

Purim Spiel
May The Farce Be With You

A.M. Matte

Yodaberg, a wise, green narrator, has a high-pitched throaty voice

AHanChewyverush Solo, King of the Persian star system, speaks alternately in a guttural moan and ironic quips

Darth Haman, Prime Minister, speaks through heavy breathing

Vashtrek, exQueen

LeiEsther, current Queen and leader of the Jewish Alliance

Mordy Chaiwalker, Queen's cousin and advisor

C3PO, Royal Handmaiden, has an English accent

R2D2, Royal Handmaiden, speaks in bleeps and bloops

Stormtrooper Roger, palace guard

Stormtrooper Bill, palace guard

Note: Pauses are written into the text after each mention of Haman, in order to allow time for noisemakers.

A palace in the Persian star system.

AHanChewyverush Solo, Darth Haman and Stormtroopers onstage. Yodaberg narrates from one side of the stage.

Yodaberg

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, a beautiful queen there was. Her king, AHanChewyverush Solo, very proud of her he was, and to dance for him and his entourage he demanded.

AHanChewyverush Solo

To Darth Haman and the Stormtroopers.

Aaaarhn! You should see what I'm having the queen wear today. Aaaarhn! I picked up this slinky gold number at the slave market. It's so shiny. Wait 'til you see it!

To Vashtrek.

Hey Vash! Put on your best clothes and come dance!

Vashtrek replies from offstage.

Vashtrek

No!

AHanChewyverush Solo

Ah, come on. It's just me, Darth Haman (pause for groggers), and the guys here.

Vashtrek

No!

AHanChewyverush Solo

Aaaarhn! Just do it or I'll freeze you in carbonite.

Vashtrek

No!

AHanChewyverush Solo

Look, come out here or I'll feed you to a space worm. And in its belly, you will find a new definition of pain and suffering as you are slowly digested over a thousand years. (*To his entourage.*) We should all eat so well!

Vashtrek

Fine, but I'm going to sing, too.

C3PO and R2D2 enter stage.

R2D2

Boop bee boop.

C3PO

Agreed, R2, we are. This is a proper assignment. Very civilized.

C3PO turns to address Vashtrek offstage.

C3PO

Ma'am, the dance?

Vashtrek enters stage, dressed in a Star Trek uniform. C3PO and R2D2 accompany her in her performance.

AHanChewyverush Solo

What is *that*? Aaaarhn!

Vashtrek

This is my new outfit. You want a dance? I'll give you a show you won't forget.

To the tune of the Star Trek: The Next Generation theme song.

I have been dreaming to go
Entreprising, beaming to make it so
I'll fly off on a new course
Hitch my ship and say goodbye to the Force

Lightsabers and blasters
Make way for the tricorder read
Why brag about parsecs
When you can travel at warp speed

Now I am raring to go
Entreprising, beaming to make it so
I'll fly off on a new course
Hitch my ship and say goodbye, adieu, to the Force!

R2D2 and C3PO applaud. AHanChewyverush Solo is appalled.

AHanChewyverush Solo

Well, that was just... not ok.

Vashtrek

Didn't you like my dance?

AHanChewyverush Solo

It was all wrong, it just doesn't.... fit. Aaaarhn! It doesn't jibe with the rest of the palace, the star system, or the galaxy.

Vashtrek

Exactly. I can't stand this universe anymore. I'm going to boldly go where no Vashtrek has gone before.

C3PO

The correct grammatical form would be "go boldly".

Vashtrek

Either way, I'm out of here.

Vashtrek exits.

Yodaberg

AHanChewyverush Solo a king of great power he was. But live without a queen, he could not.
His prime minister, Darth Haman (pause), a chauvinist suggestion he made.

Darth Haman

With heavy breathing throughout.

Find yourself a new queen, my lord. You have the whole galaxy to choose from.

Yodaberg

A great contest the king organised for a new bride to select. Mordy Chaiwalker, brave and wise,
and his cousin, LeiEsther, wise and fair, they came. Descended from the desert land of Sinai
Prime, they were. Participate in the contest, they would.

