

# XReviews

Newsletter # 17 Feb. 2010

ASHES TO ASHES

"Cardinal VII"

DVS recs./ The Art Records

Elapsed Time: 58: 54

"Symphonic Black-Covered Power Metal"



Norway is known because of their Black Metal industry, because they burn churches, the BMM, for their few murderers, suicides, among other things that they say IT IS FOR SERIOUS.

This promo CD [whose selling is prohibited] gifted by Mutilator Zine [Thanks!] from the far country but what differences it from the others is that it isn't Black Metal, is a very vanguard and complex style, with too many elements, what style could have those ingredients? Ans= Symphonic Power Metal. The concept of this style is very interesting but though being the edge of the lance and having their foot on the sand I don't think that's the future of metal. Almost 11 magnificent compositions where huge quantity of talent is Derrochado, and where they also indiscriminately use the atmospheric synthesizers, persuasive intros, Gregorian choirs, nice guitars incursions, and many types of vocals that are hard to define which one of it is the main. I read somewhere that they've some Dark stuff on them but since I don't know about Dark people, anyway, the thing is that I interpret it as I understand it.

There are some parts on this "Cardinal VII" that have a pretty dark, thick, vampiric and sweet image too. I'm imagining a musical style appropriated for XVIII century, on the epoch when the Carruaje, elegancy, and the first steam machines, the wine, the unstoppable sex-parties on those castles of rich and fine people.

Here everything goes with no hurries, there's no reason for hurries not at all, it seems for me like the advance and the temperament of this Power Metal is the right one. Something more? Yeah, the guttural and the excessive violence bright because of their absence.

The band Ashes To Ashes got a normal number of members though sometimes seems like if they were an orchestra even with Relevos, but it isn't, this is more a reflect of a nice effect reached by the Vikings. There are no motives for thinking that this album is a gold coin for everyone. I'm sure that so many people will like it but also to some other public will not go the same way. I only tell you that this isn't for corrupted minds, with satanic tendencies or extremists. Here there's nothing for them.

The nearest thing according to my critter would be those Portuguese from Moonspell, on the sonorous side, so much more relax and with no Death Metal. The most they got is the cleaning, clarity and exactitude of their compositions. A nice keyboard and a symphony on "Ravenous Unleashed", a huge duration on "Sic Transit Gloria Mundi" and so good choirs on the "Embraced In Black", as such as "Cardinal VII" [they really bright here more than other moment ]. At the end of the disc they say good bye with a fine and delicate keyboard, a nice way for saying good bye.

This ART CD 03 010 under license, has a while rolling around there and the last I raed about this band is that they almost have their new material ready, they say that the time you read this, they surely must've have it released.

## MIRROR SLAVE

Independent Demo

Elapsed Time: 22: 04

"Arpeggios + Shred + Blast Beats"



On the most style of Teen Metal they come out with this "Mirror Slaves" from Cuernavaca city,

the place where I realize my sinister operations. "Mirror Slave", what a name, I don't think that these guys are into the vanity waves like that Dorian Grey's famous story and that stuff, is just that the name of the band + the portrait made me think about that absurd story, anyway. This line-up of young Metal boys that doesn't even have the age majority [but that surely will get one day] already prepared their smart and unpredictable Melodic Death Metal, and still premature [but that some day will mature]. Mexican Metal distro sent me this demo -rehearse with 5 compositions only where you can appreciate with a simple view a nice musical education though being vocalized on the Death Metal way, they never sound heavy or strong, on the other side they sound pretty rhythmical, relax, melodic and with certain originality. The demo doesn't have the titles of the songs but we'll work out with the numeric order. "Track 1" does a light rude movement on the Death Metal [on my personal view] being the strongest and with few work on the guitars on a Death Melodic Old School Metal style. "Track 2" I thought that it was about a Dark Tranquility cover because it begins kinda the same, then they get like Children Of Bodom which also is around their influences, that string playing on the high of the first minute + 20 seconds is really good, so if you want the best part of the demo here you got it. "Track 3" come to us with a enraged temper, more innocent though with an incurable demo smell, many half tempo changes, with no hurries and so you cannot say that they didn't used their gray matter, decide to leave" has a little problem at the middle of the track that turns them into Doom users, simple but good, you gotta remind that it is about a home-made demo. "Track 5" and the last one goes in very Metallica style, after being melodic, then both get united and form a specie of Speed Metal with 80's influences, Arpeggios, Shred, Blast Beats again and again, with a nice combination, now I get it.

