

## INTRODUCTION

xvii

*The Demand for a Sign* the tragedy of a villain. Nor can ambition be cited to explain his sin. The curse of Judas is the curse of material religion. In his religious frenzy, he is blind to the real significance of things. He would make Jesus a ruler and divider over Israel—a rôle which Jesus had rejected often. The lure of Judas was a demand for a sign. It became a fixed idea; like the monotonous cry of the insane, the words of Judas ring through the play, "A sign, a sign."

It is wicked and adulterous to ask for a sign as the condition of faith. Many signs follow belief, but never precede it. The signs of the happy cripple and the blind minstrel were significant—but not to the Man of Kerioth.

*The Price of the Potter's Field* The eager soul of Judas was wrecked on the rock of the material in religion—dependence on the visible, on physical wonder, external authority, on signs of earth and heaven. This is the price of the Potter's Field; and the Church clumsily clinging to signs has travelled for too many ages on the way of the Man of Kerioth.

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