

Reflections

reading notes

FEBRUARY 2004—*Mirror Mirror...*

“Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who’s the fairest of them all?” Disney made this question famous in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. The original wording of the question from the Grimm Fairytale was, “Looking-glass upon the wall, who is fairest of us all?” For a time the looking glass would answer, “You are fairest of them all,” until Snow-white turned seven and as beautiful as day. And because the mirror only spoke the truth when asked, it then answered, “Queen, you are full fair; ‘tis true, but Snow-white fairer is than you.”

In Harry Potter’s first school year at Hogwarts, he stumbled across “a magnificent mirror, as high as the ceiling, with an ornate gold frame, standing on two clawed feet.” As he looked at his own reflection, he saw a woman standing behind him. But she was not in the room. He reached out to touch her hand on his shoulder, but felt nothing. Harry didn’t know it at the time, but the woman in the mirror was his mother who was murdered protecting him from the evil Lord Voldemort when Harry was an infant. The mirror had a name: *The Mirror of Erised*. Erised, is the mirror image of the word “Desire.” It revealed Harry’s true desires. Harry desperately wanted to know more about his mother. The mirror showed him what he desired to see. When Ronald Weasley looked into the mirror he saw himself dressed in a Quiddich uniform and holding an award. The mirror, like the one in snow-white told the truth.

Mirrors are like that. They tell the truth about us. That can be useful, but not many appreciate it. They would rather have a mirror tell them anything but the truth.

James, in the New Testament urges his readers to look into a mirror. This mirror, like the others, tells the truth. The mirror James invites us to look into is the word of God. He urges us all to look into it much the same way we would look into a mirror. He warns us not to delude ourselves: “...for if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth away, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was” (Jas 1:22-24).

Mirrors tell the truth.

Steven Lloyd