LeiEsther and Mordy Chaiwalker enter stage.

Mordy Chaiwalker

You are so beautiful, there's no way the king won't choose you as his bride. But, just in case,
put your hair up in side buns, like two prune rugelach; kings love that. Also, don't tell them
you're in the Jewish Alliance.

LeiEsther

Got it. Should I tell them about my degrees in astrophysics and comparative Force literature?

Mordy Chaiwalker

(Without irony.)

Sure, real men aren't threatened by smart, accomplished women.

Yodaberg

Was held the contest until three finalists there remained.

C3PO, R2D2 and LeiEsther are in a line for AHanChewyverush Solo to inspect. R2D2 has a long wig on his dome.

R2D2

Beep beepboop bleep bloop.

C3PO

It is indeed very exciting to have made it this far. An upgrade from android-in-waiting to
Queen! Imagine it.

R2D2

Bleep beep boop bleep.

C3PO

Yes, I also would prefer to be an elected officer, but things are done differently in this part of the galaxy.

C3PO

To the tune of the Cantina song.

Finally I'm recognized as something of a beauty
More than circuits and programs encased in gold

R2D2

To the tune of the Cantina song.

Bloop bleep bloop bleep boopdeboop

C3PO

To the tune of the Cantina song.

Yes, you are sure a cutie

C3PO and LeiEsther

To the tune of the Cantina song.

All for the king
To have and to hold.

Choreographed dance to the instrumental break.

LeiEsther

To the tune of the Cantina song.

I have shown that I am more than a figure that's shapely
I have talent and degrees; I'm intelligent and bold

C3PO

To the tune of the Cantina song.

Any of us could rule well in the palace ornately

C3PO and LeiEsther

To the tune of the Cantina song.

All with the king
To have and to hold!

Darth Haman

Have you made your choice, my king?

AHanChewyverush Solo

Aaaarhn! Almost, Darth Haman (pause). (*Approaching the line and fingering the contestants' hair or chrome in turn.*) I've always been attracted to shiny gold things, but, aaarhn! There's something mesmerizing about the little one's dialect...

Mordy Chaiwalker overhears and steps in.

Mordy Chaiwalker

If you will allow me, your highness... (*He waves his hand in front of the king's face.*) These are not the bride you're looking for.

AHanChewyverush Solo

These are not the bride I'm looking for. Aaaarhn! Well, Haman (pause), my mind's made up. That fetching woman with the cinnamon bun hair is the one who will become my queen.

AHanChewyverush Solo and LeiEsther exit, with C3PO and R2D2 close behind.

Yodaberg

Great rejoicing in the land, there was, as queen LeiEsther became. The droids and her cousin close at hand as palace advisors, she kept. But conform to all palace rules, Mordy Chaiwalker did not.

Darth Haman

To Mordy Chaiwalker.

You are new here, but you will learn; you must bow to me when I pass, as all others do.

Mordy Chaiwalker

Haman (pause), that may be the custom here, but I will not bow to you. As a member of the Jewish Alliance, I only bend my head to G-d and legitimate rulers. You are far from either.

Darth Haman

You will regret your insolence, one day!

Darth Haman exits stage.

Yodaberg

Incense Haman (pause), this did. Make a plot to ruin Mordy Chaiwalker, he would. One night, upon two scheming guards did Mordy Chaiwalker come.

Stormtroopers Roger and Bill enter stage, discussing heavily. They do not notice Mordy Chaiwalker nearby.

Stormtrooper Bill

Roger.

Stormtrooper Roger

Yeah, Bill?

Stormtrooper Bill

The king, annoying, yes?

Stormtrooper Roger

With the “ahrrng”ing all the time? A little.

Stormtrooper Bill

And the prime minister, Haman (pause), what do you think?

Stormtrooper Roger

A bit much with the wheezing and the whining.

