

= Pyramid Head =

Pyramid Head , also known as " Red Pyramid Thing " (????? , Akai Sankakut?) , " Red Pyramid " , or " Bogeyman " , and Sankaku Atama (??? , lit . " Triangle Head ") , is a fictional character from the Silent Hill series of survival horror video games published by Konami .

Introduced in the 2001 installment Silent Hill 2 , he is the main antagonist and he stalks James Sunderland , the primary player character , who comes to the town of Silent Hill after receiving a letter from his deceased wife , Mary . The Silent Hill series , particularly the second installment , frequently utilizes psychology and symbolism : Pyramid Head represents James ' wish to be punished for Mary 's death . Masahiro Ito , the designer of Silent Hill 2 's monsters , created him because he wanted " a monster with a hidden face " . Known for his large triangular head , Pyramid Head lacks a voice , and his appearance stems from the town 's past as a place of execution .

Pyramid Head has since appeared in other media in and outside the Silent Hill media franchise . Positively received in Silent Hill 2 for his role as an element of James ' psyche , he has been cited by reviewers as an iconic villain of the series and part of Silent Hill 2 's appeal .

= = Concept and design = =

Ito wanted to create " a monster with a hidden face " , but became unhappy with his designs , which resembled humans wearing masks . He then drew a monster with a pyramid @-@ shaped head . According to Ito , the triangle 's sharp right and acute angles suggest the possibility of pain . Of the creatures that appear in Silent Hill 2 , only Pyramid Head features an " overtly masculine " appearance . He resembles a pale , muscular man covered with a white , blood @-@ soaked robe reminiscent of a butcher 's smock . He does not speak , but grunts and moans painfully . His most outstanding feature is his large red , triangular head . His weapons consist of the deadly and heavy Great Knife , which the player can find and use for the rest of the game , and later a spear .

According to Konami 's Lost Memories , his appearance was a variation of the outfits of the executioners from the fictional history of the town . They wore red hoods and ceremonial robes to make themselves similar to Valtiel , a monster who appears in Silent Hill 3 . Like Valtiel , Pyramid Head dresses in gloves and stitched cloth and pursues the game 's main protagonist . According to Silent Hill 2 's character designer Takayoshi Sato , he appears as a " distorted memory of the executioners " and of the town 's past as a place of execution .

Christophe Gans , the director of the film adaptation of Silent Hill , suggested that Pyramid Head " was one of the executioners in the original history of the town " and " there is not one particular or exclusive manifestation of him as an entity . "

= = Appearances = =

= = In video games = =

In Silent Hill 2 , after receiving a letter from his deceased wife , Mary , and arriving in the foggy town of Silent Hill to search for her , the game 's protagonist and primary player character , James Sunderland , encounters Pyramid Head several times over the course of the game . He first appears from behind a gate , making no attempt to attack James . Later , in an apartment , James walks in on Pyramid Head raping two Mannequins ? creatures made of two sets of feminine hips and legs . Terrified , James hides in a closet and shoots Pyramid Head with a handgun several times , causing him to leave . When James asks another character , Eddie , about the monster , Eddie denies knowing about Pyramid Head . Later , near a flooded stairway , James witnesses Pyramid Head killing another creature , and Pyramid Head attempts to kill him . After a few minutes , sirens sound in the distance and Pyramid Head descends the stairway and disappears . James does not meet him again until in Brookhaven Hospital , where Pyramid Head knocks him through a safety railing and he falls , sustaining injuries . Pyramid Head does not pursue him or continue the attack . Later ,

he stalks James ' companion Maria , who closely resembles his wife Mary , through a lengthy corridor . As James flees into an elevator , the doors shut before she can join him . He struggles to open the doors to save her , but Pyramid Head kills her . However , in the labyrinth beneath Toluca Prison , James finds her alive and unharmed in a locked cell . Before trying to seduce him , she reminisces about a trip that only he and Mary took to a hotel in Silent Hill . He leaves , promising to find a way to free her , and discovers that Pyramid Head walks a corridor nearby , now carrying a spear . Afterwards , James reaches Maria 's side of the cell , but finds her dead . Pyramid Head makes his final appearance just before the final boss , where two Pyramid Heads take part in the encounter . They kill Maria yet again and , after pursuing James around the room for a while , both commit suicide .

