

he yet speaks the old man is going up the stairs to his chamber, there to plead with the God of his fathers for Nathan.

Jacob lights the lamp and places it in the window. When his wife and Miriam return with the fat he is standing in the open doorway looking up to the dark sky. As Esther places the fat on the table, she utters a cry of joy, and points to the lamp.

---

Nathan is struggling on amid the darkness. "If I am as near my father's house as I think I am, I should see my mother's lamp," he says almost aloud, and again he shudders with apprehension; "and Miriam, the pretty child I used to promise should be my wife if I ever came home; she too must be gone: that she never married, I know. Were she alive she would light the lamp."

He knows that each step he takes is fraught with danger; the road winds along the edge of a precipice, he stays his steps, debates with himself whether he will lie down where he is and wait for the dawn; he has been walking for hours since he parted from his servant; he is faint and worn with fatigue. Had he advanced one step further, a deep ravine would have ended his wanderings forever. Suddenly a light like a single star higher up on the Lebanon appears to the west. The sight fills Nathan's heart with a tumultuous joy; his weakness is gone—he turns towards the bright speck with the eager step of his boyhood. Brighter and brighter it glows, and then a long streak of light from an open door. It is gained; he is enfolded in the arms of