

why does kreacher answer to harry

why does kreacher answer to harry is a question that intrigues many fans of the Harry Potter series. Kreacher, the house-elf originally bound to serve the Black family, shows a complex relationship with Harry Potter, especially as the story progresses. Understanding why Kreacher answers to Harry requires delving into the magical laws governing house-elves, the inheritance of servitude, and the unique circumstances surrounding Harry's interactions with the Black family and their ancestral home, 12 Grimmauld Place. This article explores the background of house-elf servitude, Kreacher's history, and the pivotal moments that establish Harry as his master. Additionally, the dynamics of obedience and loyalty between house-elves and their masters are examined to clarify the reasons behind Kreacher's responses to Harry. The article will also discuss the implications of this relationship on the broader narrative and character development within the series.

- The Concept of House-Elf Servitude
- Kreacher's Background and Connection to the Black Family
- How Harry Became Kreacher's Master
- The Nature of Kreacher's Obedience to Harry
- Impact of Kreacher's Loyalty on the Storyline

The Concept of House-Elf Servitude

House-elves are magical creatures bound by ancient magical laws to serve specific wizarding families. Their servitude is hereditary, passed down through generations alongside the family they serve. This

enslavement is not merely traditional but embedded in magical contracts that house-elves cannot break unless explicitly freed by their masters. Understanding the nature of house-elf servitude is essential to grasp why Kreacher answers to Harry.

Magical Bonds and Inherited Servitude

House-elves are magically bound to obey their masters' commands, regardless of the nature of those commands. This bond is automatically inherited by the elf's descendants, meaning that Kreacher, as a house-elf of the Black family, is bound to serve whoever legally controls the Black family estate. The servitude involves complete obedience, and elf masters may command their house-elves with absolute authority.

The Role of House-Elves in the Wizarding World

House-elves perform household duties and other services, often showing fierce loyalty and dedication to their masters. Their obedience is a defining characteristic, and while some house-elves like Dobby seek freedom, others embrace their servitude. This complex social structure explains the behavior of elves like Kreacher and frames his relationship with Harry.

Kreacher's Background and Connection to the Black Family

Kreacher's identity is deeply tied to the Black family, a prominent pure-blood wizarding lineage. He has served the Blacks for generations and is intimately familiar with their traditions, values, and secrets. This background sets the stage for his interactions with Harry Potter, who inherits the Black family legacy in a unique way.

Kreacher's Loyalty to the Black Family

Kreacher embodies the traditional Black family values, including their pure-blood supremacy beliefs.

His loyalty initially extends only to those he recognizes as legitimate heirs or members of the family. This loyalty influences his initial disdain for Harry, who is perceived as an outsider and a half-blood, contrasting with the Blacks' ideology.

12 Grimmauld Place and Its Significance

Kreacher's primary duty is to serve at 12 Grimmauld Place, the ancestral home of the Black family. This location becomes a critical setting in the Harry Potter series, especially as it serves as the headquarters for the Order of the Phoenix. Kreacher's connection to the house is a crucial element in understanding why he answers to Harry after the house changes ownership.

How Harry Became Kreacher's Master

The pivotal reason why Kreacher answers to Harry lies in the legal transfer of ownership of 12 Grimmauld Place and, consequently, the servitude of its house-elf. When Harry inherits the house from Sirius Black, Kreacher's allegiance is magically transferred to Harry as the new master of the estate.

Inheritance of 12 Grimmauld Place

After the death of Sirius Black, Harry Potter inherits 12 Grimmauld Place as Sirius's legal heir. This inheritance includes not only the property itself but also the house-elf bound to serve there. The magical bond between the house-elf and the property ensures that Kreacher's obedience extends to whoever holds the title to the house.

Magical Transfer of Servitude

The servitude of house-elves is linked to ownership rather than personal relationships. When Harry becomes the owner of the Black family house, Kreacher's servitude is automatically reassigned to him. This magical and legal mechanism explains why Kreacher answers to Harry, despite their initially

strained interactions.

The Nature of Kreacher's Obedience to Harry

Kreacher's obedience to Harry is complex and evolves throughout the series. Initially, Kreacher is hostile and uncooperative, reflecting his resentment towards Harry's background and his loyalty to the deceased Sirius Black. However, over time, their relationship shifts, revealing the nuances of house-elf obedience and loyalty.

Initial Hostility and Distrust

Kreacher's first responses to Harry are marked by hostility and reluctance to serve. This behavior stems from Kreacher's disdain for Sirius Black's lifestyle and Harry's half-blood status. Despite this, Kreacher remains bound to obey Harry's commands, illustrating the magical nature of house-elf servitude that overrides personal feelings.

Developing Loyalty Through Compassion

Harry demonstrates kindness and respect toward Kreacher, which gradually softens the elf's attitude. By treating Kreacher with compassion, Harry breaks down the barriers of mistrust and earns Kreacher's genuine loyalty. This transformation highlights the potential for house-elves to respond positively when treated with dignity, beyond mere magical obedience.

Examples of Kreacher's Service to Harry

- Assisting in the Order of the Phoenix's operations at 12 Grimmauld Place
- Providing valuable information about the Black family and their artifacts

- Supporting Harry and his friends during critical moments in the series

Impact of Kreacher's Loyalty on the Storyline

Kreacher's obedience and eventual loyalty to Harry have significant implications for the Harry Potter narrative. The house-elf's actions influence key plot developments and contribute to the unfolding of important events.

Kreacher's Role in the Hunt for Horcruxes

Kreacher provides vital assistance in the quest to locate and destroy Voldemort's Horcruxes. His knowledge of the Black family's history and artifacts proves indispensable, especially regarding the locket Horcrux. Kreacher's cooperation with Harry reflects the transformation from reluctant servant to active ally.

