

Chapter 15

Mardocheus caufeth Efther to goe to the king and intreate for the people. 10. She is terrified by his countenance, but God turneth his hart, and he calleth her curteoufly to him.

This alfo I found added in the common edition. And he commanded her (*no doubt but Mardocheus commanded Efther*) that ſhe ſhould goe vnto the king, and make petition for her people and for her countrie. ² Remember (quoth he) the daies of thy humilitie, how thou waſt brought vp in my hand, becauſe Aman the ſecond after the king hath ſpoken againſt vs vnto death: ³ and doe thou inuocate our Lord, and ſpeake to the king for vs, & deliuer vs from death.

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H ch. 13. v. 8.

Moreouer this alfo which foloweth I found in the common Greke.

⁴ And in the third day ſhe layd away ^athe garmentes which ſhe ware, & was clothed in her glorie. ⁵ And when ſhe gliftered in royal apparel, and had inuocated God the ruler and fauiour of al, ſhe tooke two wayting maydes, ⁶ and vpon the one in deede ſhe leaned, as it were for delicatnes and verie much tendernes not able to beare vp her bodie: ⁷ but the other of her maydes folowed her ladie, bearing vp her garmentes trayling on the ground. ⁸ But her ſelf in al her countenance of colour like the roſe, alfo with gracious and ſhining eies ^bhid her mind ful of forow, and exceding feare. ⁹ She therfore entring through al the doores in order, ſtood before the king, where he ſate vpon the throne of his kingdom, clothed with royal garmentes, and glittering in gold, and pretious ſtones, and he was terrible to behold. ¹⁰ And when he had lifted vp his face, and with burning eies had ſhewed the furie of his breaft, the Queene fel downe, and her colour being changed into palenes,

^a *Vestimenta oratus* not *ornatus* her praying weede.

^b A notable example for Noble women, how to kepe their ſtate, & remaine neuertheles humble in hart.

she refted her wearie head vpon her handmayde. ¹¹ And
 God turned the kings fpirit in to mildnes, and in haft
 and fearing he lept out of the throne, and holding her
 vp in his armes, til she came to her felf, fpake her fayre
 with thefe wordes: ¹² What ayleth thee Efther? I am thy
 brother, feare not. ¹³ Thou shalt not die: for this law is
 not made for thee, but for the common forte. ¹⁴ Come
 neere therefore, and touch the fcepter. ¹⁵ And when she
 held her peace, he tooke the golden rod, & put it vpon
 her necke, and kiffed her, and fayd: Why fpakeft thou
 not to me? ¹⁶ Who answered: I faw thee, my Lord, ^a)as
 an angel of God, and my hart was trubled for the feare of
 thy glorie. ¹⁷ For thou, my lord, art exceding maruelous,
 and thy face is ful of graces. ¹⁸ And when she fpake, she
 fel downe agayne, and was almoft in a fwoone. ¹⁹ But
 the king was trubled, and al his feruantes did comfort
 her.

K ch. 5. v. 2.

^a By this comparifon of angels she ment that the king excelled al or
 moft part of men.