

= Raining Blood =

" Raining Blood " is a song by the American thrash metal band Slayer . Written by Jeff Hanneman and Kerry King for the 1986 studio album *Reign in Blood* , the concept deals with religion , specifically said to be about overthrowing Heaven .

The song is one of three tracks on *Reign in Blood* longer than three minutes , at four minutes and fourteen seconds . It ends with a minute of rain sound effects , closing *Reign in Blood* . Described as a " classic " by Allmusic , it is noted by fans as one of Slayer 's most popular songs . As an almost permanent addition to their live sets , both Hanneman and King acknowledged it as their favorite song to play live .

There have been many appearances of the song in the media and elsewhere , including the South Park episode , " Die Hippie , Die " and *Guitar Hero III : Legends of Rock* , said to be one of the hardest songs in the Career Mode setlist . There is also a live appearance of the song in the compilation albums *Headbangers Ball* and *Hard N ' Heavy Vol . 61* .

= = Writing and concept = =

" Raining Blood " was written by Jeff Hanneman and Kerry King . D. X. Ferris said that " when Hanneman wrote the song , he envisioned a scene from a dark street or bloody back alley " , and later went on to say that the song " described a banished soul awakened and hungry for vengeance . " The second verse was written by King , who " pick [ed] up on Hanneman 's title and in his new direction " . The song , along with the rest of *Reign in Blood* , was recorded in 1986 in Los Angeles , California , with producer Rick Rubin .

Hanneman explained that " it 's about a guy who 's in Purgatory ' cause he was cast out of Heaven . He 's waiting for revenge and wants to fuck that place up . " King later said that " the rest of the song explains what happens when he starts fucking people up . The lyrics ' Return to power draws near ' is because he 's waiting to get strong enough again to overthrow Heaven . And then ' Fall into me , the sky 's crimson tears ' is everybody 's blood flowing into him . So basically , ' Raining Blood ' is all the angels ' blood falling on him . "

= = Composition = =

" Raining Blood " is four minutes and seventeen seconds long , and is *Reign in Blood* 's closing track . The song is one of three songs from the album that exceeds three minutes in length . Steve Huey from Allmusic proposed that " *Reign in Blood* opens and closes with slightly longer tracks (the classics ' *Angel of Death* ' and ' *Raining Blood* ') whose slower riffs offer most of the album 's few hints of melody . " The song 's music was written solely by guitarist Hanneman (who is also a primary writer of the song 's lyrics) , who presented both hostility and anger in his writing . Huey also noted that " the riffs are built on atonal chromaticism that sounds as sickening as the graphic violence depicted in many of the lyrics " , and said that it was " monstrously " and " terrifyingly evocative " .

Clay Jarvis from *Stylus Magazine* wrote that the song possessed " a red @-@ herring , scorched @-@ earth intro , eerie thunderstorm @-@ and @-@ tom @-@ tom @-@ triplet interlude and one of the most recognizable riffs in metal history . It is a dynamic , explosive and fitting end to a remarkable , violent experience . " D. X. Ferris wrote , author of the 33 ? book *Reign In Blood* (ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 8264 @-@ 2909 @-@ 4) , that the song " lunges to life with its core riff , the ten most recognizable notes in metal , a diminished @-@ scale run down the fretboard that 's the most badass guitar riff since Black Sabbath 's ' *Sweet Leaf* ' . " Guitarist Kerry King said that " The intro is big with the two harmony and then the first beat that Dave [Lombardo] does , that double @-@ kick thing , and it 's like this backwards gallop that gets the crowd going wherever you are . " The piece ends with a full minute of " rain sound effects , " closing *Reign in Blood* .

= = Live performances = =

" Raining Blood " , along with Reign in Blood 's opening track " Angel of Death " , is an almost permanent addition to Slayer 's live set @-@ list , and was Hanneman and King 's favorite track to play live . At the end of the Still Reigning DVD , there is a finale with the band covered in fake blood during the performance of " Raining Blood " . When asked both Slayer guitarists " which song holds best " , both replied " Raining Blood " . Hanneman admitted that he " still love [s] playing that song live . You 'd think we 'd be tired of it ? I mean , I 'd love to know how many times we 've played it live . That would be really interesting . " King said " we could be playing in front of Alanis Morissette , and the crowd loves the part . "

