهَا عَظِيمَةٌ فَتُعْطَى جَمِيعُ النِّسَاءِ الْوَقَارَ لِأَرْوَاجِهِنَّ مِنْ
 الْكَبِيرِ إِلَى الصَّغِيرِ. ²¹ فَحَسَنَ الْكَلَامُ فِي أَغْنِ الْمَلِكِ
 وَالرُّؤَسَاءِ، وَغَمِلَ الْمَلِكُ حَسَبَ قَوْلِ مَمُوكَانَ. ²² وَأَرْسَلَ
 رَسَائِلَ إِلَى كُلِّ بُلْدَانِ الْمَلِكِ، إِلَى كُلِّ بِلَادٍ حَسَبَ كِتَابَتِهَا
 وَإِلَى كُلِّ شَعْبٍ حَسَبَ لِسَانِهِ، لِيَكُونَ كُلُّ رَجُلٍ مُسْلَطًا
 فِي بَيْتِهِ، وَيُتَكَلَّمَ بِذَلِكَ بِلِسَانِ شَعْبِهِ.

Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, ¹¹To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. ¹²But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him. ¹³Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment: ¹⁴And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;) ¹⁵What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains? ¹⁶And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus. ¹⁷For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not. ¹⁸Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath. ¹⁹If it please the king, let there go a royal

commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.²⁰ And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.²¹ And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:²² For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.