

Chapter 57

The Four House Ghosts

In *Harry Potter*, there are four types of people going the Path of Spirituality, though only one is going the path of liberation. The ghosts represent the type of person very well, although of course they have failed.

Nearly Headless Nick symbolises the person going the Path of Liberation. He is in the house of Gryffindor; the house of those who are brave; brave enough to give up their life to achieve liberation. As the Alchemical Wedding shows us, one has to be brave enough to face decapitation. Unfortunately, Nick lost his courage when it came to losing his head. He didn't quite get the job finished.

The Fat Friar represents the people going the path of Hufflepuff. These people develop spirituality through religion, obviously. They are somewhat compliant. After all, the Friar has promised poverty, chastity and obedience. They have a simple faith and do as they're told. Perhaps the Fat Friar failed because he loved his food too much...

The Grey Lady represents Ravenclaw. We don't know much about her, but we know the Ravenclaws are very sharp-witted and learned. These are obviously people who seek spiritual development through intellectual pursuits. They are philosophers and logicians. However, the intellect is not the correct basis for liberation. There has to be a new soul first! Perhaps the "grey" also stands for "good", just as Remus Lupin, as the grey king, is good.

The Bloody Baron is a mysterious figure, just like the Slytherins. His clothes are very blood-stained, which is saying enough, really. These are the people who seek liberation through occult practices. When they fail, they end up being blood-stained. Snape is also an excellent Slytherin.