

man Saul hath been grievously smitten in the way by a great and terrible light which blazed suddenly out of heaven as we journeyed ; and lo, he is blind, and we have brought him hither leading him by the hand, even as thou seest. Grant us an entrance speedily, I pray thee, that we may fetch him to a resting-place, for he is in a desperate strait.' "

" And as Ben Ethan looked earnestly upon the man Saul, he perceived that he trembled exceedingly as he stood, and seemed not to hear what was passing about him, but continually did moan within himself, and also that his face was as the face of one stricken with death. Furthermore, he told me that when the business with the chief officer of the gate was finished, that they led the man, still trembling and moaning, into the city. God grant that death follow hard after, and that it overtake him speedily."

Ananias shook his head. " Thou knowest not what thou art saying, friend. God's ways are not man's ways, nor are his thoughts their thoughts. There is something here that we do not understand."

" If he be smitten that he die, then shall we live—we and our little ones," said Simon obstinately. " Therefore shall I continue to pray to God to remove him out of the land of the living. Surely he hath deserved to die."

" Pray, rather, that God's will may be done concerning the man and us. Even should he rend my child from my bosom I could not pray for his undoing. Vengeance belongeth to the Lord, and in his hand also is the breath of every living thing."