

## **Part 1 - Prospero's Mirror**

*'Spirits participate in delusion,  
in the same manner as the forms in mirrors  
For that which is a perversion of being,  
and deceives the mind and the senses,  
is an abomination in the eyes of the Gods'*

Iamblichus' Fragment on the Mysteries

I found this in the Proceedings of the Honourable Society of Antiquaries:

'The Society will be interested to learn of an appalling discovery. It concerns the scholar and medievalist M R James. He is now more famous for writing the greatest ghost stories in the English language. These stories were inspired by his vast knowledge of antiquarian arcana.

James managed to combine this scholarship with his position as Provost of Eton, which he held from the First World War until his death in 1936. His biographers tell us his personal journals come to an abrupt halt on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1935.

Yet in the archives of Old College, Oxford there have surfaced the papers of Herbert Fisher, the then College Warden. These papers, for many years unread, contain the following documents. They were apparently removed from James's effects after his death, perhaps to prevent a scandal. The Society can thus for the first time publish the missing final pages of James's journal. They are not for the fainthearted.'