WITCH, ASLAN, PETER, MRS. BEAVER, SUSAN, EDMUND, LUCY, DWARF

WITCH. You have a traitor there, Aslan!

ASLAN. His offense was not against you.

WITCH. Have you forgotten the Deep Magic?

ASLAN. Tell me of it.

WITCH. Tell you? Tell you what is written on that very table of stone which stands beside us? You know the magic which the Emperor put into Narnia at the beginning of time. You know that every traitor belongs to me-and that for every treachery, I have a right to kill. (A pause as ALL react in fear.)

ALL (quietly). Ob, no. Can it be true? Is it really written? (Etc.)

WITCH (pointing to EDMUND). And so, that human creature is mine. His life is forfeit to me. His blood is my property. (She laughs haughtily. PETER withdraws his sword and stands as a shield in front of EDMUND.)

PETER. Come and take him then.

ASLAN. Peace!

WITCH (to PETER). Fool! Do you think you can rob me of my rights by mere force? (Indicating ASLAN.) Your master knows what is written. He knows that unless the Law is obeyed, all Narnia will be overturned and perish in fire and water. (A pause as ALL look toward ASLAN.)

ASLAN. It is true. I do not deny it. (ALL voice grave concern.)

ALL. Oh, no. This is terrible. What is to be done? Will she take the boy? (Etc.)

SUSAN. Oh, Aslan. Can't we do something about the Deep Magic? Isn't there something you can work against it?

ASLAN. Not against the Emperor's magic. (A pause.) But I will talk to the witch.

DWARF. You mean the Queen.

2ND ANIMAL Shut up, you toad!

ASLAN. Peace - Peace! Fall back. all of you. (ALL except ASLAN and the WITCH move to the side. The DWARF stands near the WITCH who converses in a low voice with ASLAN.)

LUCY. Oh, Edmund.

SUSAN. Why did we ever leave that wardrobe?

EDMUND. I wish we could go back.

PETER. So do I. But I'm not sure we could find the way. At any rate, we're needed here-now more than ever.

1ST ANIMAL This suspense is awful.

2ND ANIMAL What are they talking about?

3RD ANIMAL Do you think He can save the boy?

MRS. BEAVER. If anything can possibly be done, Aslan will think of it. (ASLAN and the WITCH nod in agreement and end their conversation.)

ASLAN (to the OTHERS). The matter has been settled. The witch has renounced the claim on your brother's blood. Edmund is free. (ALL are deeply relieved as they cheer softly.)

WITCH (triumphantly to the DWARF). Now gather our forces. The time is at hand. (To ASLAN.) One final thing. How do I know your promise will be kept?

ASLAN (sternly). You know that when Aslan makes a promise, it will be kept. (He roars loudly as the WITCH and DWARF exit quickly.)

SUSAN. Aslan, what did she mean? What promise did you make to her?

ASLAN. Do not be concerned for that. Now, all of you must move away from here at once. This place will be needed for another purpose. Go to the Fields of Beruna There you shall camp tonight.

PETER. Are you not going with us?

ASLAN. I am needed here. (Putting his arm around PETER) Peter, the witch has business in these parts. When she has finished, you and the others must be prepared for anything - perhaps even a battle of life or death.

PETER. But you will be here to help us, won't you, Aslan?

ASLAN. I can give no promise of that. Now go, everyone. You must get a good night's rest to be ready for whatever tomorrow may bring. Please, go at once.