

The extract is taken from Bram Stoker's novel, Dracula, written in 1897.

In this extract, Johnathan Harker records in his journal his private thoughts and feelings about Count Dracula and his castle.

8 May.--

I only slept a few hours when I went to bed, and feeling that I could not sleep any more, got up. I had hung my shaving mirror by the window, and was just beginning to shave. Suddenly I felt a hand on my shoulder, and heard the Count's voice saying to me, "Good morning." I started, for it amazed me that I had not seen him, since the reflection of the mirror covered the whole room behind me. Having been startled I had cut myself slightly, but did not notice it at that moment. Having answered the Count's greeting, I turned to the mirror again to see how I had been mistaken. This time there could be no mistake, for the man was close to me, and I could see him over my shoulder. But there was no reflection of him in the mirror! The whole room behind me was displayed, but there was no sign of a man in it, except myself!

This was startling, and coming on the top of so many strange things, was beginning to increase that vague feeling of uneasiness which I always feel when the Count is near. But at that instant I saw the cut had bled a little, and the blood was trickling over my chin. I laid down the razor, turning as I did so half round to look for some sticking plaster. When the Count saw my face, his eyes blazed with a sort of demoniac fury, and he suddenly made a grab at my throat. I drew away and his hand touched the rosary beads which held the crucifix. It made an instant change in him, for his anger passed so quickly that I could hardly believe that it was ever there.

"Take care," he said, "take care how you cut yourself. It is more dangerous that 30 you think in this country."

- Read the text and comment on Jonathan Harker's state of mind. What elements in the text contribute to triggering it ?
- Pick out all the supernatural elements of Dracula's appearance
- Grammar : from line 1 to behind me : pick out all the verbs used and justify their use
- Explain what Dracula warns Jonathan against

Your task : imagine you are Jonathan Harker. Write another entry to your journal focusing either on Dracula's uncanny personality OR on the mysterious gothic castle.