

Rotating Moderator

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Dragons vs Robots: A critical Analysis by Ed Green

Givens: The robots we are envisioning are humanoid in appearance and have claws for hands. The dragons are of a moderate size and intelligence and can breathe fire. The fight will take place in space and while robots and dragons are usually friends, they are fighting in this case over a virgin.

First thing: it's obvious that dragons might be at a serious disadvantage in space because a robot needs not to breathe. We'll assume that the dragons have a magic helmet that allows them to breathe freely. While a dragon has weapons as varied as claws like steel and firebreath, against the unfeeling metal skin of the robot, these are far less effective. The beauty of dragon flight is also troubling as a robot, even one without flight, would likely be able to outmaneuver a dragon by virtue of superior calculation and ability to rely on the various calculations to do fast and accurate attacks. To me, that's enough to tip the scales towards robots.

A creature of flesh has an inherent disadvantage against cold hard steel. Examples of this include the assassination of Julius Caesar. Any robot with slicer claws for hands will be able to cut and run at will. This gives it great advantage over dragons by virtue of dragons claws being of a tearing nature. These advantages make me say that dragons are ready for a robotic whuppin' of gigantic proportions.

Robot vs. Dragon: An Alternative View by Vanessa Van Wagner

A dragon of moderate size and ability could probably defeat one of the old box-style retro robots, especially if it was one of the pre-war Model 28s - you know, the ones with the wobbly plates and those cheap rivets that were coming out of Rigel IV in those days.

The robot, even if it has good, solid, American-



made rivets, is always at a disadvantage in a space fight. Being a product of scientific imagination, the robot is bound, however loosely, by the laws of physics. The dragon, being wholly a creature of fancy, doesn't have to worry about gravity, friction, heat, momentum, or any of that stuff.

Also, let's not forget how this entire contentious business got started. The dragon and the robot are not natural enemies. As with Freddy vs. Jason or

Godzilla vs. Mothra, an outside force has set them against each other - in this case, an evil virgin - LOSCON virgin, that is. Bitter because he missed the previous 32 iterations of the most fun you can have with X hundred of your closest friends in a corporate chain hotel, he is determined to sow discord among imaginary beings everywhere.

Robots are sadly prone to these kinds of entanglements. I'm sure you all remember

where you were when you first heard about the unfortunate outcome of the Robot vs. the Aztec Mummy.

Dragons, while not immune to the thrall of evil virgins, have certain natural defenses. Any novice in the Order OWWE (Ones Wise in the Ways of the Egg) could tell you - the intensity of a dragon's libido is inversely proportional to the square of the distance between the dragon and the surface of the Earth. So from out in space, Mr. Evil LOSCON Virgin doesn't look so good to the dragon, and therefore her reason for battling the robot ceases to exist. She is likely to just wander away from the fight to chase something shiny over back of the moon.

In this particular match-up, nature favors the dragon.



Guys With Swords by Ed Green

As a general rule, in this modern age, one should distrust guys with swords.



This may sound like a rather broad brush with which to paint guys, but allow me to continue for a moment and perhaps you'll understand.

First, this is the modern world. We have guns. We have tanks. Hell, we have laser cannons floating in low earth orbit, with scanners searching out those who show anti-social streaks, zeroing in on them, prepping the gas tubes to spark and send a beam of death zipping through the air of our earth, to fry the little rats who deserve this treatment.

Or so I have been told. I of course have no knowledge of such weapon systems, or if I did, I could not acknowledge them at this time.

Anyway we have technology that laughs in the face of edged weapons.

So, ask yourself. Who are these mooks who are running around with 20 pounds of steel, screaming like loons?

Do they strike you as sane members of a society?

Do they strike you as people who think through their actions?

Of course not.

"Ah," you may think "what if they are recreating the styles and manners of an age gone by? What of that?"

This kind of recreation usually involves being out of doors, wearing rough clothing and in general braving the elements.

Carrying swords and eschewing air conditioning?

Please, if we wanted the Vikings to return, we would have bombed the planet back to the near Stone Age years ago, when it would have been more fun and less messy.

So, please, the next time you see a squad of guys running around, swinging swords and yelling, think about this:

The only people more foolish than guys with swords are fan writers who point out how foolish they really are!



Vocabulary Quiz

FIAWOL - Fandom is a wad of lint

FIAWOT - Fandom is a waste of time

Floccinaucinihilipilification - act or habit of declaring worthless

Fandom is a ... oooh, shiny!

Hyperhydrovulcanoconiosis - excessive perspiration in rabbits caused by plate tectonics.

Gestetnerfiction - process that occurs when people with practical functioning brains become caught up in fanzining

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None dare call it edited!

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Q & A

What smells purple?
Sin, sorrow, and orange juice.



What's holding this fanzine together?
Not bolts.

What's an industrial use for rabbit sweat?
Nuclear reactor coolant.

Has anybody asked why?
No.

Kirk or Picard?
Neither - Nemo.



Did You Know?

R-Laurrainne Tuthasi's DNA has been scanned and encoded in every page of this zine! Not RNA, though. That's too personal.

