SOFTWARE & TECH

Game Of Thrones 2 Swords

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The Legend of Valyrian Steel: Unraveling the Tale of Game of Thrones 2 Swords

In the sprawling, blood-soaked world of Westeros, few symbols carry as much weight as the legendary blades forged from Valyrian steel. When fans discuss the iconic weapons of the series, the phrase **Game of Thrones 2 Swords**often emerges as a topic of heated debate and fascination. While the realm boasts numerous famous blades, two stand above the rest in terms of narrative importance, legacy, and sheer awe-inspiring power: Ice, the ancestral greatsword of House Stark, and Longclaw, the blade wielded by Jon Snow. However, the story of these two swords is far more intricate than a simple comparison. It involves betrayal, reforging, hidden identities, and the very fate of humanity. This article delves deep into the history, symbolism, and ultimate destiny of these two monumental weapons, exploring how they shaped the events of the series and captured the imagination of millions.

The allure of Valyrian steel lies not only in its incredible sharpness and lighter weight but also in its rarity. The secret of its forging was lost with the Doom of Valyria, making existing blades precious heirlooms passed down through generations. For House Stark, their greatsword, Ice, was more than a weapon; it was a symbol of justice, honor, and the North itself. For Jon Snow, Longclaw became a symbol of his identity, his leadership, and his burden as a protector of the realm. Understanding the journey of these two swords is to understand the core themes of the entire saga: identity, sacrifice, and the heavy cost of power.

The Ancestral Blade: Ice of House Stark

For centuries, the massive greatsword known as Ice was the ceremonial and practical weapon of the Lord of Winterfell. Forged from Valyrian steel, the blade was nearly as tall as a grown man, featuring a dark, smoky grey pattern typical of blades from the Freehold. It was wielded by generations of Starks, serving as the instrument of execution for those sentenced to death by the Warden of the North. This tradition, known as "the man who passes the sentence should swing the sword," was a core tenet of Stark honor, as taught by Eddard Stark to his sons, Bran and Robb.

Ice was not merely a tool for beheadings; it was a physical representation of the Stark family's enduring legacy. When Ned Stark traveled south to King's Landing to serve as the Hand of the King, he brought Ice with him. It was a constant reminder of his northern roots and the values he held dear. The blade's presence in the south became a symbol of the old ways clashing with the political machinations of the capital. Tragically, Ice would never return to the North. After Ned's unjust execution on the steps of the Great Sept of Baelor, the sword fell into the hands of the Lannisters, a fate that would forever alter its legacy and lead to the creation of two new, distinct blades.

The Reforging: From Ice to Two Swords

One of the most significant and symbolic events in the series is the decision to melt down Ice and reforge it into

two separate longswords. This act, ordered by Tywin Lannister, was not just practical but deeply political. Tywin, ever the pragmatist, recognized the immense value of Valyrian steel and saw an opportunity to arm his family with weapons that symbolized their new power. He commissioned the master smith Tobho Mott, one of the few smiths in Westeros capable of working with the legendary metal, to reforge the Stark greatsword.

This act of destruction and creation is a poignant metaphor for the breaking of the Stark family itself. The single, unified blade that represented the North was split, just as the Stark children were scattered across the world. The two new swords that emerged from the process were distinctly different from their parent blade and from each other. The first was a magnificent longsword with a lion's head pommel and ruby-eyed clasp, named **Oathkeeper**. The second was a slightly smaller, more elegant blade with a golden wolf's head pommel, named **Widow's Wail**. These names themselves are laden with meaning—Oathkeeper representing a vow to protect the innocent, and Widow's Wail a cruel homage to the grief they caused the Stark family.

Oathkeeper: A Blade of Broken Promises and Renewed Hope

Tywin Lannister gifted Oathkeeper to his son, Jaime Lannister, with the expectation that it would inspire him to reclaim his honor and secure his place as the future Lord of Casterly Rock. However, the blade's journey took a far more noble path. Jaime, deeply conflicted by his past and his relationship with his sister, gave the sword to Brienne of Tarth. His charge to her was simple yet profound: use the sword to protect Sansa Stark and fulfill the oath Jaime had sworn to Catelyn Stark.

Oathkeeper, therefore, became a sword of redemption. It was a Valyrian steel blade forged from a Stark heirloom, wielded by a woman of honor on a mission to save a Stark. The symbolism is rich with irony and hope. The sword, born from an act of Lannister aggression, became a tool for a Lannister to perform a selfless act of honor. Brienne of Tarth used the blade not just as a weapon but as a badge of her own identity. She had it engraved with the words "Oathkeeper," and it became synonymous with her unwavering commitment to her word. In the final battles, Brienne wielded Oathkeeper with deadly efficiency, showing that even a weapon born of betrayal could be used for the most righteous of causes.

