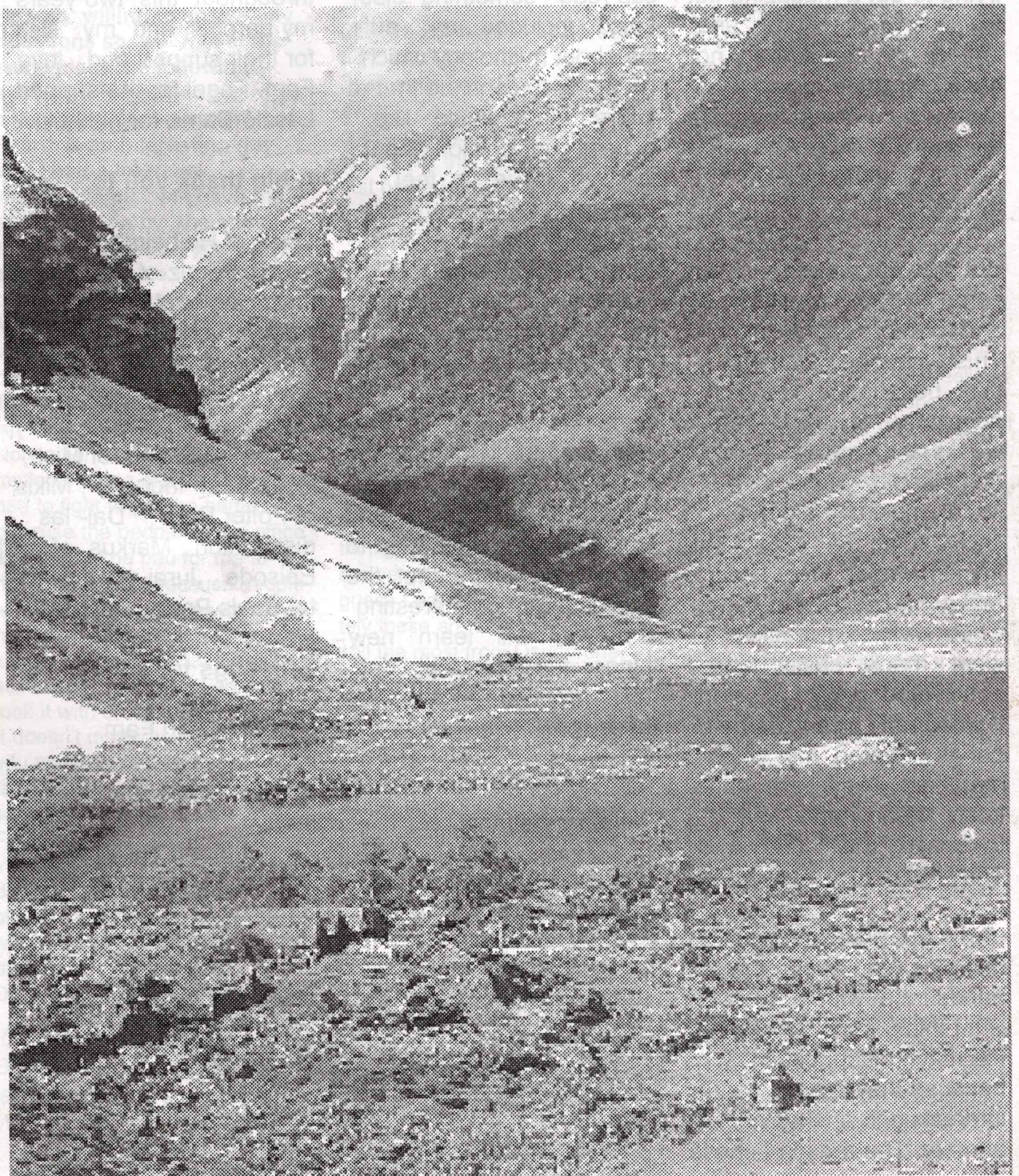


# NIGHTWALK

M A G A Z I N E

Issue 1. December 1997



# EDITORIAL

I would like to welcome you to take a walk with me in the beauties of the night. Our companion will be the first issue of Nightwalk magazine. It has been years of trying to get a magazine out which is wholly done and edited by me. I tried not once but there was always something that put things on shore. And usually it was the lack of money.

But now my dream has come true in the shape and form of Nightwalk. This time luck was on my side because I had the possibility to spend three weeks in Norway, the homeland of Black Metal music. I did not know what to expect but my aim was to meet and make interviews with bands whom I liked. Luckily it went much easier than I anticipated before my start. It was really nice how these bands treated me when I met them. They were absolutely friendly and willing to make the interviews. They helped in many ways.

So in this first issue you can only read about the bands I met with in Norway. But I think you won't be too much disappointed because they are all very interesting in one way or another. The reason I chose

these bands is because I like them and that is going to be the case with future bands to be appear on these pages. If somebody doesn't like it he can read something else! I also included an article about mythology which I'm going to continue in the future, too. I would like to hear your opinion about the first issue so feel free to write. If you have a poem or short story that suits the content of Nightwalk please contact me with it. I know that there are a big number of Black Metal fans in the world and hopefully in our country, too. I'm thankful to all of you who have bought the first issue and thus supported this mag. to stay alive. I hope that the articles will be interesting and you will learn new things from it. Until our next meeting - Keep the flame burning inside!

You can contact me on the following address:

**Nightwalk Mag.**  
c/o Attila Máté  
4032 - Debrecen  
Tessedik S.140  
Hungary - Europe

E-mail:  
AMATE@tigris.klte.hu

## Thanks and hello to:

My true love, Melinda, who has given me so much throughout this two years, my parents and my sister for their support and love, Fam. Fógel for the support, László Barna for his help.

