

So, You Want to Slay A Dragon?

So, you want to slay a dragon? Since you're reading this parchment, I'm assuming you're considering it. I'm sure you have several reasons as to why you'd want to risk your life in doing so. Gold? Titles? The undying love of a fair young lass? Doesn't matter to me. I've heard them all. Your reasons don't concern me, only your success. There're dragons to kill, and it's my responsibility to share my hard-earned advice with you to make sure you do the job correctly.

There's been so many amateur slayers that just charge at a dragon, hooting and hollering and waving their sword around like they're swinging a club. And what happens? They get charred to a crisp with just a mere puff from its flaming nostrils. A dragon's toenail can be bigger than the slayer and their horse combined, and its back hide is covered in scales harder than any plated armour. Banging against its back isn't going to kill it. Your sword will be a teeny toothpick to them then. Waking it up by clopping over to it, belting out war cries won't help either. It'll just make it mad.

Luckily, dragons aren't impenetrable. It may be hard to tell, with how hard those back scales are, but their underbellies are as soft and vulnerable as a babe's behind. Main problem is that dragons are aware of this. That's why the smart devils always sleep on their stomachs. I don't suppose you would be able physically shove a dragon over onto its back – unless you happen to be a giant or a wizard. Luckily, to a dragon, you're as small as an ant. Use that to your advantage! Find a crevice in the ground and worm your way through. Size doesn't matter if you have a well-executed and thought-out strategy.

You'd best do it quick and avoid the heart. It's tempting, since that would kill it instantly, but blood flows from its heart like molten lava. You wouldn't want to be in the thick of it. Instead, attack its belly. It's a bigger target, there's more room to swiftly crawl through as it snores in its sleep, and the blood, while warm, won't melt your clothes to your skin. Just thrust your sword through there with a long sweeping slash. Don't just prick it, really shove it in and slice through, like slaughtering a pig. It will be dead within minutes then. Trust me.

Just strike and run, and let it bleed out. Don't stay for a further fight or to show off. It won't bring you any further glory. I made that mistake once. I got cocky, and that's why I'm retired and writing on this parchment instead of still being active. It's hard to use a sword and a quill without any arms. Thank God my feet are dexterous. Don't do what I did.

Keep in mind that dragons have a great sense of smell. They can smell animals and humans from miles away. Even the metallic stench of gold can lure them in. Leave behind any gems and metals you carry. Even your armour. Remove that, as it'll slow you down anyway. Hide any trace of human scent that might give you away. Coat yourself in mud. It'll help you blend in with the mountains they stir in. Charcoal will also do the trick. Anything that smells burnt will smell familiar to a dragon. It sleeps in ashes after all. Honestly, I suspect everything would smell smoky to a creature that breathes fire. Best avoid sheep farms, too. A poor shepherd

boy looking to increase his status only increased the beast's appetite. They love sheep almost as much as they love gold.

Speaking of sheep, dragons will do anything to fill its massive hungry maw, and when it can't find any people to snack on, livestock will do well in a pinch. So, if you think you can't kill it from the outside, use livestock to kill it from the inside. Should you find its lair; take a few cows, horses, or of course, their favourite, sheep, and leave them by its nest. Make sure you flee before they see you and decide to eat you too. Don't lead them back to your village. Make a camp close by to stay near and out of sight.

Your sacrificed livestock must have either sulfur or lead tied around it. Another reason why sheep are the best is because it's easier to hide things within its fleece. When a dragon devours it, its hot breath will melt these substances. The lead will melt and lodge within its throat, which will suffocate the creature. Sulphur, of course, would burst from contact with its breath and implode, making the dragon breathe out more fire than it could ever handle. This technique often works like a charm, but as you can imagine, it takes time, effort, and a willing donation of valuable resources. Regardless, it's effective if you don't want to get up and close.

The most important advice I can give is don't let fear stop you. If you've made it this far without fainting at the prospect of dying a sharp, fiery death, then you probably have enough guts to see your mission through, and perhaps even succeed. I just hope my experiences have managed to provide you with enough wisdom as well.

The dangers are great, I won't lie to you. But the benefits are far greater. Think of the people who have lost their homes, their food, their children, their limbs, even their own lives by these beasts. By slaying a dragon, you will obtain much more than mere fame and fortune. You will obtain eternal gratitude. If you are still wary, then put away this parchment and return to your meek life. But if you are more concerned with what you can gain and assist before considering what you could lose, then ride strong and strike well.

May your quest be successful, young slayer.