

= Meta Knight =

Meta Knight ( Japanese : ????? , Hepburn : Meta Naito ) is a fictional character in Nintendo 's Kirby video game series created by Masahiro Sakurai and developed by HAL Laboratory . He first appeared in the 1993 video game Kirby 's Adventure as a nameless character remaining there until the game Kirby 's Avalanche . The character also appears in several Kirby comic books , in the 2001 anime series , and in the Super Smash Bros. series .

Meta Knight is a mysterious but honorable knight ; due to this attitude he has played a " friend or foe " role in the Kirby series , which led video game critics to debate his nature and allegiances . He has received mainly positive critical reception since his introduction ; his development within the series , from a nameless character to one of Kirby 's main enemies , was praised , and he has been described as a " cool " character by reviewers .

= = Characteristics = =

Meta Knight is an enigmatic , yet honorable swordsman who follows a chivalric code ; this is exemplified when he gives Kirby a sword with which to fight . In keeping with his penchant of offering Kirby a sword with which to duel , Meta Knight himself wields a sacred , golden sword called Galaxia ( ????? , Gyarakushia ) . He is always seen wearing a silver mask ; beneath it he looks identical to Kirby , with a dark blue body ( black in his debut ) and white eyes , which appear yellow with his mask on ( and with his mask off in Kirby : Planet Robobot ) . He also sports a navy blue mantle ( red in his debut ) called the Dimensional Cape ( ????????? , Dimenshon Manto ) , which can change into a pair of wings and allows him to teleport . However , these wings appear directly attached to his body in Kirby 's Return to Dream Land and Kirby : Planet Robobot . Much like a knight , Meta Knight 's design has become more armored since his debut ; he has sported a pair of pauldrons since Kirby 's Avalanche , gauntlets on his mitten @-@ like gloves since Kirby : Squeak Squad , and sabatons since Super Smash Bros. Brawl . He is usually described as Kirby 's rival and occasional mentor , as well as an anti @-@ hero . Despite occasionally being portrayed as a villain , he has benign intentions , will often fight alongside or assist Kirby when necessary for his survival or for the sake of the world . This attitude has led to debate about his allegiances .

= = Appearances = =

= = = In the Kirby video game series = = =

Meta Knight first appeared in the NES game Kirby 's Adventure as boss of the Orange Ocean level , where he fights Kirby to stop him from taking a piece of the Star Rod and keep it out of Nightmare 's hands . He is the main antagonist of the Revenge of Meta Knight mode in Kirby Super Star , in which he tries to take over Dream Land to end the inhabitants ' lazy lifestyle . Meta Knight is a playable character in special mode Meta Knightmare of Kirby : Nightmare in Dream Land . In Kirby & the Amazing Mirror , Dark Meta Knight ? an evil , Mirror World counterpart of Meta Knight ? splits Kirby into four , differently colored copies of himself by shattering a mirror after trapping Meta Knight in the Mirror World . After Kirby defeats Dark Meta Knight , Meta Knight himself helps Kirby defeat Dark Mind , the true main antagonist . In Kirby : Squeak Squad , he appears as a boss who tries to keep the chest containing Dark Nebula out of Kirby 's hands . In Kirby Super Star Ultra , he appears as a playable character in the Meta Knightmare Ultra mode . Meta Knight also appears in Kirby 's Return to Dream Land as one of the four playable protagonists , alongside Kirby , King Dedede and Bandana Waddle Dee , and as a playable character in multi @-@ player mode . After only making cameos in Kirby : Triple Deluxe , Meta Knight made an active return to the series in Kirby : Planet Robobot . In addition to partaking in the game 's story mode , he is the playable character of the Meta Knightmare Returns mode .

Meta Knight also appears in several spin @-@ off games in the series . He makes brief

appearances in Kirby 's Pinball Land and Kirby 's Avalanche . In the latter , his name was revealed for the first time , where he is the penultimate challenger . He is an unlockable character in Kirby Air Ride and Kirby : Canvas Curse . Meta Knight is a boss in Kirby 's Epic Yarn and appears as a boss in two sub @-@ games in Kirby Mass Attack . Though he is absent from Kirby and the Rainbow Curse 's story mode , Meta Knight appears as a collectible figurine . The game is also compatible with the Meta Knight Amiibo , which Kirby can use for a temporary increase in attack power .

