

Death Battle: Styx vs. Goblin Slayer (Of Orcs and Men vs. ...)! By Kash Smith.

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We open up to see Styx sneaking around the plateau of a cliff. Going behind some bushes, he finds the entrance down into a cave. Inside is an abandoned cave based fort from decades ago. Inside is a cave wall covered in jagged rock formations, old rudimentary constructions made of wood, and an underground stream of water going through the center. From the distance, we hear slashing noises.

Styx: Eh? This cave is supposed to be empty. What braindead wingbat would come here on purpose except me?

He crawls along the rocky walls to inspect further in the cave. A faint light grows in the distance as he begins to hear a quiet voice.

Quiet Voice: Fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen.

Rounding a corner, he is able to watch behind cover and see the source of this. A human warrior, clad head to toe in armor, is finishing off a small group of unfortunate goblins and has even torn open one's head to examine its brain.

Goblin Slayer: Hmm... The brains of these goblins are different from the ones back home. There's even more of this golden liquid running from their remains. What could it mean?

Styx **internally**: Well that's just great! C.A.R.N.A.G.E. has found their way here too. I gotta take this guy out before he can report to anybody. Last thing I need is more pale skins knowing where I've been.

Styx reaches into his pouch and pulls out a handful of sand. With expert precision, he tosses the substance at the human's torch... only for the human to suddenly perk up and move his light out of the way. Styx immediately bolts back into the shadows to rethink his approach.

Goblin Slayer holds his ground with confidence. He watches and waits, one hand with his torch and another with his sword. He is taken aback by the apparently remaining goblin's approach. He stares down at the projectile that was just tossed his way.

Slayer: Sand... How bizarre.

The Slayer goes further into the main area of the cave where Styx originally entered. He takes note of the rock formations and the wooden constructs as possible hiding areas. He takes particular interest in a little shack near the far end of the cave. As our view shifts around to the shack, a quick glint appears.

The Slayer is able to act fast and deflect a small crossbow bolt fire at him using his shield. He looks around and rolls behind a large stalagmite. He pokes his head around to take another look and immediately pulls his head back to avoid another shot fired from the shack. As soon as the shot is fired, the Slayer whips around his rock

and chucks a throwing knife right in the bolt's direction. It pierces the side of the shack as the firing seems to stop.

Just then, Styx takes his opportunity to strike while the human's back is turned. He leaps onto the warrior's back and attempts to execute him with his dagger, only for the pale skin to reach up, grab Styx off of his back, and throw him onto the ground. Without hesitation, the human impales his blade through Styx's throat and separates his head.

Slayer: Eighteen.

Styx: Nineteen!

Styx pounces at the Slayer from the shadows and kicks him over, landing a flip. A clone was killed. As the human is knocked back by the surprise attack, Styx tosses a vial of acid at the enemy.

The Slayer uses his shield once more to deflect, but the acid begins to corrode the metal. Seeing no choice, he chooses to discard his shield by throwing it at the enemy like a toy disc. The audacity of this tactic takes the goblin off-guard as he's struck by the half-eaten metal object.

Styx: Ahh!! What kind of super-soldier throws their shield at an enemy?

Slayer: Tch! Smarter than the average goblin. Talking to humans... I suppose you're another one of the so-called "goblin lords".

Goblin Slayer rushes in for a straightforward attack, stabbing at the creature. The goblin simply leaps up above the strike and jumps off of a stalagmite to pounce the Slayer yet again. The Slayer is knocked back and Styx takes that chance to use his weapons.

Styx comes in with slashes and jabs. The Slayer keeps up by avoiding or deflecting most of them, but some minor cuts still find their way

through. With his prey cut up, Styx pummels him into the stream, deep enough to cover a whole human body. The torch gets put out, covering everything in darkness. Styx jumps onto him and begins to beat on him whilst holding him under water as he tries to fight back.

Styx: Heh! Let's see a mad C.A.R.N.A.G.E. agent like you get slain BY a goblin. Ironic isn't it, pale skin?

Styx keeps going for a while until the Slayer stops and collapses under water. Sure his enemy is dead, he gets up to leave.

Styx: Human. Can't hold their breath unless they're drownin' in booze. No human could survive underwater that long.

