

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,

¹وَحَدَثَ فِي أَيَّامِ أَحْشَوِيرُوشَ. هُوَ أَحْشَوِيرُوشُ الَّذِي مَلَكَ مِنَ الْهِنْدِ إِلَى كُوشٍ عَلَى مِئَةِ وَسَبْعٍ وَعِشْرِينَ كُورَةً²أَنَّهُ فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ جَلَسَ الْمَلِكُ أَحْشَوِيرُوشُ عَلَى كُرْسِيِّ مُلْكِهِ الَّذِي فِي شُوشَنَ الْقَصْرِ، فِي السَّنَةِ الثَّالِثَةِ مِنْ مُلْكِهِ، عَمِلَ وَلِيمَةً لِجَمِيعِ رُؤَسَائِهِ وَغَيْبِهِ جَيْشِ قَارِسَ وَمَادِي، وَأَمَامَهُ شُرَقَاءُ الْبُلْدَانِ وَرُؤَسَاؤُهَا،⁴حِينَ أَظْهَرَ غِنَى مُلْكِهِ وَوَقَّارَ جَلَالِ عَظَمَتِهِ أَيَّامًا كَثِيرَةً، مِئَةً وَتَمَانِينَ يَوْمًا. وَعِنْدَ انْقِضَاءِ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ عَمِلَ الْمَلِكُ لِجَمِيعِ الشَّعْبِ الْمُؤْجِدِينَ فِي شُوشَنَ الْقَصْرِ مِنَ الْكَبِيرِ إِلَى الصَّغِيرِ وَلِيمَةً سَبْعَةَ أَيَّامٍ فِي دَارِ جَنَّةِ قَصْرِ الْمَلِكِ،⁶بِالنَّسِجَةِ بَيْضَاءَ وَخَضْرَاءَ وَأَسْمَانِيَّةٍ مُعَلَّقَةٍ بِجِبَالٍ مِنْ بَرٍّ وَأَرْجُوانٍ فِي خَلَقَاتٍ مِنْ فِصَّةٍ وَأَعْمِدَةٍ مِنْ رُخَامٍ وَأَسْبَرَةٍ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَفِصَّةٍ، عَلَى مُجَرَّعٍ مِنْ بَهْتٍ وَمَزْمَرٍ وَدُرٍّ وَرُخَامٍ أَسْوَدَ.⁷وَكَانَ السِّقَاءُ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ وَالْآيِنَةُ مُخْتَلِفَةُ الْأَشْكَالِ، وَالْخَمْرُ الْمَلِكِيَّةُ يَكْتَرِي حَسَبَ كَرَمِ الْمَلِكِ. وَكَانَ الشَّرْبُ حَسَبَ الْأَمْرِ. لَمْ يَكُنْ غَاصِبٌ لِأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا رَسَمَ الْمَلِكُ عَلَى كُلِّ عَظِيمٍ فِي بَيْتِهِ أَنْ يَعْمَلُوا حَسَبَ رِصَا كُلِّ وَاحِدٍ.⁹وَوُشِّي الْمَلِكَةُ عَمِلَتْ أَيْضًا وَلِيمَةً لِلنِّسَاءِ فِي بَيْتِ الْمَلِكِ الَّذِي لِلْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوِيرُوشَ.¹⁰فِي الْيَوْمِ السَّابِعِ لَمَّا طَابَ قَلْبُ الْمَلِكِ بِالْخَمْرِ قَالَ لِمَهُومَانَ وَبِزْثَا وَحَرْبُونَا وَبَعْنَا وَأَبْعْنَا وَزَبْنَارَ وَكَرْكَسَ الْخِصْيَانَ السَّبْعَةَ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَخْدُمُونَ بَيْنَ يَدَيِ الْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوِيرُوشَ¹¹أَنْ بَاتُوا بِوُشِّي الْمَلِكَةِ إِلَى أَمَامِ الْمَلِكِ بِتَاجِ الْمَلِكِ، لِيَرِيَ الشُّعُوبَ وَالرُّؤَسَاءَ جَمَالَهَا، لِأَنَّهُمْ كَانَتْ حَسَنَةً الْمُنْتَظَرِ.¹²فَأَبَتِ الْمَلِكَةُ وَشِّي أَنْ تَأْتِيَ حَسَبَ أَمْرِ الْمَلِكِ عَنْ يَدِ الْخِصْيَانِ. فَاعْتَاطَ الْمَلِكُ جِدًّا وَاشْتَعَلَ غَضَبُهُ فِيهِ.¹³وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ لِلْحُكَمَاءِ الْعَارِفِينَ بِالْأَرْمَنِ لِأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا كَانَ أَمْرُ الْمَلِكِ نَحْوَ جَمِيعِ الْعَارِفِينَ بِالسَّنَةِ وَالْقَضَاءِ.¹⁴وَكَانَ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ إِلَيْهِ كُرْسَتًا وَشِبْنَارَ وَأَدْمَانًا وَتَرَشِيشَ وَمَرِسَ وَمَرَسَتًا وَمَمُوكَانَ، سَبْعَةَ رُؤَسَاءِ قَارِسَ وَمَادِي الَّذِينَ يَرَوْنَ وَجْهَ الْمَلِكِ وَيَجْلِسُونَ أَوَّلًا فِي الْمَلِكِ،¹⁵حَسَبَ السَّنَةِ، مَاذَا يُعْمَلُ بِالْمَلِكَةِ وَشِّي لِأَنَّهُمْ لَمْ تَعْمَلْ كَقَوْلِ الْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوِيرُوشَ عَنْ يَدِ الْخِصْيَانِ.¹⁶فَقَالَ مَمُوكَانُ أَمَامَ الْمَلِكِ وَالرُّؤَسَاءِ، لَيْسَ إِلَى الْمَلِكِ وَحْدَهُ أَذْبَتْ وَشِّي الْمَلِكَةُ، بَلْ إِلَى جَمِيعِ الرُّؤَسَاءِ وَجَمِيعِ الشُّعُوبِ الَّذِينَ فِي كُلِّ بُلْدَانِ الْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوِيرُوشَ.¹⁷لَأَنَّهُ سَوَفَ يَبْلُغُ حَبْرُ الْمَلِكَةِ إِلَى جَمِيعِ النِّسَاءِ حَتَّى يُنْتَقَرَ أَرْوَاجُهُنَّ فِي أَعْيُنِهِنَّ عِنْدَمَا يُقَالُ إِنَّ

Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,¹¹ To 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.¹² But 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.¹³ Then 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:¹⁴ And 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;)¹⁵ What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?¹⁶ And 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.¹⁷ For 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.¹⁸ Likewise 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.¹⁹ If it please the king, let there go a royal

الْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوْرُوشَ أَمَرَ أَنْ يُؤْتَى يَوْشْتِي الْمَلِكَةِ إِلَى أَمَامِهِ فَلَمَّ تَأْتِ. ¹⁸ وَفِي هَذَا الْيَوْمِ تَقُولُهُ رَئِيسَاتُ قَارِسَ وَمَادِي اللّوَاتِي سَمِعْنَ حَبَرَ الْمَلِكَةِ لِجَمِيعِ رُؤَسَاءِ الْمَلِكِ. وَمِمَّنْ ذَلِكَ اخْتِفَارُ وَعَصَبُ. ¹⁹ فَإِذَا حَسَنَ عِنْدَ الْمَلِكِ فَلْيُخْرِجْ أَمْرُ مَلِكِي مِنْ عِنْدِهِ، وَلْيُكْتَبْ فِي سُنَنِ قَارِسَ وَمَادِي فَلَا يَتَغَيَّرَ، أَنْ لَا تَأْتِ وَشْتِي إِلَى أَمَامِ الْمَلِكِ أَحْشَوْرُوشَ، وَلْيُعْطِ الْمَلِكُ مُلْكَهَا لِمَنْ هِيَ أَحْسَنُ مِنْهَا. ²⁰ فَيُسْمَعُ أَمْرُ الْمَلِكِ الَّذِي يُخْرِجُهُ فِي كُلِّ مَمْلَكَتِهِ لِأَنَّهَا عَظِيمَةٌ فَتُعْطَى جَمِيعُ النِّسَاءِ الْوَقَارَ لِأَرْوَاجِهِنَّ مِنَ الْكَبِيرِ إِلَى الصَّغِيرِ. ²¹ فَحَسَنَ الْكَلَامُ فِي أَعْيُنِ الْمَلِكِ وَالرُّؤَسَاءِ، وَعَمِلَ الْمَلِكُ حَسَبَ قَوْلِ مَمُوكَانَ. ²² وَأَرْسَلَ رِسَائِلَ إِلَى كُلِّ بَلَدَانِ الْمَلِكِ، إِلَى كُلِّ بِلَادٍ حَسَبَ كِتَابَتِهَا وَإِلَى كُلِّ شَعْبٍ حَسَبَ لِسَانِهِ، لِيَكُونَ كُلُّ رَجُلٍ مُتَسَلِّطًا فِي بَيْتِهِ، وَبِتَكَلُّمِ بَذَلِكَ يَلْسَانَ سَعْيِهِ.

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.