King told D. X. Ferris that " whenever ' Raining Blood ' comes in the set , it just electrifies the whole crowd . People just shit when you hit the first few notes . Like ' Jesus Christ it 's a guitar , settle down . ' " In the past , Slayer used fake blood to cover their bodies when performing the song live . However , when asked about using fake blood in future performances , King remarked " It 's time to move on , but never say never . I know Japan never saw it , South America and Australia never saw it . So you never know . "

= = Appearances = =

The song was featured in the 127th South Park episode , " Die Hippie , Die " , which aired on March 16 , 2005 . Slayer guitarist Kerry King found the episode humorous and expressed his interest in the show , mentioning it in an interview , saying " It was good to see the song being put to good use . If we can horrify some hippies , we 've done our job . "

The song was also included in the Grand Theft Auto : Vice City in @-@ game radio station V @-@ Rock . " Raining Blood " is a playable song in the video game Guitar Hero III : Legends of Rock , where it is renowned for being one of the hardest songs in the Career Mode setlist : a 2008 job advertisement for future Guitar Hero playtesters listed the song as one of four that potential applicants had to be capable of playing on the highest difficulty level . The song is also featured in Guitar Hero : Smash Hits , with the very first five note chord in the series . It was released as a downloadable song for Rock Band 3 in April 10 of 2012 along with South of Heaven and Seasons in the Abyss . It was also released as a downloadable song for Rocksmith 2014 on May 19 , 2015 as part of the Slayer Song Pack .

At the mixed martial arts event UFC 97 on April 18 , 2009 , fighter Chuck Liddell made his penultimate appearance in the UFC and used " Raining Blood " as his entrance music .

= = Cover versions = =

In 2001 , the song was covered by Tori Amos on her studio album Strange Little Girls . The cover of " Raining Blood " was suggested by bassist Justin Meldal @-@ Johnsen , who told Amos that she " had tried pretty much every other genre of music , from rap to new wave to punk to country to pop , why not some metal ? " Meldal @-@ Johnsen chose the album Reign in Blood , and after listening to it , Amos agreed to make a cover version of " Raining Blood " . King states the cover was odd ; " It took me a minute and a half to find a spot in the song where I knew where she was . It 's so weird . If she had never told us , we would have never known . You could have played it for us and we 'd have been like , ' What 's that ? ' Like a minute and a half through I heard a line and was like , ' I know where she 's at ! ' " In response , Slayer sent some T @-@ shirts to Amos , which she said was appreciated .

The song has also been covered by Malevolent Creation , Havok , Natalie Prass , Vader , Diecast , Quiet Company , Reggie and the Full Effect , and Erik Hinds , who covered the entire Reign in Blood album on a H 'arpeggione . The guitar riffs from " Raining Blood " and " Mandatory Suicide " were sampled by rapper Lil Jon in the song " Stop Fuckin Wit ' Me " from the 2004 album Crunk Juice . It was Rick Rubin 's only collaboration with Lil Jon on the record . Jon wanted to create a " black version " of Suicidal Tendencies ' song " Institutionalized " . The New Zealand drum and bass group Concord Dawn produced a drum and bass cover version on their album Uprising , on which they

partially sample the famous opening riff of the song .

= = Reception = =

Stylus Magazine 's Clay Jarvis said that the song is fit to be the closing song for Reign in Blood , and also noted that the song , along with other songs from Reign in Blood , has " manic , hacksaw guitars , monsoons of double @-@ bass drum rolling and from @-@ the @-@ throat barking ? all note @-@ perfect and precise ? that still smokes the asses of any band playing fast and / or heavy today " . J. Bennett affirmed that the song " still make [s] other metal bands sound like frail pussies " . Steve Huey said that it was a classic , and that its " slower riffs offer most of the album 's few hints of melody " . Erik Hinds from About.com said that the piece has unexpectedly become a ballad . Derrick Harris , an editor of the official newspaper of University of Wisconsin ? Eau Claire , said that it had a " blistering solo " . It peaked at number 64 in the United Kingdom , where it would stay on the chart for three weeks .

= = Personnel = =

Tom Araya ? bass , vocals
Jeff Hanneman ? guitar
Kerry King ? guitar , backing vocals
Dave Lombardo ? drums
Rick Rubin ? record producer
Andy Wallace ? engineering

= = Charts = =