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# An Extract from Dracula by Bram Stoker

*In this extract Jonathan Harker meets Dracula for the first time. He arrives at a mysterious castle after a long journey.*

There was the sound of rattling chains and the clanking of massive bolts drawn back. A

key was turned with the loud grating noise of long disuse, and the great door swung back.

Within, stood a tall old man, clean shaven save for a long white moustache, and clad in

black from head to foot, without a single speck of colour about him anywhere. He held in

his hand an antique silver lamp, in which the flame burned without a chimney or globe of

any kind, throwing long quivering shadows as it flickered in the draught of the open door.

The old man motioned me in with his right hand with a courtly gesture, saying in excellent

English, but with a strange intonation.

"Welcome to my house! Enter freely and of your own free will!" He made no motion of

stepping to meet me, but stood like a statue, as though his gesture of welcome had fixed

him into stone. The instant, however, that I had stepped over the threshold, he moved

impulsively forward, and holding out his hand grasped mine with a strength which made

me wince, an effect which was not lessened by the fact that it seemed cold as ice, more

like the hand of a dead than a living man.

## **Glossary:**

**Courtly:** polite

**Threshold:** doorway

**Impulsively:** acting on instinct