Widow's Wail: The Sword of the Young Lion

The second sword forged from Ice, Widow's Wail, was given to the newly crowned King Joffrey Baratheon as a wedding gift. The name, suggested by Joffrey himself, was a cruel and boastful epithet, indicating his sadistic nature. The blade, adorned with golden scrollwork and a lion's head, was a perfect match for Joffrey's arrogant and violent personality. However, Joffrey never had the chance to truly wield the sword in battle. He was poisoned at his own wedding feast, and the blade passed to his younger brother, Tommen Baratheon.

Tommen, a kind and gentle boy, had little use for a weapon of war. During his reign, Widow's Wail was seen on his hip during council meetings, a symbol of his authority rather than his martial prowess. After Tommen's tragic death, the sword's ownership became unclear, but it was eventually retrieved and used in the Great War against the White Walkers. Jaime Lannister was seen wielding Widow's Wail in the crypts of Winterfell, defending the women and children from the wights. This moment was deeply symbolic—a Lannister wielding a Stark sword to protect the people of the North. The blade that was once a symbol of Lannister triumph over the Starks became a defender of the Stark home. This cyclical nature of the sword's history underscores the series' central theme of breaking old cycles and finding unity against a common enemy.

Longclaw: The Bastard's Birthright

While the story of Ice and its offspring is one of division and reunion, the tale of Longclaw is one of unexpected legacy and earned honor. Longclaw was the ancestral Valyrian steel longsword of House Mormont. For generations, the lords of Bear Island had wielded the blade, its pommel carved in the shape of a bear's head. The sword came into the possession of Lord Commander Jeor Mormont of the Night's Watch. When Jeor's son, Ser Jorah Mormont, fled into exile for his crimes, the Lord Commander was left without an heir to pass the

blade to. Seeing the potential and honor in his young steward, Jon Snow, Jeor made a decision that would change the course of history.

Jeor Mormont saved Jon's life from a wight in his own chambers. As a reward and a sign of his trust, he presented Longclaw to Jon. This act was laden with meaning. It officially severed the blade's connection to House Mormont and gave it to a bastard of House Stark. Jeor had the pommel changed from a bear to a direwolf, the sigil of House Stark, cementing the sword's new identity. For Jon, Longclaw was more than just a weapon; it was an affirmation of his worth and his place in the world. He was no longer just a bastard; he was a man trusted with one of the most precious objects in the North.

The Symbolism of the Bear and the Wolf

The journey of Longclaw is a narrative of becoming. Jon Snow spent his entire life feeling like an outsider. He was a Stark who could not bear the Stark name, a bastard raised among trueborn siblings. When he took the black, he found a new family but still fought for respect. Receiving Longclaw was the first time someone of authority had given him something of immense value without reservation. It was a transfer of trust, honor, and duty from one noble House to the son of another.

The changing of the pommel from a bear to a wolf is a powerful visual representation of this transition. The bear represented the fierce, loyal, and stubborn nature of House Mormont. The wolf represented the free, wild, and pack-oriented nature of House Stark. By wielding Longclaw, Jon Snow united these two identities. He was both a man of the Night's Watch (carrying the legacy of a Lord Commander) and a Stark (carrying the spirit of Winterfell). The blade was his constant companion, strapped to his back as he scaled the Wall, fought the mutineers at Craster's Keep, and rode south to reclaim his home. In the Long Night, Longclaw was the weapon that killed White Walkers, holding the line at Winterfell.

A Comparison of the Two Swords in Combat

From a strictly martial perspective, both Ice-turned-Oathkeeper-and-Widow's-Wail and Longclaw represent the pinnacle of weaponry in Westeros. However, they are designed for different combat styles. Ice was a two-handed greatsword, requiring immense strength and allowing for sweeping, powerful strikes. It was a weapon of execution and warfare, not quick duels. In contrast, Oathkeeper and Widow's Wail are longswords, designed for one or two hands, offering greater speed, precision, and versatility. This reflects the changing nature of warfare in the series as well as the personalities of their wielders.

Longclaw is also a hand-and-a-half longsword, similar in size and weight to its Lannister counterparts. Its design is simpler, with less ornamentation, reflecting the pragmatic and humble nature of its wielder, Jon Snow. Where Brienne used Oathkeeper with a knight's formal technique and power, Jon used Longclaw with a combination of northern ferocity and trained discipline. The performance of these blades against the White Walkers is a crucial plot point. Valyrian steel was one of the few substances capable of killing the wights and shattering the ice blades of the White Walkers. Both Oathkeeper and Longclaw played pivotal roles in the Battle of Winterfell, proving that the ancient weapons of the First Men were still vital in the fight for the dawn.

The Legacy of the Two Swords in the End

As the series concluded, the fates of these two legendary blade lineages diverged, yet both found peace. Oathkeeper, after years of loyal service, remained with Brienne of Tarth. In the final moments of the series, we see Brienne serving as the

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