Symbolism of House-Elf Liberation and Respect

The evolving relationship between Harry and Kreacher symbolizes broader themes of freedom, respect, and the breaking of traditional servitude bonds. Harry's treatment of Kreacher contrasts sharply with previous masters, emphasizing the importance of empathy and equality in overcoming prejudice and enslavement.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Kreacher obey Harry Potter instead of other wizards?

Kreacher obeys Harry because he inherits the authority over the house-elf from Sirius Black, his

former master, and respects the owner of the house. When Harry becomes the master of the Black family home, Kreacher recognizes him as his new master.

How did Harry become Kreacher's master?

Harry became Kreacher's master after inheriting the Black family home, 12 Grimmauld Place, from Sirius Black, who was Kreacher's previous master. House-elves are bound to serve the owner of their house.

Does Kreacher have to obey Harry because of magical rules?

Yes, house-elves are magically bound to obey the commands of their masters. Since Harry is the current master of Kreacher's house, Kreacher is compelled to obey him.

Why didn't Kreacher answer to other members of the Order of the Phoenix?

Kreacher is loyal to the Black family and their house. He only answers to the master of the Black family home, which became Harry after Sirius's death. Other Order members do not have authority over him.

What is the significance of Kreacher answering to Harry in the story?

Kreacher answering to Harry symbolizes Harry's acceptance of his role in the fight against Voldemort and his connection to the Black family legacy. It also shows Harry's growing understanding and respect for all creatures.

Did Kreacher always obey Harry from the beginning?

Initially, Kreacher was reluctant and hostile towards Harry, but he obeyed because he was bound to. Over time, as Harry treated him kindly and respectfully, Kreacher became more loyal and helpful.

Can Kreacher refuse to obey Harry?

No, as a house-elf bound by magic to serve his master, Kreacher cannot refuse to obey Harry's commands unless Harry frees him or transfers ownership to someone else.

How does Kreacher's obedience affect Harry's mission?

Kreacher's obedience provides Harry with valuable assistance, such as information about the Black family and the ability to access Grimmauld Place, which serves as a base for the Order of the Phoenix.

Is Kreacher's obedience unique compared to other house-elves?

Not necessarily. All house-elves are magically bound to obey their masters. However, Kreacher's initial hostility and eventual loyalty to Harry highlight the complexity of house-elf servitude and personal loyalty.

What changes Harry made to gain Kreacher's trust and loyalty?

Harry showed kindness and respect to Kreacher, which was unusual compared to how previous masters treated him. This change in treatment helped Kreacher develop genuine loyalty and willingly support Harry's cause.

Additional Resources

1. *The House-Elf's Bond: Understanding Kreacher's Loyalty to Harry*

This book delves into the magical and emotional ties that bind house-elves to their masters, focusing on Kreacher's unique relationship with Harry Potter. It explores the history of the Black family and how Harry's inheritance of 12 Grimmauld Place gave him authority over Kreacher. The narrative also examines the complex nature of servitude, loyalty, and freedom within the wizarding world.

2. *Magic and Mastery: The Enchantment Behind Kreacher's Obedience*

A detailed exploration of the magical laws and enchantments that govern house-elves, explaining why Kreacher obeys Harry. The book provides insights into the spells that bind elves to their masters and how these spells can change hands. It also discusses the cultural significance of house-elves and their roles in wizarding society.

3. From Servitude to Trust: Kreacher's Journey with Harry Potter

This book narrates Kreacher's transformation from a resentful house-elf to a loyal ally of Harry Potter. It highlights key moments in the series where Harry's kindness and respect altered Kreacher's attitude. The story emphasizes themes of redemption, respect, and the power of compassionate leadership.

4. The Inheritance of Power: How Harry Became Kreacher's Master

An investigative look into the legal and magical ramifications of Harry inheriting the Black family home, which included ownership of Kreacher. The book explains how property and ownership laws in the wizarding world apply to magical creatures like house-elves. It also discusses the impact of this inheritance on the dynamics between Harry, Kreacher, and the Order of the Phoenix.

5. House-Elf Lore: The Secret Rules Behind Kreacher's Obedience

This title offers an in-depth study of house-elf lore and ancient customs that dictate their behavior toward their masters. It uncovers the hidden rules and traditions that explain why Kreacher must obey Harry. The book also compares the behavior of different house-elves to shed light on their unique societal roles.

6. Harry Potter and the Secrets of Kreacher's Allegiance

A focused analysis on the pivotal moments in the Harry Potter series where Kreacher's allegiance shifts toward Harry. The book examines how Harry's actions and values influence Kreacher's loyalty. It also includes reflections on how this relationship affects the broader narrative of the fight against Voldemort.

7. Bound by Blood and Magic: Kreacher's Duty to Harry Potter

This book explores the intertwined themes of bloodline, magic, and duty that explain Kreacher's obedience to Harry. It highlights the significance of the Black family's legacy and how it extends to

their loyal house-elves. The narrative provides a broader understanding of magical servitude and the complex bonds it creates.

8. *The Enchanted Servant: Examining Kreacher's Role in Harry's Story*

An examination of Kreacher's character arc and his role as an enchanted servant within the Harry Potter narrative. The book analyzes how Kreacher's obedience contributes to key plot developments and Harry's eventual success. It also discusses the moral and ethical dimensions of magical servitude.

9. *Master and Elf: The Dynamics of Power in Harry Potter's World*

This title investigates the power dynamics between masters and house-elves, using Kreacher and Harry's relationship as a case study. It explores themes of authority, respect, and rebellion within magical hierarchies. The book provides a nuanced perspective on how power is negotiated and transformed in the wizarding world.

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