On that age and on my old times, I would be training on the basketball Cancha on the mornings and as acolyte on the afternoon, ha! While these Mirror Slaves are thinking on giving seriousness to their style, leaving their songs with no sense, as they say: "Not being enough losers for having tomatoes thrown". No, not at all, it is something good around Metal, is just that we don't do that kind of stupidity [here, we run and hit you with bottles if we don't have

rocks], here we respect everyone [always that they play nice Metal], I've got good eye for finding losers and I can tell you for sure that this line-up is not one of those losers. "A beginning starting on a very early age takes a lot of advantage to the ones who start late".

#### **YAUTLAN**

**Demo CD-R**

**Spanish: Resurreccion De Aztlan**

**English: Aztlan Resurrection**

**Elapsed Time: 8: 31**

**"War Land"**



Yauyotl and Tlalli are the two elements that form the name of this Mexican band from Watsonville, California, from there, this four guys make a reflection about Mexican life in U.S. pointing up those discrimination aspects, the racism and the immigrant's bad treat, very common tracks, intellectual themes that we listen day by day and though we want it or not are useful even along with the soup. Immigrants? Always that you find yourself in other nation and you don't have legal documents you'll be [according with laws] an immigrant, actually Mexican are not the only illegal, there are a lot of many kinds around the world, discrimination? Maltrato? How can we possibly talk like that if we Mexican do the same thing to the mid and south Americans that come around here?

[Those are topics that I wouldn't touch...]

4 cuts and sliding tracks that made me think about the beginnings of Witchery (Brujeria) and Pancho Villa, 'cause there are many similarities with them, actually they mention that on their beginnings practiced with some of their covers. Not only the musical side looks like them, but also their faces are covered like if they were Delincuentes and the artistic nicknames of: "El Demoniac" [the drums], "Samael" [guitars], "Pinche Pesimista" [bass], "El Poseido" [Vocal]. I thought that it was about something more prehispanic because of the name of the band, the title of the disc, the content of the portrait

and the biography, but no, not at all, this is a Death Metal very aggressive, simple, dry, austere, with few effective rehearsing hours, think like Brujeria on their demos and with no much style yet. The tracks doesn't last that much, on a range that goes from 1: 39 to 2: 27 as much. "Resurreccion de Aztlan" is made of Basic Death content with a second kinda black voice with little imagination. "Mara Salvatrucha" is fast and think like if you were listening to a cover of the track "Colas de Rata", only that they changed the lyrics, added a light riff and it's well made. The lyrics in Spanish lets you listen to the Reclamo towards the Salvadorians from the Mara Salvatrucha, you know how do they do, have you seen that movie - documental "La Vida Loca"? I recommend it to you, 'cause it is necessary for understanding how that system works. "Llantos Ensangrentados (Bleeding Screams)" talks about the story of a sexual violation, is fast too, it has a death metal on its veins and a weird choir that can be a reason for laughing, 'cause it lacks of seriousness. The demo closes up with "El Corrido De Las Tres Marias" another track more possessed and demoniac. 4 tracks that only could had taken advantage if they would had used their short condition for giving us something even more interesting. Thanks to Mexican Metal Distro For Gifting It For This Review.

#### **ANCIENT GODS**

**"Mystic Lands"**

**Sempiternal Productions**

**Elapsed Time: 21: 14**

" I Proclaim The Doors Of Hell, The Land Of The Demons Where Death Might've Lost Its Lives  
Sub - Really"