Styx walks away as he reaches for a healing vial. As he swigs it down, healing his minor wounds, he hears movement in the water. He jerks himself back around to see that the Slayer is not there. Suddenly, a crash of water bursts up from behind as we see the Slayer leaping out from the stream to take another strike.

Instinctively, Styx immediately produces a clone and rolls into a dodge. The clone is instantly killed as the Goblin Slayer pierces his blade straight through the head and out the stomach. He stands and jerks his blade out violently as he speaks.

Slayer: Nineteen...

Styx: Eh, still technically seventeen.

Styx reaches into his pouch and tosses a bomb. The close explosion sends them both flying back a few feet. Styx is quick to get up, take a vial of amber, and turn invisible, retreating back to the shadows of the cave rocks.

Goblin Slayer is forced to take a moment to collect his senses as he can still hear the sound of the shockwave ringing in his ears. He notices that the goblin has disappeared. Unable to hear or see his

enemy, he takes the unconventional approach of diving back into the water, staying out of sight with the help of his breath ring.

Both enemies wait in their hiding spots for the other to make the first move. Neither had faced a member of the other species quite as competent as each other before, and they weren't about to take any unnecessary risks in this encounter. They both knew one thing would be true at the end of the day; they had to live and their enemy had to die.

The Slayer, realizing his position, concludes that he has to make the first move to draw out his opponent. As is, the goblin can attack from its hiding spot, but he cannot attack from his own and every second he is not in pursuit of this intelligent goblin, the better its chance for escape.

Slayer: GOBLIN!!!

The slayer roars with fury as he emerges from the water. With his senses clearing, he hears the spring of a loading crossbow from his left. He quickly rolls out of the way as a bolt strikes him in the left shoulder. He takes out his three pronged weapon, the southern style throwing knife and takes aim before throwing with all his might into the rock formation on the cave wall.

The rock formation Styx chose was shaped like a tunnel with cage bars formed by stalagmites and stalactites. After he fires his crossbow, he realizes he missed and quickly tries to reload.

Styx: Bah! Finicky cheap gadgets! They'll be the death of me.

Just then, he hears a whirling sound coming straight at him. He turns to see a spinning blade that had looped into the tunnel and was heading right at him. On instinct, he teleported. The clone he kept in the shack from earlier dies as Styx takes his place.

Styx: Aw, blast it all! That was supposed to be my f**king trump card.

This guy's plenty troublesome.

Just as he peaks out the small window, he's hit in the face with something. It is a smoke bomb. Styx starts to hack and cough as all visibility in the shack drops rapidly.

From behind the goblin, we see a single red glowing eye appear in the darkness.

Goblin Slayer: You're pretty good... for a goblin.

Styx whips around with his blades as the two begin to strike. Through the darkness, they clash. Each spark of a hard clash of blades illuminates the battle for just a split second. Each hit to make contact from either lets out loud rips, shinks, and grotesque splurches from blood and flesh.

Spark to spark, hit to hit. The two are getting bloodier and worn out.

Finally, as the smoke dissipates, they both have their best opportunity to end this fight.

Goblin Slayer sees his enemy's face protrude from the cloud and slices it in half. Then, noticing there are no other wounds, he looks out the window to see the real Styx trying to get away. With his good arm, the Slayer takes his short sword and throws it with deadly precision.

Styx is huffing and limping as he tries to run away into the shadows when he is suddenly impaled through the stomach. He hunches over in pain, barely catching himself when falling to the ground. The last healing vial falls out to the ground, out of his reach.

The human walks over, covered in wounds and scratches and pulls out his sword, resulting in a scream from his prey's pain. The goblin turns over onto its back, laying down in a pool of his own green blood.

Styx: *COUGH* Do... do it, hu-*cough*-human. Kill mercilessly. Your kind a-always does.

With that, the Goblin Slayer swiftly chops straight down onto the creature's neck. Sparks fly off the rocky ground as the blade cuts through. The head of Styx now detached, the last thing he can do is close his eyes as he rests forever.

Goblin Slayer: Now it's eighteen.

Transition:

Boomstick: Well, that was something else! Goblin Slayer has never met a goblin quite like Styx, but Styx has never met a slayer quite like eh... Goblin Slayer. In the end, no matter how much amber he's *goblin'* down, he just couldn't *slay* the odds.

Wiz: The winner is Goblin Slayer.

The End.