

**Scene from Jews for Racial & Economic Justice Purimspiel:  
*Roti and Homentashn: The Palace Workers Revolt*  
Written & Performed by Emily Nepon, March 2007**

[LIGHTS UP ON VASHTI; dramatic entrance, tailed by 5-10 lilim who are played by 5-7 people holding pictures of historical assassins over their faces in picture frames. throughout this short piece they flip the frames around - on one side the assassins' foreheads read TRUTH and on the other side the foreheads read DEATH.]

**Vashti's body, possessed by the dybbuk of Lilith, talking to Bigtan and Teresh (characters in the megillah who plotted to assassinate the king):**

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!? Do you recognize her body? I found this body exiled, beaten, burned, betrayed because she - VASHTI - dared to defy the King's groping hands and the powerful scepter's rule. She's not the first of her kind: women who invoke God's secret name in Defiance. I WAS THE FIRST. I recognized her broken body as my own and I POSSESSED her - as a sister, as a soulmate, as the King's and the conquerors never could though they dream of it in their vile longings for empire.

Who am I? I am LILITH. I am Night, but I came before Eve. There was Night and then there was Eve and then there was Mourning. Grieving. A time of death, disaster and destruction. My demon children - the LILIM - and I play our parts in the tragedy that unfolded from the day I - the first woman- was forced against my will.

Bigtan and Teresh YOU ARE MY CHILDREN. You are of this family of assassins who appear in every generation, in every land, in every struggle throughout history.

*Sholom Schwartzbard* – today is the anniversary of his death. In 1926 he assassinated the leader of Ukraine to avenge the Ukrainian pogroms and their massacres of thousands of Jews. He was acquitted by a French jury.

*Sophia Perovskaya* was a Russian revolutionary who helped plan the assassination of Czar Alexander the 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1881. The assassination was blamed on Jews and was followed by many years of government-supported pogroms and massacres of Jews throughout Russia and into Poland.

*Herschel Grynszpan* shot a Nazi German foreign service officer at the German Embassy in Paris in 1938. Hitler used this assassination as an excuse for *Kristallnacht*. Herschel had a sister, Esther, and brother, Mordechai.

In 1942, *Jan Kubis* killed The Butcher of Prague – a head officer of the Reich. The nazis retaliated by deporting, killing, or imprisoning 13,000 and burning down two towns.

*Wanda with the Braids* was a member of the Jewish Underground in WW2. She used her pretty face to get to many German officials, and kill them.

Like these Lilim you are a two-headed beast, a struggle between justice and truth on one side and brutal, meaningless, hopeless death on the other. You PUNISH in the struggle for justice. You failed in your mission, like so many of my children do, but you will return in another time, and you will kill another King for me. You will return. We will return.