

To those who dare to lift the guarded veil?

ABNER. My master is as mighty!

LORUHAMA. Tempt me not!

ABNER. Priestess, I swear——

LORUHAMA. Then let your master come.

[Abner goes out. As he disappears, Michal steps from behind the statue. On her face is the light of an awakening hope.]

MICHAL. Oh, be to him a voice to guide his feet
Past the old shadows into ways of peace!

LORUHAMA. My hour is come!

MICHAL. And love at last prevails!

[Loruhama approaches the statue and kneels before it as Michal once more conceals herself. Abner re-appears, followed by Saul and Doeg. Saul descends to the floor of the cave, Abner and Doeg standing at the entrance. Saul wears a heavy cloak that hides his armour. He stands near the brazier.]

SAUL *[looking at the kneeling figure]*.

Have you the key that opens Sheol's Gate?

LORUHAMA. What would you with the dead?

SAUL. Call Samuel!

LORUHAMA. Do you not know the menacing of
gods

Is set against the soul that dares the marge
Of the invisible?

SAUL. Call Samuel!

LORUHAMA. Plead not for this! There is some
other way.