Pyramid Head , under the new moniker " Bogeyman " , makes a significant appearance in 2009 's Silent Hill Homecoming , but his role is limited to non @-@ interactive scenes , appearing only twice to the game 's main protagonist Alex Shepherd : once in the Grand Hotel in Silent Hill ; and , much later , in a church , where he executes Alex 's father by splitting him in half . His last appearance is in a possible ending to the game : Alex wakes up in a wheelchair as two Pyramid Heads appear , each with part of a helmet , which they use to turn Alex into one of them . After this ending is played , the player obtains the Bogeyman 's costume for Alex to wear . Mindful of Pyramid Head 's role in Silent Hill 2 , the developers chose to include him as " the embodiment of a myth [that] parents started to keep the children out of trouble " and " the accretion of the activities going on in the town of Shepherd ? s Glen . "

Pyramid Head appears as a boss in the 2007 first @-@ person shooter Silent Hill : The Arcade , as well as Silent Hill : The Escape , but with a composite design with the Butcher , and as a super @-@ deformed selectable character in the 2008 Nintendo DS title New International Track & Field , an installment of the Track & Field series and another spin @-@ off Krazy Kart Racing alongside Robbie the Rabbit . The 2007 game Silent Hill : Origins also included a similar monster named " The Butcher " , whom the protagonist occasionally encounters killing other monsters (unlike other versions of Pyramid Head , the Butcher can and must be fought and killed in combat) and a painting of Pyramid Head is seen in the burning house of Alessa . Pyramid Head appears in the " Surprise ! " ending of 2012 's Silent Hill : Downpour , along with various characters from the franchise . Pyramid Head 's most recent appearance was in 2012 's Silent Hill : Book of Memories , where he is a monster that can spawn randomly to fight the player . Pyramid Head appeared as a costume for the Playstation home . Silent Hill 3 where you see a picture of God with his angels one on the left resembles Valtiel while the one on the right looks similar to Pyramid Head .

= = = In other media = = =

Pyramid Head makes an appearance in the 2006 film adaptation of Silent Hill as " Red Pyramid " , and is portrayed by Roberto Campanella . In the film , the psyche of the female characters shaped the character 's physical appearance . Gans claimed that replicating the character 's head exactly and having the actor move while wearing it proved to be impractical ; he noted that , despite the name , Pyramid Head actually wore " a basin " instead of a triangle @-@ shaped head . Red Pyramid 's sword and head were constructed out of lightweight material painted to appear heavy . For the role , Campanella wore a " five @-@ part prosthetic " ; it took two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half to three hours to get him into costume and make @-@ up . His boots had a hidden 15 @-@ inch (38 cm) sole which made him just under 7 feet (2 @.@ 1 m) tall . Patrick Tatopoulos , who worked on the make @-@ up effects and monsters , enjoyed the project of designing the character . According to him , Red Pyramid serves as a symbol of the town 's darkness and harbinger of its changed character . Gans considered the monsters of the film " a mockery of human beings " , and commented : " The real monsters are the people , the cultists who tortured Alessa . When I approached the film , I knew that it was impossible to represent the monsters as simply beasts that jump on you . "

In the 2012 film Silent Hill : Revelation 3D , the Pyramid Head , once more portrayed by Roberto Campanella , is both a monster and a guardian . More than once , it saves Sharon from the forces of

Silent Hill . This is explained by its loyalty to Alessa : since Heather is the good half of Alessa 's soul , it sees them as the same being and is thus bound to protect both from harm . Pyramid Head is also seen controlling the carousel where Heather and Alessa face off against each other , then it kills the cult leader Claudia Wolf after the amulet shows her inner , monstrous nature .

He also makes a cameo appearance in the 2008 Silent Hill comic book Sinner 's Reward , published by IDW Publishing . The writer , Tom Waltz , later said he regretted the cameo , which only functioned as fan service . To him , Pyramid Head is a psychological construct created for James ; however , he stated that : " At the same time , I don 't think that ruined the comic . Some people really liked it . To some people , Pyramid Head should be in all the stories because they do like him . " Additionally , the character was portrayed from October 2 to 31 , 2009 , in the haunted attraction Sinister Pointe , based on Silent Hill , in Orange County , California , United States .

