

Chapter 5

Words:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Apocalypse | 8. Leer | 15. Sullen |
| 2. Credulity | 9. Mead | 16. Supplicant |
| 3. Hoard | 10. Nonce | 17. Tripe |
| 4. Ignoramus | 11. Scorn | 18. Undulant |
| 5. Immanence | 12. Scowl | 19. Wrath |
| 6. Intercession | 13. <i>Sine qua non</i> | |
| 7. Irascible | 14. Spiteful | |

Questions:

20. How is the Dragon's voice described? How does he laugh? Where have you heard this laugh before? (cf. p. 35)
21. Can you decode the puns: "Boobies, hemorrhoids, boils, slaver"? (hint: what does the Dragon sit on?)
22. From the way the Dragon reacts to Grendel's picking up an emerald, what can we say the Dragon values?
23. When the Dragon responds, "Fiddlesticks!" what is he responding to? What power does the Dragon have?
24. In the last paragraph on p. 61 Grendel describes the dragon with a series of images. What are they? What do these seem to imply?
25. What is wrong with the proposition: "All carnivorous cows eat meat"?
26. What is the Dragon's opinion of the Shaper? Who else that we've read also has such an opinion of poets?
27. What is the Dragon's essential understanding of the universe? What of its purpose? How does the word "accident" fit?

Analysis:

28. Is the whole situation real? Is it a dream? What evidence do we have for either theory?
29. If the dragon and the weapon goldsmith have the same sickening laugh (btw, notice that Grendel does not consciously link the two—another limit to his perception of reality), could they be the same person? Is there some spiritual link between the two? What qualities do they (Dragon & goldsmith) have in common?
30. Consider: does the power to see the past, present, and future give you the ability to truly understand cause & effect?
31. In question 24, we found that the description of the void and the Dragon directed us towards the dragon as the Satan. What other evidence do we have for this? Satan, in Hebrew, means "the adversary," and is commonly referred to as "the deceiver;" how does he fulfill these rolls for Grendel?
32. Remember: Grendel is linked with Cain by the Shaper's song. How might Cain respond to the devil's teachings?

33. Can you find moments when the Dragon is described with diction that would be appropriate for a lion?

Notes:

Devonian fish: The Devonian period (415 to 360 million years ago) saw the rise of fish, coming to dominate the seas. Also, these fish began to migrate to land (ie., fins became feet) as the continents were “Greened” through the development of seed bearing plants. The Devonian period ended with a massive extinction (much greater than the more familiar mass extinction of the dinosaurs)

Fontanel: a soft spot in a newborn’s skull. It aids the rapid growth of a child’s brain.

Eternal Return: Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche’s concept that since there is only limited matter (ie., it is finite), but time is infinite, all matter will rearrange itself in all possible combinations eventually returning to this very combination, and so on *ad infinitum*.

Know Thyself: Half of the motto inscribed above the oracle of Delphi (Apollo’s, the god of reason and poetry’s, home). The other half of the motto (which the Dragon conveniently left out) reads: “Nothing to excess.”