

Prophet of Israel, appear!

[*A mist begins to gather near the statue and out of the mist the form of a man—white and wavering.*]

DOEG [*shaken for a moment*].

Baal!

ABNER. Jehovah! . . . It is Samuel!

[*He covers his face with his hands and disappears.*]

[*Saul stares at the apparition, then kneels in awe, hiding his face in the folds of his cloak.*]

SAUL.

Priestess!

What do you see?

LORUHAMAH. An old man!

SAUL.

Samuel!

SAMUEL [*as from a distance*].

Saul!

SAUL. O my father!

SAMUEL.

Why hast thou disturbed

My rest?

SAUL. The Oracle will speak no more,

And all my days are dumb with agony!

Jehovah hides his face from me in wrath;

Madness consumes my spirit; and the dark

Hath opened wide its mouth to swallow me!

Give back the vision to these empty eyes,

And in my heart re-light the ancient fire

That burned of old to deeds of bravery;

For I am like a tree without the sap—

A brook cut off from all its upper springs—