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Behavioural Comparison of Two Great Villains, Lord Voldemort and Lord Kronos - A Psychoanalytic Study

J. Joelin Sherril

Ph.D. Research Scholar (Full Time)

Dr. N. Kalaiyani

Research Supervisor, Assistant Professor, PG and Research
Department of English, Thiagarajar College,
Affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University.

Abstract

Lord Voldemort and Lord Kronos are the major villains of two popular series, *Harry Potter* and *Percy Jackson*. Throughout the series, they both do various things to attain power over the world. A close reading of both the characters reveals their behavioural similarities. *Harry Potter Series* is written by J. K. Rowling whereas *Percy Jackson Series* is written by Rick Riordan. Both series gained popularity among Young Adults. The former is based on fictional places and stories while the latter is created by adding fiction to Greek myths. Greek mythology has its influence in both the series and hence the similarities. Both the series have many similarities including the behaviour of the main villains. Both the villains do not have a body and they were constantly in search of a host body. Their ultimate goal is to attain power over their opposition and the world. Many other behaviours connect the villains of the series. This paper focuses on the behavioural similarities between the two great villains of two great fictional universes. A comparative study of both the villains helps in exploring their behavioural similarities.

Keywords: Behaviour, Villains, Greek Myth, Character.

Harry Potter and *Percy Jackson* are two great series of all time. They are known for their magical and mythical storyline. *Harry Potter Series* is written by J. K. Rowling and it picturizes the life of an eleven-year-old boy who has been accepted into one of the greatest wizarding schools, Hogwarts. The story further reveals the past of the boy and the secrets about his parents. As Harry grew older, he understands that he was supposed to fight the dark Lord Voldemort. Though everyone around him wants to save him from the impending danger, fate had its way of handling things. Towards the end of the novel, he destroys Voldemort and saves the world. Similarly, *Percy Jackson Series* is written by Rick Riordan and it details the life of a twelve-year-old boy who finds out that he is a Demi-God and the son of Poseidon. The series follows the adventures of Percy and his encounter with the villain Lord Kronos. This series is based on Greek mythology and it unravels the evilness of Lord Kronos who wants to capture the world defeating the Greek Gods. Eventually in this novel too Percy Jackson, the protagonist defeats the evil king Lord Kronos and saves the world.

The characteristics of the two great villains seem to be similar to each other in more than one aspect. There are traces of inspiration from the Greek myths. Though *Percy Jackson Series* is a modern take on Greek mythology, the characters also have behavioural similarities to *Harry Potter Series*. From the protagonists to the villains, the similarities are striking in each book. Both the characters fought for power and they both were feared the most by the people. A closer study of the characteristics of both the villains paves the way for the behavioural similarities between them.

Lord Kronos is known to be the notorious villain in the *Percy Jackson Series*. Kronos destroyed all of his

sons in fear of a prophecy. Lord Voldemort too wanted to destroy Harry Potter because of a prophecy. Both villains feared prophecy more than anyone. Their fear for the prophecy to come true made them a destructive force. Prophecy is the major reason for both of their downfall and their actions are driven by the things they did to avoid the prophecy. Lord Kronos was cut into pieces and thrown into the deeper depth, Tartarus. A similar narrative happens in the *Harry Potter Series* when Lord Voldemort was shredded into pieces and blown into thin air.

Harry, with the unerring skill of the Seeker, caught the wand in his free hand as Voldemort fell backwards, arms splayed, the slit pupils of the scarlet eyes rolling upward. Tom Riddle hit the floor with a mundane finality, his body feeble and shrunken, the white hands empty, the snakelike face vacant and unknowing. Voldemort was dead, killed by his own rebounding curse, and Harry stood with two wands in his hand, staring down at his enemy's shell." (Rowling, 397)

The dream connection or the ability to connect to the protagonists through a dream is yet another distinct quality that both the villains possess. The ability to manipulate the protagonists through their dreams is yet another discrete characteristic of each villain. The villains' connection to the protagonists is mostly through dreams. In *The Battle of Labyrinth*, Percy Jackson dreams about Dedalus and his son about the wings he made for him. One of Harry's dreams is about a mermaid holding his firebolt and taunting him to get it. There were instances where both Harry Potter and Percy Jackson were haunted by Lord Voldemort and Lord Kronos respectively.

Harry, despite your privileged insight into Voldemort's world, you have never been seduced by the Dark Arts, never, even for a second, shown the slightest desire to become one of Voldemort's followers!"

