
忠誠與逆轉：

論左右為難的以斯帖

Obedience and Reversion: Esther in a Dilemma

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Abstract

In a world led by men, Esther lived under the pressures of monarchy, male chauvinism, and patriarchy which derived from the Persian kingdom, society, and family. These triple pressures sought to contain Esther within her context and to prevent her crossing boundaries. If she remains “silent,” then she can live in peace. However this situation was destroyed by two men: Mordecai and Haman. Their conflict stirred the world of men, and brought great peril to Jews. Mordecai, using his authority as her guardian, commanded Queen Esther to risk approaching the Persian King without summons. As a result Queen Esther is trapped under these triple pressures. At this juncture, Esther took the initiative, exerted her wisdom, and showed her obedience under these pressures. In so doing, she manages to save her clan from annihilation by Haman, and displays vigorous feminine spirit within the triple structures of monarchy, male chauvinism, and patriarchy.

Keywords: Esther, monarchy, male chauvinism, patriarchy, female

摘要

以斯帖活在以男人為主導的波斯帝國、社會、家庭的男人世界中，面對王權、男權、父權的三重打壓。在這三重打壓中，以斯帖只要固守本身的處境不跨越界限，保持「閉口不言」，就可相安無事。然而，末底改與哈曼的私人糾紛卻在男人世界掀起軒然大波，甚至為猶太人招來滅族之災。末底改遂以養父身分，要求置身在王宮的王后以斯帖，冒險未召擅見王。此舉頓時迫使以斯帖陷入三重張力之中，舉步維艱，不知當做何抉擇。也就在這關鍵時刻，以斯帖表現出前所未有的主動，更充分運用智慧，設下謀策，在三重張力下表現出三重忠誠。最終，她不僅解救猶太同胞免遭哈曼的毒手，也從當時的王權帝國、男權社會、父權家庭的三重制度或秩序中逆轉，從而在帝國、社會、家庭中表現出巾幗不讓鬚眉的「女強人」精神和作風。

關鍵詞：以斯帖、王權、男權、父權、女性