Assignment
Fantasy (ENG-310)

Significance of the Title Goliath

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Significance of the Title Goliath

The significance of the title can be traced from the **biblical story** of the fight between Goliath of the philistines and Israel's David, in which David wins. But this story signifies the battle between a stronger and a weaker party or the weaker party's triumph over the stronger party.

Neil Gaiman's hero has some characteristics similar to Goliath of the Philistines. He has resemblance to him in his **size** due to which he is selected to fight with attacking aliens. His first interaction with the agent which is a machine which has controlled all the matrix world highlights this characteristic. He says,

"You are a pretty big guy"

Then the agent describes his mission of aliens' attack and selects Goliath to fight with them.

Another significance is that this battle between David and Goliath shows Saul to be an unfit King, as he should have fought Goliath himself instead of sending David to fight for him. In the same way the machines ruling over the humans in Neil Gaiman's work send a human to fight with aliens. This shows that the machines are unable to fight with aliens, therefore, they select a human and bring some changes in his body and use for their purpose because they want to take advantage of his size.

Though Goliath of Neil Gaiman is a large size warrior like Goliath in biblical story but he does not share all the feature of Goliath. He does not have evil intentions in fighting rather he wants to protect humans from the enemy attacks on earth.

Neil Gaiman's hero does not seem as strong as Goliath he never wants to fight and leave the earth but he was under the control of machines. The following lines shows his pain of leaving the earth.

"I sat down on the floor, and I began to breathe, slowly, in and out and out and in and…

In.

Out.

In.

A wrenching. The worst pain I've ever felt. I was choking.

In.

Out.

I was screaming, but I could hear my voice and I wasn't screaming. All I could hear was a low bubbling moan.

In.

Out."

Even when the machines manipulate his body and **PL- 47** is waiting for him he still has human emotion and his legs **tremble and shake** while entering into it.

Another difference between Goliath of Neil Gaiman Goliath of biblical story is that Goliath of biblical story is not winner rather he dies due to a rock which strikes on his head by David while the protagonist is a winner and dies due to those machines which has sent him for fight.

One similarity between the battle of protagonist and Goliath is that they both are attacked by rocks.

The similarity between the giant protagonist and the Goliath from philistines is that at the end they both die for their armies or nations. The Goliath for the Philistines and the protagonist for the sake of humans living under the control of machines.

To conclude, the Protagonist Goliath and the Goliath of Philistines share some similar and some different features. **The title is ironically selected by Neil Gaiman** in which he mix-up the character of David and Goliath into his hero. He does not only show him mixture of David and Goliath but he shows Goliath having many qualities of David as he fights with good intention and won. Briefly saying, he is not depicted by Neil Gaiman completely as Goliath of biblical story rather his hero just shares some characteristics as **name and size** of him.