Stormtrooper Bill

So, what do you say we get rid of them?

Stormtrooper Roger

We do have these laser blasters.

Stormtrooper Bill

And we’ve been practicing our aim, so we could actually hit our intended targets.

Stormtrooper Roger

We could distract them with shiny gold things and then, we attack!.

Stormtrooper Bill

Perfect.

Mordy Chaiwalker

It’s a trap!

Stormtrooper Roger

How would we escape?

Stormtrooper Bill

We’ll just blend in with the other troopers. We all look alike, so we’ll hide out in the open until everything settles and presto! We get a new king and PM.

Stormtrooper Roger

Best. Plan. Ever.

The Stormtroopers exit and Mordy Chaiwalker runs to tell the king. Darth Haman enters stage, big, fuzzy dice in hand.

Yodaberg

Tell the king of the plot, Chaiwalker did, and disposed of the stormtroopers were. But not everyone was happy with Chaiwalker.

Darth Haman

Tossing his dice.

There we go. Lucky Adar thirteenth. That's when I'll get rid of that Chaiwalker.

AHanChewyverush Solo enters stage.

AHanChewyverush Solo

Aaaarhn! Haman (pause), I need your advice.

Darth Haman

Of course, your majesty.

AHanChewyverush Solo

There is someone in this star system, in this very palace, who has done me the greatest service. How to go about honouring a person whom the king wishes to honour?

Yodaberg

Certain about him the king was speaking, Haman (pause) of his preferred honours detailed.

Darth Haman

To the tune of the Imperial March.

On a horse, in the finest of clothes
Praise him highly wherever he goes
Raise the flags and the baanners galore
And have ev'ryone bow down to the floor, to the floor.

Through the streets of the city he'll ride
A champion by the king bonafide
Give him a purple lightsaber, and more,
And make ev'ryone bow down to the floor, to the floor.

AHanChewyverush Solo

Great idea! Do that for Mordy Chaiwalker.

Haman's amplified breathing goes into overdrive and he clutches his throat and stumbles in shock as he and AHanChewyverush Solo exit stage.

Yodaberg

So the king ordered, Haman (pause) grudgingly did. Fêted and lauded Mordy Chaiwalker was. Meanwhile, Queen LeiEsther, plans she had.

LeiEsther, R2D2 and C3PO enter stage.

LeiEsther

R2, resume recording where we left off. *(She crouches in profile in front of R2D2, à la Leia in the famous hologram.)* In order to truly support the Jewish Alliance against the evil Empire, we must implement a solid representative system of government. We need elected officials chosen of the people, by the people. C3PO, what precedents exist to support this campaign?

C3PO

None, ma'am. The Senate is appointed in this star system.

LeiEsther

What about checks and balances?

C3PO

Well, when it comes to the Senate, it tends to write cheques without ever checking the balance.

LeiEsther

I'll have to go to the king to discuss this.

R2D2

Bloop! Bleeeee!

C3PO

Correct, R2. Ma'am, NO one goes to the king unsummoned. It's impossible!

LeiEsther

Then how are we ever to get anything done around here? I'm starting to understand why the first queen left! Come on, we've got more strategizing to do.

LeiEsther, R2D2 and C3PO continue strategizing on one side of the stage. AHanChewyverush Solo and Darth Haman enter. The two groups do not interact.

Darth Haman

Your majesty?

AHanChewyverush Solo

Yes, Darth Haman (pause)?

Darth Haman

May I beg a favour? For 10,000 silver talents, could I issue a decree that the Jewish Alliance is destroyed? They are in the way of the Empire.

AHanChewyverush Solo

Sure, why not. Go right ahead.

AHanChewyverush Solo and Darth Haman exit stage.

Yodaberg

When Mordy Chaiwalker the terrible decree to get rid of the Jewish Alliance, he heard, despair he felt. Ashes and sackcloth he wore when to Queen LeiEsther he went.

Mordy Chaiwalker enters stage.

