

Purim

The word Purim comes from the Hebrew word *pur*, which means 'lot'. Purim is also called the Feast of Lots. A long time ago, a lot was drawn to decide which day was best suited for a certain event. The Book of Esther tells more of this story.

According to Jewish tradition, there was a man named Haman around 600 BCE in Persia (Iran) who was a minister to the Persian King Ahasuerus. Haman hated the Jews. So much so that he wanted all of them killed. He drew a lot that fell on the 13th day of the month Adar; which would be the day his terrible plan would be carried out. But there was a Jewish man named Mordecai who heard about Haman's plan. He told this to his Jewish niece Esther, who was newly married to King Ahasuerus. Once Esther heard about what Haman was up to, she went to her husband and explained this would lead to her death as well. The King was shocked and decided to use the gallows Haman had intended for Mordecai and Esther's people, for Haman himself. So the Jews were saved.



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How is Purim celebrated?

Esther's story is read aloud in synagogue from the parchment scroll (megillah) on which it is written. However, something unique happens during this reading. Every time Haman's name is spoken, everybody in the synagogue makes a racket by yelling, stamping and rattling noisemakers. By doing this, you show - over and over again - how angry you are with Haman; you drown out his name and drive away the evil associated with it. After the synagogue service, there is a big celebration. Presents are given to friends, acquaintances, and the poor. Lots of people dress up in costumes.



My notes:

Tip from Max



Working on a school project about the Purim celebration? Of course, you'll dress up in costume and perhaps bring a noisemaker to school! Show the film [Make Some Noise](#).