

to me alone and in distress. Then Salmon lifted himself up, and looking on my face with tears, said: Oh, let not my lord be angry with his servant, for I bring evil tidings. In that instant my speech returned to me, and I cried out, vehemently, What be thy tidings? And he answered:

Alas, my lord, we were journeying homeward, I and the band of ten, and Zillah, thy wife that was to be, and her two handmaidens, with the camels laden with her apparel and her jewels and all that her father gave her; for he did not send her unto thee empty handed. And last night, while we were encamped at the ford of the great river, we were set upon at midnight by Hanac the Robber and more than two score of his men. They came upon us like a whirlwind, or ever we were aware, and smote thy father's men of war that they died there, all of them, by the ford of the great river. And they took captive Zillah and her handmaidens, with the horses and the camels and all the treasure that her father had given to Zillah, and carried them away toward the mountains where Hanac hath his stronghold. In the confusion and the darkness I escaped alive, and made haste to come to thee with the tidings rather than to go to thy father, for he is an old man and feeble.

Then my wrath against Hanac raged in me as a