

SCENE 6

HAMAN and HENCHMEN are walking down the street, as PEASANTS bow and cheer half-heartedly. HAMAN laps it up. MORDECHAI is seated, center stage.

HAMAN: Thank you, thank you!

MORDECHAI: (*Quietly*) Oy.

HAMAN: (*Noticing MORDECHAI for the first time*) What did you say?

MORDECHAI: (*Louder*) OY.

HAMAN: (*Offended*) Did you just ... “oy” me?!

MORDECHAI: (*Threateningly*) Oy. Gevalt.

HAMAN *gasps*. HENCHMEN *step forward*.

HENCHMAN 1: Boss, you okay?

HENCHMAN 2: Do you need a hug?

HAMAN: (*Loudly*) No, I don't need a *hug*. Evil prime ministers don't need *hugs*. (*Quietly*) Later, I'd like a hug.

HENCHMAN 1: (*To MORDECHAI*) How dare you upset our boss!

HENCHMAN 2: So mean!

MORDECHAI: I'm sorry, are you under the impression *I'm* the bad guy?

HAMAN: If you weren't a bad guy, you'd be bowing before me like everyone else around here!

MORDECHAI: Just because you made up a rule and I won't follow it, doesn't make me a bad guy.

HAMAN *gasps again*. HENCHMEN *move to comfort him*.

HAMAN: (*To HENCHMEN*) Why does he say such awful things to me?

HENCHMAN 1: (*To MORDECHAI*) Why do you say such horrible things to people? You should be bowing!

HENCHMAN 2: Explain yourself before we beat you to a pulp.

**“I’ll Tell You Why”**

MORDECHAI

All the peasants in this neighborhood  
Bow before you on the street  
Oh, don’t believe in everything you see  
Stunning them’s an easy feat

Don’t try to wow me  
‘Cause I ain’t bowing  
I’ll tell you why

All your life you’ve fought to be in charge  
Now you’ve finally hit the heights  
Oh, give a little man authority  
Then he takes away your rights

You tried to wow me  
Still I ain’t bowing  
I’ll tell you why

I could say that I’m a Jew  
And that’s what we believe  
‘Cause Jews don’t bow to those who are in power  
But we are also victims of your wanton cruelty  
And I for one refuse to sit and cower

All the servants on the palace grounds  
Have to do just what you say  
Oh, those of us who want a normal life  
Hope to see you go away

Don’t try to wow me  
‘Cause I ain’t bowing  
I’ll tell you why  
I’ll tell you why

HAMAN: A Jew, huh? This is your last chance — bow or face my wrath!