Mordy Chaiwalker

Help us, LeiEsther, you're our only hope.

LeiEsther

I want to, but no one can approach King AHanChewyverush Solo without being summoned. To do so is certain death!

Mordy Chaiwalker

Not to do it is certain death, too.

C3PO

Truly, ma'am, the possibility of successfully navigating the palace protocols is 3,720 to 1.

LeiEsther

Never tell me the odds.

Mordy Chaiwalker

You must help our people. It's up to you to save the Jewish Alliance.

LeiEsther

Ok, I'll try.

Mordy Chaiwalker

Do or do not, there is no try.

R2D2

Boop bee bloop bloop.

C3PO

Really, R2, I find your lack of faith disturbing. If anyone can convince the king to overturn his own misguided edict, it's the queen – whatever the odds may be.

R2D2 and C3PO help LeiEsther get ready to see the King. They make sure her side buns are even larger, to please the king.

Yodaberg

Dressed up for her husband, Queen LeiEsther got. When next he and the Prime Minister she saw, invite them to a banquet, she did. Twice. So beautiful LeiEsther was that following the second banquet, very satisfied the king appeared.

AHanChewyverush Solo

Aaaarhn! This was a wonderful feast, my queen. Ask anything you want and I will grant your request.

LeiEsther

In other circumstances, I'd ask for a seat in the Senate, but in these dire times...

AHanChewyverush Solo

Dire? What dire?

LeiEsther

A dark Force has taken over this part of the star system and determined my people would be exterminated. If you allow this to happen, I will also be slain.

AHanChewyverush Solo

Your people? Slain?

LeiEsther

Yes, you have decreed the end of the Jewish Alliance; I am Jewish, too.

AHanChewyverush Solo

What? It's not my fault! Aaaarhn! How did this happen?

LeiEsther

All at the hand of Darth Haman (pause).

AHanChewyverush Solo

Not cool, Haman (pause), not cool. You are no longer prime minister. And everything you were planning for the Jewish Alliance will now be reserved only for you.

C3PO

How embarrassing, Haman (pause) it appears you are now to be the main course at this banquet.

AHanChewyverush Solo

Take him away!

Darth Haman

Wait, wait! (*To LeiEsther.*) I am your father...?

LeiEsther

What? No, you're not.

Darth Haman

Right. Well, I tried.

AHanChewyverush Solo

Aaaarhn! Take him away!

C3PO and R2D2 lead Haman offstage.

Mordy Chaiwalker

Great shot, LeiEsther, that was one in a million.

LeiEsther

Somebody had to save our skins...

C3PO and R2D2 enter stage.

All

To the tune of the main Star Wars theme.

And now, ev'rything's better, ev'rything's greater
Than it once was
A heavy burden's lifted, ev'rything's shifted
And that's because

AHanChewyverush Solo

To the tune of the main Star Wars theme.

Mordy Chaiwalker is our new Prime Minister

LeiEsther

To the tune of the main Star Wars theme.
I'll be campaigning for Senator

C3PO

To the tune of the main Star Wars theme.
I'll update our software

R2D2

To the tune of the main Star Wars theme.
Bloopedee bloopee bleep

All

To the tune of the main Star Wars theme.
That's a great idea and we all agree!

AHanChewyverush Solo, Mordy Chaiwalker, C3PO

To LeiEsther, to the tune of the main Star Wars theme.
And now, ev'rything's brighter, ev'rything's Lighter
All thanks to you

All

To the tune of the main Star Wars theme.
We all learned to be loud and learned to be proud of
The Force of the Jews!

Yodaberg

Rejoicing across the star system there was, as the Jewish Alliance the Empire vanquished.
Left to say, there remains only: (*Lifting fingers in Vulcan salute.*) Live long and– (*Realizing the gaffe.*) Pardon me.
With you, may the Force be.

All

Happy Purim!

END

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If you use this script, please consider making a chai-level donation, as 100% of the proceeds go to Temple Israel, Ottawa, Canada.

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