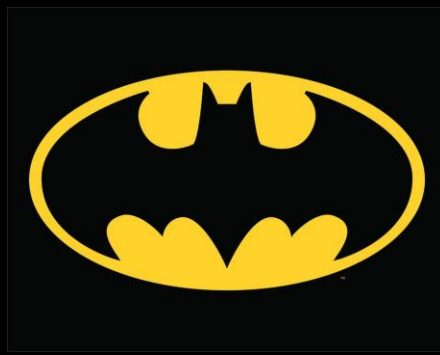


THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS

For this artifact, I decided to analyze **The Batman Who Laughs**, Bruce Wayne from Earth-22 of the Dark Multiverse of DC Comics. This character is driven by pure evil in every one of his acts. As a hybrid between **Joker** and **Batman**, he is both insane and a cold-minded strategist who represents a true danger for any superhero trying to take him down.



The Batman Who Laughs used to be a hero in the past, just like the original Batman. However, in a rageful response to the murder of many of his friends at the hands of the **Joker**, **Batman** ended up killing his long-life rival and then accidentally inhaling some of the toxic gas contained in **Joker's** heart. This gradually transformed him into a corrupt crazy version of the superhero we all know.



He wears completely dark attire and the iconic **Batman** mask, a design choice that ensures the audience perceives this character as some variant of the original **Batman**. Differing from the original clothing, his suit contains belts and shoulder pads like that of a vampire's armor. Such elements, combined with his slim body complexity and pale skin, make him look like an undead being. This might be a metaphor to express that he no longer acts as a living creature, and his intentions to harm other people are the only thing that keeps him alive.



Chains are wrapped around his arms, which he uses to fight or to leash a group of **Joker** versions of Robin, possessing them as minion pets. The chains successfully reflect his objective of taking over other universes, dominating, and finally trapping them in his chains of darkness. He no longer values the life of other beings; he would even leash his son (*Damian Wayne*) under these chains to use him as another means to achieve his goals.



His mask is like **Batman's** original mask but with slightly larger ears and a metal spiked visor that covers his entire look. The metal visor does a great job at contrasting elements of the character's design. The visor itself stands out from the rest of the attire as it is the only non-black object he wears on his entire body. **The Batman Who Laughs** wears this piece of gear not for aesthetic purposes, but as a medium to see and explode the darkness inside others as well as to travel between different dimensions in the Dark Multiverse.



Moreover, the most interesting design choice for me is that the only facial feature one can look at is the huge horrendous smile he carries. The whole character's story and design revolve around this bloody smile. Once you look at it you immediately know that he is related to the **Joker** in some way and that there is nothing but malicious intentions behind such an icon of insanity.



***“...You see... a Batman who laughs... is a Batman who always wins.” –
The Batman Who Laughs***

What makes this character unique, and somewhat disturbing to look at, is the fact that he is **Batman**. The inclusion of common elements of evil characters being portrayed by one of the most well-known superheroes in the entire history of comics produces a feeling of terror and uncertainty. This design makes you think about what could have happened to such a legendary superhero to turn into one of the most heartless and macabre supervillains.

If he was already intimidating and scary as a superhero, what will the future bring to the Dark Multiverse now that he has lost his mind?

