

Chapter 73

Dementors

Harry first meets Dementors on the train to Hogwarts in Part 3. Professor Lupin tells Harry:

Dementors are among the foulest creatures that walk this earth. They infest the darkest, filthiest places, they glory in decay and despair, they drain peace, hope and happiness out of the air around them. Even Muggles feel their presence, though they can't see them. Get too near a Dementor and every good feeling, every happy memory, will be sucked out of you. If it can, the Dementor will feed on you long enough to reduce you to something like itself – soulless and evil

Later on, Harry learns that Dementors can even suck out a person's soul completely, which leaves them alive, but without a soul.

What do they symbolise?

In *Pistis Sophia*, a second century Gnostic gospel, the eponymous character suffers from very much the same thing. She complains about the “archons” that constantly steal her “light-power”.

We know that Harry symbolises the New Soul, born from the Lily and the Stag (or the doe and the stag). This Soul starts off as a light shining in the heart of the seeker. It is, in fact “light-power” as *Pistis Sophia* calls it. This is an astral substance which is attracted into the heart by the Lily or Rose opening up and sending out a cry of thirst. This is God's first-born child crying out for His Love, and this is answered inexorably. It is answered by a flow of Light-Power from Heaven, from the World of God.

As long as the seeker's heart remains raised up to this state of yearning for God's Light, the soul is fed, and the seeker is filled with Light-Power. However, as we all know, our mind cannot be concentrated on God all the time. Subconsciously we can keep the heart pure and raised up, but every now and then our attention is drawn to purely earthly things, and in the beginning the seeker is often “sucked in” to earthly desires and interests. He momentarily forgets his connection to God, and so the inflow of Light-Power gradually decreases and stops, and his heart is filled with earthly passions or desires again.

It is then that living astral forces in and around the seeker pounce on him and deprive him of as much Light-Power as they can. This also happens at night, when the seeker is unconscious.

All of us are surrounded by conscious astral fields which we and other people have created in the past. Some of them are extremely powerful, and in *Pistis Sophia* they are called archons, which means rulers. Our Light-Power is of use to them in two ways. Firstly, they absorb it for their own use, but secondly it is to their advantage to deprive seekers of Light-Power, because that stops their progress in the process of alchemical transmutation from lead to gold. The archons or Dementors see the New Soul as a threat to their existence – which it is. So does Voldemort, and this is why they team up in Part 5 of *Harry Potter*.

It is even possible that Dementors or archons can kill a New Soul Completely. This will happen if the seeker allows himself to be ruled by his own selfish will instead of surrendering to the light. The Dementors will then “suck out his soul”. This nearly happens to both Harry and Pistis Sophia.

However, Professor Lupin – the grey king of *The Chymical Wedding* – teaches Harry a difficult but very effective protection against the Dementors. Lupin symbolises the striving for goodness in the seeker, and he shows Harry how to conjure up the “Patronus Charm”. It involves an intense concentration *with all your might, on a single, happy memory*.

As we know, Harry has to work on this for many months, but he does eventually overcome all inner resistances and manages to cast a Patronus which is far beyond the capability of a normal adult wizard. And his Patronus takes the form of: a stag!

The symbolism is blindingly obvious. The one and only way a seeker can overcome attacks by archons/Dementors who steal his Light-Power is to concentrate with all his might on the yearning for God, followed by self-surrender, summed up by the words, *Your will, not mine, be done*. The “happy memory” is one where he remembers his first touch of the light, or of the sublime happiness experienced when the Soul rejoices in the seeker's heart.

Harry saves his own soul and that of Sirius in Part 3. Sirius personifies the mental image and plan of the Eternal Child of God in the microcosm of the seeker, and his “soullessness” would mean the death of the New Soul. When Harry is in the future, watching himself and Sirius being attacked by Dementors, he thinks someone, probably his father, is going to come along and save them. But when no one comes, he realises that **he** must do it himself. He suddenly

knows he has the power and the strength to fight off 100 Dementors. And so, he conjures a radiant, clear Patronus, which drives the Dementors away, and saves both Harry and Sirius.

100 is a symbolic number meaning "everything", and so this can teach us that if our longing for God is strong enough, and if we realise that we have to do it ourselves, then we are easily capable of driving off the whole astral world should it attack us. A wonderful inspiration to all of us.