

Chapter 63

Inferi

In Part 6 Harry and Dumbledore enter a cavern next to the sea to try to find a Horcrux that Voldemort has hidden there years before. The Horcrux is guarded by "Inferi", which are dead bodies given life by an evil magician to act as instruments to carry out his wishes. Harry and Dumbledore can safely travel across the water in the cavern, and tread on the island in the middle to inspect the Horcrux, as long as they don't touch the water. If they do, the Inferi come out and pull them into the water to drown them.

The cavern symbolises the heart, and the Inferi symbolise dormant desires and emotions that the alchemist has overcome in his struggle to purify himself. *The Voice of the Silence* has a similar theme.

Verse 54:

Strive with thy thoughts unclean before they overpower thee. Use them as they will thee, for if thou sparest them and they take root and grow, know well, these thoughts will overpower and kill thee. Beware, Disciple, suffer not, e'en though it be their shadow, to approach. For it will grow, increase in size and power, and then this thing of darkness will absorb thy being before thou hast well realised the black foul monster's presence.

That certainly is very similar to the Inferi trying to overpower Harry.

Verse 63:

Kill out desire; but if thou killest it take heed lest from the dead it should again arise.

There's the emphasis on the property of dead desire to rise up again!

Verse 69 is on the theme of total purification before we can be liberated.

There is but one road to the Path; at its very end alone the "Voice of the Silence" can be heard. The ladder by which the candidate ascends is formed of rungs of suffering and pain; these can be silenced only by the voice of virtue. Woe, then, to thee, Disciple, if there is one single vice thou hast not left behind. For then the ladder will give way and overthrow thee; its foot rests in the deep mire of thy sins and

failings, and ere thou canst attempt to cross this wide abyss of matter thou hast to lave thy feet in Waters of Renunciation. Beware lest thou should'st set a foot still soiled upon the ladder's lowest rung. Woe unto him who dares pollute one rung with miry feet. The foul and viscous mud will dry, become tenacious, then glue his feet unto the spot, and like a bird caught in the wily fowler's lime, he will be stayed from further progress. His vices will take shape and drag him down. His sins will raise their voices like as the jackal's laugh and sob after the sun goes down; his thoughts become an army, and bear him off a captive slave.

We know from Kreacher's story that Regulus, when he switched the LocketHorcrux for a false one, was dragged into the water by the Inferi. Regulus knew this would happen, and so in switching the Horcrux, he committed a great act of self-sacrifice to help Harry defeat Voldemort later.

16 Years later, when Harry tried to save Dumbledore's life by giving him water, Harry touched the lake, and the Inferi started dragging him into it. However, Dumbledore evoked a ring of Fire surrounding him and Harry, thus driving away the Inferi, who are driven away by light and heat. The lesson is that when we surrender completely to the Holy, Sanctifying Spirit, He will save us even when our past sins and failings catch up with us.

In the end, they don't matter to God. He just wants His Son back. Part 6 of *Harry Potter* is the Albedo phase – the white phase. And so, we know that God says to us, through *Harry Potter*, as He does through *The Book of Isaiah*:

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool –

if we let the Fire of the Spirit encircle our heart of hearts.