

ing the rescue of the Jews by Esther.

<sup>2</sup>For an expanded explanation of "time-bound" commandments and a balanced approach to the complicated issue, see Berman.

<sup>3</sup>This view is held by some *talmudic* commentators. *Tosafot to Megillah* 4a cites two positions—one recognizes that Esther saved the Jews, and the other interprets this phrase to mean that the decree had dire consequences for both sexes.

<sup>4</sup>The loud, distracting reading was already identified as a serious problem by the twentieth-century legal commentator, Israel Meir ha-Kohen (known after his book title, *Mishnah Berurah*). He recommended that women arrange for recitations of the Scroll in private homes because the obligation to "hear" the scroll would be transgressed in such a *din* (Laws of *Megillah*, vol. 6, p. 305).

<sup>5</sup>The commentator on the *talmud* known as "Korban Eda" explains that the prophetic books will be not needed because the admonishments will no longer be relevant.

<sup>6</sup>One reference to carnival as "severed from ordinary historical time ... [as] the denizen of a place that is no place, and a time that is not time ..." appears in Turner (74).

<sup>7</sup>Esther is chosen as Queen in a beauty

contest. The second chapter of the Book of Esther describes, with all the opulence that characterizes palatial life, the preparations which included six months of bathing in softening oils.

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## CAROL ROSE

### a little child shall lead them

the rabbi asked  
a sunday school class  
to name a favourite hymn  
one child in the class  
waited till last  
then answered  
not meaning to stir  
but rabbi  
my favourite hymn  
is a hyrr

*Carol Rose's poetry appears earlier in this volume.*

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