This MCD with capacity for an E.P. and for making a Split is all that these "Ancient Gods" left for us, seems like there are no details about the band, in some ties its said that their

address is unknown and others as in their MySpace just doesn't appear anything at all, everything looks abandoned, yeah, the crude reality is that they've disappeared and that would represent a considerable lose but on the other side if they're hibernating, it wouldn't be bad if they come out of their resting spots. It's not simple coincidence that in the middle of the booklet of the MCD they wish them "Life Forever" next to the dark The Chasm [check the review of "Farseeing.." X-Reviews #15 January 2010] and Shub Niggurath [This one IS really deeply cold], but... What coincidence could they have? Well for beginning the drummer Antonio who works in The Chasm + some other Compatriotas that Radican on the North - American union, in Chicago, Illinois for being exact. "Aggressive Death Metal" says the mini catalogue of Sempiternal Prods. That comes included in Booklet shape, bragging rights of their most recent releases like in 2003 aprox. [This could fit in Sentinels Of The Past]. Well yeah, the true is that it is Aggressive and Melodic Death Metal with a Mayan, Aztec and Pagan topic, those that I like the most. Their music got big influences and Rasgos from the bands mention before, Shub Niggurath in a 30% and the Chasm in a 40%, the 30% left is something very different, something personal. A Death Metal with certain black temper on the voices, detonating rhythms, defying, demoniac and of course much harmony and good taste. The aggressively IS manifested on every time but the truth is that it isn't their strongest side. Only 4 tracks, is enough for leaving clear what they've got, 4 compositions very interesting where you can appreciate clear way for satisfying to any who dare to listen to them. "Unholy Forces" is the first track with well riffed Death Metal with high Shubniggurly tendencies on their last appearing "The Kinglike Celebration", the only way of defying it is slave, demoniac and possessed. With more potency and little of that Death aggressive Metal previously announced, arrives "Demon's Land" with a sticky rhythm which later on you'll start Tararear. A track that warn us about the catastrophic possible vanishing of this great band, how could it be possible if they're able to make such a favorable and digestible music? "Inside The Devil's Mind" a slow advance that has something more of vocal variations, a little of doom, more of that pleasant riff and something very important that you'll have to

discover only if you do what I always advice: Play It Out Loud! Break Your Bocinas!

It gives the impression of what you have in your hands, a doom disc while the fourth and last track arrives, which little by little goes involving itself till it gets into a Death Metal, definitely complex and crowded but at the end gets accessible. A nice closing up where a big quantity of melodies, riffs, solos and those rhythms brag rights you'll want to tararear them. A MCD pretty interesting, on the level of bands like The Chasm and Shub Niggurat, a little big album which unfortunately arrived me late because of the unpunctuality previously mention that even today is talked about. I hope that this sudden silence ain't another intelligent desition for taking a brief rest. Hey! Come Back There's still a lot to do...

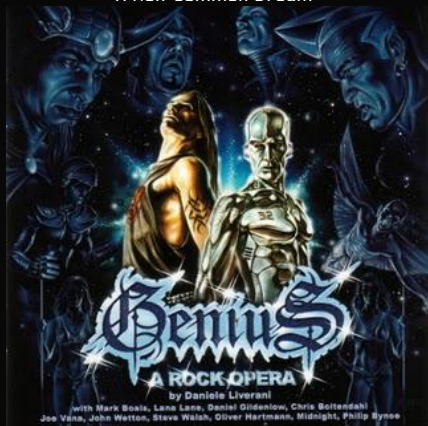
### GENIUS

#### "A Human Into Dream's World" Chapter 1

Frontiers Records/ The Art Records

Elapsed Time: 1: 18: 59

"A Non-common Dream"



Can you imagine if we humans were able to get into dreams so we can manipulate them? Those dreams would get far away... Based on a trilogy that includes a total of 33 songs Repartidas on 11 for each episode that tells a story of our smart drummer and also heavy metal friend "Genius" who in one morning is surprised by his alarm clock that after a weird sound make him jump out the bed for persuade him with an unusual belling. That mention belling is taken as an idea for the next session of beats that once it is stand up , but this will have to be Pasponerse because with no reason Genius falls in a deeply sleep again...

Rock Opera/ Heavy Metal – Where does the Balanza Inclina more? Ohmm I guess both sides are equal. By one side you got some musical views, very soft and melodic ideal for preparing to sleep, some feminine choirs well tuned,

keyboards definitely commercial and a male voice pretty tuned and clean like for doing more choirs like heavy metal without vocalizing at all 'cause it is not enough potency like for getting rid of such a big responsibility, definitely very crystalline, clearer than water without turbulence, without noise. On the other side this Rock Opera shows a heavy metal style pretty delicate and commercial, those that could get into a T.V. advertisement on familiar hour with the particularity of some great riffs, drums that doesn't wish to complicate their existence and some sudden Forcejeos on the throat strings, something like fastening like heavy metal stylish over here and there, for finalizing something that could please any crazy rocker or also heavy metal lightened guys... few seconds later "Genius" is found in front of a huge golden door suspended on the air where two women are waiting for him [something similar like Barqueros]. Genius has transported to another dimension, now he is in a parallel place towards the real one where men's dreams are created and manipulated. This imaginary world and at the same time real is organized on many reigns, one by each continent, which are governed by a king. All of this together is called "The league of dreams", that league is leaded by the most important character: "The Main Dream".