He was wearing Professor Quirrell's turban, which kept talking to him, telling him he must transfer to Slytherin at once because it was his destiny. Harry told the turban he didn't want to be in Slytherin; it got heavier and heavier; he tried to pull it off but it tightened painfully and there was Malfoy, laughing at him as he struggled with it then Malfoy turned into the hook-nosed teacher, Snape, whose laugh became high and cold there was a burst of green light and Harry woke, sweating and shaking. (Rowling, 130)

The background of Kronos details his relationship with his father and how he won the world defeating his mother. Kronos' attitude after winning remained similar to his father's. Tom Riddle, on the

other hand, hated his father because he is a muggle. Voldemort wanted to kill all the muggles because his father left him and his mother. He also tried to kill all the members of the Riddle family to correct his tainted image and seek revenge for his mother's death. Likewise, Kronos tried to kill all his sons by eating them following his father's legacy. Voldemort wanted to carry on his mother's legacy whereas Kronos wanted to continue his father's legacy.

Kronos prepared an army to fight against the Olympians. Lord Voldemort on the other hand had such army named, "Death Eaters". Kronos' army wanted to fight against the Olympians and make Kronos the king and the Death Eaters wanted to make Voldemort the head of the world by destroying all the muggles and half-bloods. Both the villains' ultimate desire is power – the power to rule over the world and to have control over everything. The Villains are the mastermind of both novels. They planned their fight according to their strengths and they formulated a clear plan to take down the Olympians. From starting an army to getting people to follow his principle and manipulating people to fall into his trap they both had an effective planning mind.

"Out Of Fear, Not Loyalty."

The Death Eaters can't all be pure-blood, there aren't enough pure-blood wizards left," said Hermione stubbornly. "I expect most of them are half-bloods pretending to be pure. It's only Muggle-borns they hate, they'd be quite happy to let you and Ron join up" "There is no way they'd let me be a Death Eater!" said Ron indignantly...."My whole family are blood traitors! That's as bad as Muggle-borns to Death Eaters!" "And they'd love to have me," said Harry sarcastically. "We'd be best pals if they didn't keep trying to do me in. (Rowling, 380)

The powerful weapon was in possession of both villains. Scythe for Lord Kronos and the Elder Wand for Lord Voldemort are the powerful weapons they boasted about. Their obsession with those powerful weapons is another thing similar to both characters. They both wanted the powerful weapon to be with them all the time.

"Behold, my children!" she said. "The instrument of my revenge. I will call it a scythe!"

"The Dark Lord no longer seeks the Elder Wand only for your destruction, Mr. Potter. He is determined to possess it because he believes it will make him truly invulnerable. And will it? "The owner of the Elder Wand must always fear attack," said Ollivander, "but the idea of the Dark Lord in possession of the Deathstick is, I must admit..."

formidable."

Harry was suddenly reminded of how he had been unsure, when they first met, of how much he liked Ollivander. Even now, having been tortured and imprisoned by Voldemort, the idea of the Dark wizard in possession of this wand seemed to enthrall as much as it repulsed him. (Rowling, 156-157)

Both characters had a thirst for eternal power. Both the characters wanted full power over the world and complete control over everything. Their hunger for control made them do all sorts of evil and destructive things. They are the type of villains who are ready to do whatever is possible to have control and power over everything. They like to control people and make them live in fear forever. They are masters at manipulating their way to power. Both characters are good at inducing fear in the minds of everyone around them and they thrive in the fear of their subjects.

"There is no good and evil, there is only power and those too weak to seek it." (Rowling, 188)

"I'm going to kill you, Harry Potter. I'm going to destroy you. After tonight, no one will ever again question my power. After tonight if they speak of you, they'll only speak of how you begged for death. And how I being a merciful Lord...obliged. (Rowling, 397)

Kronos would be ten times more powerful. His very presence would incinerate you. And once he achieves this he will empower the other Titans. They are weak, compared to what they soon will become, unless you can stop them, the world will fall, the gods will die, and I will never achieve a perfect score on this stupid machine. (Rick Riordan, 77)

Another similarity is their hunt for a human body. Lord Voldemort and Lord Kronos needed the human body to have a hold on the real world. Professor Quirrell served as the host body for Voldemort and Luke served as the host body for Lord Kronos. They both waited for many years, planning and saving their energy and power to finally seek revenge and power over the world. Their search for a host body to function normally makes both the villains similar in behaviour. This shows that they are as weak as they are powerful.

Yes. You see what I've become? See what I must do to survive? Live off another, a mere parasite! Unicorn blood can sustain me, but it cannot give me a body of my own. But there is something that can; something that, conveniently enough, lies in your pocket! (Rowling, 287)

The characters Lord Voldemort and Lord Kro-

nos are two celebrated and feared villains of all time. The connection between these characters and their behavioural similarities is evident from the very first book. These behavioural comparisons have their roots in Greek mythology too. Both the characters seem to have a connection to Greek mythology directly and indirectly. The character analysis proves striking similarities between both characters throughout the series. The behavioural similarities between both the villains help in exploring the background of the characters whose origin is in Greek mythology.

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