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Esther Elevated to Queen
2: 1-20



With Vashti removed from her duties, the search for Miss Persia began. **Esther's** claim to fame was **her** beauty and **her** ability to please. It was a winning combination that took **her** a long way. Even a book of the Bible is written about **her**. If **she** were alive today, **she'd** be featured on covers of fashion magazines and hounded by the paparazzi wherever **she** went. **Her** face and form would define the standard for plastic surgery patients. **Her** hair and clothing would set fashion trends.

The ancient culture where she lived, like a lot of times and places (well, let's be honest, most times and places), was a place where men noticed and valued a woman for **her** looks and her readiness to submit. In such a social climate, it was only a matter of time before **Esther** was discovered. **She** got lost in beauty treatments, perfumed oils, and in **her** studied, skillful efforts to comply with the wishes of the men in **her** life.

But life is full of unpredictable twists and turns – long lulls, disappointments, tragedies, and big breaks – that push us out of the shadows and force us to summon up courage, strength, and gifts we never knew we had. **Esther's** beauty

didn’t fade, or if it did, no one seemed to notice. Instead, other aspects of **her** character surfaced, showing the world and proving to **Esther** herself that **she** had serious responsibilities before God and a whole lot more to offer than beauty or compliance. When **Esther** faced the crisis of **her** life, the powers of face and form were not enough, and **her** ability to please actually stood in **her** way. The situation called for **her** to think and strategize, to exercise courage, to stand on **her** own two feet, and to rely solely upon ADONAI. That’s when **Esther**, long lost in **her** beauty, was finally found.[18]