Each human start dreaming, creates a being called "Twinspirit" which is sent to the continent where the human Radicates, and have an identification key assigned so that can be localized, the function of "Twinspirit" is to control dreams as such as emotions. Genius dreams only for 10 minutes, enough for entering to that parallel dimension and meet his "Twinspirit" with the identifier Number.32, its creation is so recent that Genius dreams that is on that place and that way his guide surprised achieves to have him in front of him. The conclusion until here? Genius is on a forbidden place for humans, its guide knows it and sudden they could get discovered... after this brief storytelling I feel with the enough trust for revealing you the tracks in the album with all the security that you'll be able to decipher pretty good: "Without Me Today", "The Right Place", "Paradox", "The Glory Of Our Land", "All Of Your Acts", "Dreams", "My Pride", "There's A Human", "Father", "Terminate", "I'm Afraid", Easy right?

On my personal view I think that's a good Italian proposal of the new generation created by

Danielle Liverani (guitar, bass, keyboard) and Dario Coccioni (drums). This is for me the second rock opera that I heard and the first that I totally listen to, investigate and review. The first one was on 1984 with KUMAN, which I saw some T.V. episodes haha... in those times and for being honest I had no idea what were they talking about, I just was interested on football and the Atari 2600. Now I know that was a Tarzan-styled play were Tatiana debuted and the commercial heavy-metalers "Crystal and Metal". An unusual album and not so Llamativo for those who are extremist, with a production destined for the ones who like to listen light commercial heavy metal, a mysterious and fantastic story of a adventurer content. If you're looking for that "noise" then this is not for you, but don't worry about it, you're really not missing that much, but if you're interested on the concept and the beginning of the story, well don't doubt on following the thread 'cause this is the mere first episode. [Thanks to Mutilator Zine for gifting this promotional disc that I had seen on many stores, that called up my attention and that I never took the risk of buying it].

### ERESHKIGAL

#### "When The Demons Spit Fire"

Azermemoth Recs.

Elapsed Time: 30: 38

"What Happens When The Demons Spit Fire?"

Ans= Shadows Turn Off..."



#### When The Demons Spit Fire

Again, solid and Contundente, this capital band of True Mexican Black Metal of various years of existence and various discs on their back. If you ask to any foreigner about bands of Mexican Black Metal they'll mention with easiness a hundred of them 'cause this style has greatly grown up, but if you ask for the "Good Ones" you'll see that the fingers on their hands will be enough for counting only some of them, among them you'll see that this line-up

ain't pioneer on the style, but little by little, among each album they've been growing and as a single sample of this singular album that keeps being the classic protocol of the Black Metal bands, without color, no light, without fraternity and no weakness at all...

Who'll be spitted? Ans= Will be spitted the ones who doesn't have prays to pray... [Watch the portrait's concept and you'll see]. "When The Demons Spit Fire" it's left to your imagination, once that is interpreted by a cold dried with few hopes and notoriously governed by darkness intro. "In Penumbra" starts acoustic with a fake face, like if it were gonna talk about something sweet, 'cause in little time it turns into a nocturne track, very extreme and not so fresh and even with some desperation and loudness too on the moment where "Marganor" exaggerates on the cymbals usage. Attention too much attention to what they say because I was already thinking that it would be about something "Repetitive" and monotonous, the band decides to abruptly stop and turning around with a Exelso rhythm, a pretty think rhythm that wasn't planned. On this point a stop for asking how did they achieved that emotional warrior tune? Will they repeat it again? I dunno' yet, but what I know is that those memorable minutes form part of their reached experience. "Legion" with affirmations like: "We are the legion, wolves from the black, soldiers of the eternity, crossing Christians, slaughtering weak deer, we're marching to the battle of all times", it tends to be more aggressive on the lyrics than the music 'cause that third composition handles on the most measure the half times, less temperamental riffs and a meaningful change on the rhythms under no circumstances they down their guard but neither do they make you to get on a fetal position, with no doubts this is one of the most varied tracks. "The Ancient Mirror Of Death" is for those who posses demos of this line-up a kind of remembrance of their first works, 'cause it sounded like some of their first "tapes". This musical cut contrasts among velocity, distortion, courage and from the other side of the river the patience, the choirs well placed on the perfect moment and the revelation of an interesting technique. So much has been spoken about the riffs [Coming from Nebiros] and I should say that they got nice effectiveness on this album, but definitely is best to listen to them live 'cause they sound different, something like if everyone is on their place but at the same time they form part of the same company. On the other side I don't know if War is the best "screamer" on these days but is the best that Ereshkigal has had but it seems like