= = Analysis = =

The Silent Hill series uses symbolism and psychology ; the town of Silent Hill draws upon the psyche of its visitors , ultimately creating an " otherworld , " a twisting of reality that manifests delusions and elements of their subconscious minds , varying from character to character . Specifically , in the case of Silent Hill 2 's primary player character James Sunderland , the version of the town he explores is influenced by him . Many of the monsters that roam the town symbolize his guilt , wish for punishment , or sexual repression during his wife 's three @-@ year @-@ long illness , and cease to exist after James comes to terms with the fact that he killed his wife Mary , partially to end her suffering and partially out of resentment and frustration . James knew she had a terminal illness , which has been speculated to be cancer , and he often read medical textbooks , searching for something to help her . During her last days alive , she became physically repulsive as a result of the illness and treated James abusively , ordering him to leave one moment and begging him to comfort her the next . The knowledge of her terminal illness caused her to become angry and to hurt her loved ones , particularly James , and it pained him to visit her in the hospital . Pyramid Head functions as an executioner of Maria , a delusion of James ' who strongly resembles Mary . Through Maria 's repeated deaths , Pyramid Head reminds James of Mary 's death and causes him to experience guilt and suffering . His appearance as an executioner stems from a picture that James saw while visiting the town three years ago with Mary .

Reviewers have suggested various interpretations . According to Christina González of The Escapist , Pyramid Head acts as " judgement personified , a sexually dark butcher , " and " James ' masochistic delusion " which punishes him for Mary 's death . Ken Gagne of Computerworld suggested that the monster " represents James ' anger and guilt . " A critic for IGN , Jesse Schedeen , considered Pyramid Head 's role throughout the Silent Hill series to be " a manifestation of a person 's guilt " , commenting : " Pyramid Head is just there to help you serve your penance in the most painful and grotesque way possible . "

= = Reception = =

Critical reaction to Pyramid Head has been favorable because of his distinctive appearance and role as an element of James ' psyche . Critics cite him as an iconic villain of the Silent Hill series , a favorite among fans , and part of the appeal of Silent Hill 2 . GameSpot compared Pyramid Head 's appearance to Leatherface , the main antagonist of The Texas Chainsaw Massacre series of slasher films , and found him the most terrifying monster in Silent Hill 2 . Computerworld named Pyramid Head as one of the most terrifying villains in computer and video games . GamesRadar felt that the scene in which he rapes the two other monsters was unsettling , since the subject of rape is not often tackled in video games , and disliked the final battle with him because of how anti @-@ climactic it was , in comparison with his role throughout the rest of the game .

GameDaily ranked Pyramid Head first on their 2008 list of the scariest video game monsters . GamesRadar listed him as one of the 25 best new characters of the decade and ranked him second on its 2009 list of the scariest video game villains , calling him the " most horrifying character ever to

have a cult following ". In a 2009 retrospective on the survival horror genre , IGN noted that Silent Hill 2 incorporated " a ' stalker ' element similar to Clock Tower and Resident Evil 3 , " and wrote : " To this day , Pyramid Head is remembered as one of gaming 's most frightening villains . " PlayStation Universe ranked him as the first on their 2009 list of the scariest monster " to infest a Sony platform " , also noting his " prolific reputation as one of video game ? s most fearsome monsters . " In 2010 , Pyramid Head as named as the scariest character in video game history by Joystick Division , who added that " being chased by him in Silent Hill 2 ranks with all of the scariest moments in video gaming history . " UGO.com ranked him as number one on their 2011 list of the scariest characters in video games , commenting he is " too mainstream to be all that scary , except he 's still really super scary . " In 2012 , PlayStation Official Magazine included him on their lists of the biggest freaks and scariest characters in the PlayStation games , commenting : " Ol ? Metal Top is easily the best thing about Silent Hill ? and maybe even survival horror in general ? completely encapsulating that intoxicating dread of knowing that it ? s not if you ? ll fight him , but when . " That same year , FHM included him on their list of ten scariest game characters ever ; on the list of the " coolest " video game villains by Complex , Pyramid Head placed as 15th . GamesRadar too praised Pyramid Head 's role as an antagonist , putting him in their 2013 list of the best villains in video game history at number 18 .

His appearances outside Silent Hill 2 have received mixed critical reaction . Critics generally agreed that Pyramid Head 's appearance in Homecoming struck them as fan service , though Chris Hudak of Game Revolution called it " damned effectively @-@ employed . " Film critics commented on his role in the film adaption , with several finding him disturbing . DVD Reviews praised Campanella 's portrayal of Pyramid Head and another monster , writing : " These are without a doubt some of the most striking bogeymen that I have seen on screen in a long time . " His appearance in New International Track & Field received mixed critical reaction . GameDaily disliked it , finding it awkward that a character like Pyramid Head was competing in sporting events with characters like Frogger and Sparkster , while The Escapist called it enjoyable and " hilarious " .