



The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XXVI – The Adventure of the Final Problem

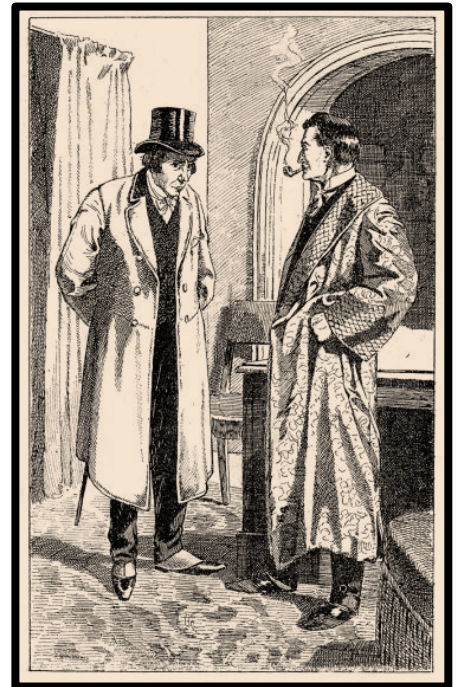
Remember that feeling of doom the first time you read “It is with a heavy heart that I take up my pen to write these the last words...”?! This week we take a closer look at FINA, starting with the following questions and comments:

FINA is fraught with danger and, in fact, the words “danger” and “dangerous” repeat throughout the story. For example, Holmes calls himself a “dangerous guest” and a “dangerous companion,” but he also says the criminal strain in Moriarty’s blood made the Professor “infinitely more dangerous.” How are their dangers different?

As the story opens, both Moriarty and Holmes are presumed dead. Their battle continues, however, with Watson and Moriarty’s brother dueling in ink. Not exactly a clash of the Titans, but isn’t Watson the clear victor?

Holmes predicts that proceedings against Moriarty and his gang will be “the greatest criminal trial of the century.” Since that trial was not to take place, can you name any other great criminal trials of the 19th century that can claim that title? (I can only think of 2 “greatest” criminal trials from that time!)

Where do you suppose Watson learned a smattering of Italian?



Holmes says Moriarty is his intellectual equal, but we can see that Moriarty is no mere “thinking machine.” A range of feelings is evident in his brief appearance in Baker Street: curiosity, grief, and sadness. Isn't he more of a real, rounded personality than Holmes?

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