he has had a huge performance. "Out Of The Grace Of God", is a title that invites you to think about various about that, How many of us have ever felt that way? Call yourself innocent or guilty, here nothing of that matter. This composition is out of god's grace, it tends to long the riffs and make them distortion due that makes them hard to listen , on their side the drums manifests as a war call, the vocal insists on losing his throat + all and every of their throat strings. "The Dance Of The Pagan Flames" you'll recognize it, is a cover of the Polish from Behemoth when they were starting and when they were the only and exclusive black metal on gray scale, delicate on the wish of sounding hidden. The outro of this album this album is appropriate, 'cause at this highs after 30 minutes of intense and radical black metal you'll be a little bit more dizzy and you'll be Dispuesto to continue with what comes next... great album of this band which anyway or other I haven't lost a clue, I saw them since they got their first demo, the passed works and now this album where a nice contrast can be done and noticing that there's a huge difference among the first and the lasts. [Thanks to Marganor for gifting this disc on my hands.]

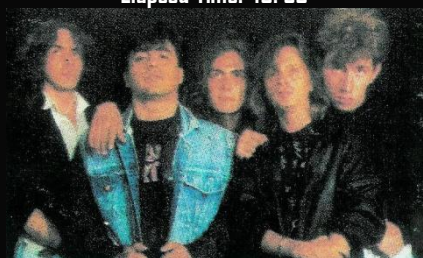
Sentinels Of The Past... Comments, Not Reviews.

#### **PADRE NUESTRO**

**Spa: Quien Es El 1991**

**Eng: Who's The 1991**

**Elapsed Time: 40: 58**



While on England they had Iron Maiden, in Spain they had the Infernal Angels, in D.F. the capital of our country they had the shiny Luzbel, in Morelos we already counted with a melodic, new and decided heavy metal band called simply "Padre Nuestro", name which some people thought that it was about a beginner Christian band and learner of White Metal, but NO not at all, fortunately these were on our side. On this 2010 practically 19 years after the release of this demo tape that I accomplished to see on some local stores in Cuernavaca but that never gave importance. Today on some discussion with some veterans of

metal, made the comment of some antique bands and pioneer bands of Metal in Morelos among those ones, overcoming, the PADRE NUESTRO. Coincidence or destiny? I dunno', the true is that one week later I found this cassette so yellow because of its age and on a pretty persuasive price that I decided not to get away the opportunity of listening for the first time.

It was properly an complete album with their 8 respective tracks + intro of a heavy austere metal, proper of the epoch, with a voice pretty low comparison with the ones that were being listened in some parts of the hemisphere, the intents on the guitars were pretty ingenious though almost always falling on one or other innocent act with no sense, lousy but convincing ones, so that they can still do it today. [From the hell you come, there's no reason for looking back, is your metal heart that screams again, welcome to the immortal reign]. [A a frighten runs your skin, a complete rocker you'll be...], [A bitter cry behind a crystal, a hidden face on the darkness, just now, she is here, goes on time without you...], [behind you won't leave anything, when you wanna go away, you have my life and I don't]. These were part of the lyrics of this magnificent and historic album of heavy pioneer metal in Morelos created and organized by a band of young enthusiastic wild guys that in those times didn't count that some sophisticated neither equipment nor many public resources which now are so easy to get for bands like theirs and even though they achieved to be known and recognized, to that grade that today are included on this informative letter like "Sentinels Of The Past".

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