= = = Other appearances = = =

Meta Knight has made several appearances outside of the Kirby video game series , including the 1994 ? 2006 manga Hoshi no Kirby : Dedede de Pupupu na Monogatari written by Hirokazu Hikawa and published by Shogakukan in CoroCoro Comic . He also appears in the ongoing Enterbrain 's Hoshi no Kirby : Kirby to Dedede no Pupupu Nikki manga written by Noboru Matsuyama and published in Famitsu DS + Wii ( originally called Famitsu DS + Cube + Advance ) , and in the Asami Taniguchi manga Hoshi no Kirby : Moretsu Pupupuaw? ! published in Bessatsu CoroCoro Comic , where he is a main character . He is also featured in the 2012 Yuki Kawakami manga by Shogakukan , Hoshi no Kirby : Pack to Daibaku Show . In the 2001 ? 2003 anime Kirby : Right Back at Ya ! he is a main character . In the series he is the last surviving member of the Galaxy Soldier Army , made up of " Star Warriors " , and acts as a mentor to Kirby .

He also appears in three Super Smash Bros. series games ; in Melee , he is a trophy , and in Super Smash Bros. Brawl , he is a playable character . However , Meta Knight was removed from professional gaming competitions in the United States and Canada due to being considered too powerful . On August 13 , 2014 , Nintendo confirmed that Meta Knight would be returning as a playable character in Super Smash Bros. for Nintendo 3DS and Wii U ; the game 's director , Masahiro Sakurai , assured some changes to re @-@ add Meta Knight .

= = Reception = =

IGN described Meta Knight as " one of the most enigmatic characters " in the series , naming him one of their ten favorite sword @-@ wielding characters in the video games and adding that although he was once " a mere villain " in the series , " his devilishly cool appearance set him apart from the rest " . GamesRadar ranked Meta Knight twelfth on its list of " Most Misunderstood Videogame Villains " , saying that he is " the standard good @-@ guy folderol [ ... ] , except that Meta Knight is invariably the bad guy " ; it said of the Meta Knight @-@ versus @-@ Kirby battles that " [ i ] t 's like if Batman picked a fight with a morbidly obese shut @-@ in , and you were supposed to root for the shut @-@ in . " It listed him on " The Top 7 Unlikeliest Badasses in Gaming " list , saying " Thanks to his brooding , serious attitude and his lavish taste in imposing capes , Meta Knight has created a beautiful illusion of something incredibly threatening , despite being a spherical bundle of delight . " He is the 18th @-@ best Nintendo character of all time , according to GameDaily ; that also placed him third on their list of Nintendo characters which deserve their own game . Complex stated that he developed from " a nameless villain " in Kirby 's Adventure into " Kirby 's rival " and stating that his popularity has surpassed that of King Dedede , ranking Meta Knight eighth on its list of " 25 Video Game Characters That Deserve a Spinoff " . Similarly , he was placed sixth on WhatCulture 's list of " 10 Video Game Characters That Deserve Their Own Spin @-@ Off Game " .

His inclusion in Super Smash Bros. Brawl was praised ; he was listed in the top five characters of Bozon ( ranked second ) , Peer ( ranked fourth ) , and Richard George ( ranked first ) from IGN , with all three highlighting his speed and Bozon saying he is " the best single @-@ player Brawler " . Jesse Schedeen from the same site said that " Meta Knight is a true powerhouse of the SSBB cast " , and UGO Networks called Meta Knight " [ t ] he most dangerous sword @-@ wielding , helmet @-@ wearing , sentient balloon you 're ever likely to meet " . Also , WhatCulture ranked him as the 6th greatest character in beat 'em up games , saying " he 's a brilliant character skills @-@ wise , even if he may be totally unfair in the grand scheme of things . " However , the balance among the

Brawl characters was impaired , with Meta Knight " standing tall above the rest " .