## A big thank you to:

Ørjan of Helheim (the great host!), Fenriz of Darkthrone, Maniac of Mayhem, Apollyon of Aura Noir, Garm and Skoll of Ulver, Sverd of Arcturus, Dimmu Borgir, Jorn of Hades, Season of Mist, Cold Meat Industry, Mikis of Folter Rec., Dallas distribution, Markus of Last Episode, Juraj of Immortal Souls Prod., MHH.

## Greetings to:

Haakon, Kari Fam. Fagertun, Trine and Anette in Norway. All my friends in Europe. My friends at the university and last but not least the Wrong Side.

#25

If you ask anybody in the scene to name three of the most important bands which created the new era of Black Metal I'm sure that most of you would name Darkthrone. My first BM cd was Under ... and I've never imagined that I could ever make an interview with Fenriz. But the first person I met at the famous Elm Street Pub was Fenriz himself. He was willing to answer my questions so we met at the same place the following evening. This turned out to be a very long conversation but Fenriz is an interesting guy and I had a lot to ask. Hopefully you will have the same opinion by the end of this interview. Can you tell us about your name Fenriz because I know it's from the Northern mythology but sometimes it's written Fenris. What's the difference?

There's no difference just in English it's written with z and in Norwegians. I took the name as my legal name many years ago. I had to fight to get the name because the people in the office told that it'd be bad for me to have this name because people would think bad of me when they hear the name. But I told that I knew everything about it and I still want to be called Fenris and I took it with an s as in Norwegian. It doesn't matter to me whether you use s or z it's the same.

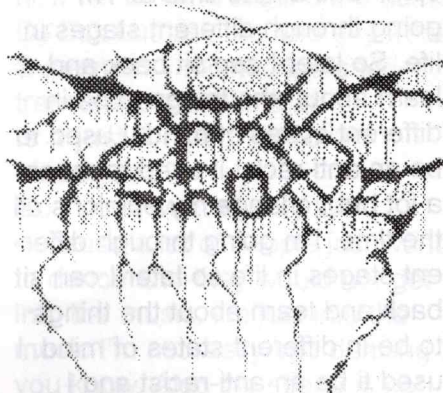
**Is that your real name? Do you sign an official document as Fenris?**

Yes, there you see (showing his driving licence). That's of course also in my passport. I didn't just want to use it I was serious about it.

**Do you still have the same line-**

*"They busked Thor then in a bridal veil, / Hung about him the Brisling Neclace, / Bound to his waist a bunch of keys, / hid his legs in a long dress, / Broad brooches to his breast pinned, / With a neat cap covered his locks."*

from The Lay of Thrym



**up with Zephyrous and Nocturno Culto?**

Zephyrous has slowly drifted away Zephyrous is no longer going to play in Darkthrone I think but it's not that we wanted him to quit because we wanted him in the band and he never said that he wanted to leave, we just drifted apart. So it's now just me and Nocturno Culto.

**You were together since Blaze.. For me Blaze... and Under... are milestones in the new era of BM. Do you agree with that?**

Well, I think that also other albums are important e.g. first Burzum and of course old Mayhem stuff, Bathory, Celtic Frost. Anyway, most people think that Blaze... and Under... are very important albums so I guess I agree with you. Definitely these are the albums that sell the most from Darkthrone.

**Do you like the old Soulside... album?**

Well, at the beginning I didn't like Soulside... but now I think it's OK because I have a distance to this album and it's OK to listen to it.

**I read an interview in '92 in which you really wanted to ignore the Soulside... album and said that Blaze... is your first album.**

It was very important to me to think like that at that time.

We wanted to ignore this

Soulside... album. It was important for us to do it but not so important anymore. It was just to get the point through to everyone that we are now in different direction.

**Those early recordings had a very raw sound. But it seems to me that you changed a little bit on the last two recordings Panzerfaust and Total Death.**

Panzerfaust was also recorded in Necroland studio so it also have a very ugly sound. We tried to do our best in the studio but people think nowadays that it sounds like shit because people record albums with very nice sounds and that's not for me.

**I read somewhere that you think that this is the BM sound and you don't want a better sound for your CDs.**

Yes. We always want an ugly sound like Bathory that's very natural to me. That gives me the BM feeling. I don't get BM feeling when the album has a very nice Death Metal sound. That's nothing for me. That's why I almost didn't listen to new things. I like the old Bathory sound.

**Do you think that N. Culto's voice has changed from the beginning?**

I don't think so. He is not planning to change his voice on the albums. He just sings and if it sounds different it is nothing planned. I think that on Blaze... and Total Death the vocals is not so different.

**Can you tell me how you compose a song?**

When we started working as a three-piece band then we had a sort of individualistic dictatorship. If Zephyrous wrote a song we had to play it and record it. We trusted each other. So we knew that everyone was so much into it that if one wrote a song we knew it would be great. That's how it worked.

**You got an idea or a rhythm in your head and you make it to a**

**song by yourself and show it in the rehearsal?**

Yeah , but I don't know how the others make their songs. Sometimes Zephyrous said that he just picked the guitar and the first thing he played he started to build a song from that. But it was the same with me. I used to play the guitar and made many riffs. So when we played the guitar I knew where I was going to play my part. We never cooperate in our song- writing. I never use any of my riffs in N. Culto's songs and N. Culto doesn't use mine. Everybody has his own songs and makes his own material. All of us worked individually and when the song was finished we just took it to the rehearsal room and rehearsed it. We were not allowed to say e.g. I don't like this riff Nocturno , change this riff Zephyrous - not allowed. We had this individual dictatorship. That is how we composed all the songs on our albums.

**Can you tell me about your lyrics a little bit?**

It's difficult for me to talk about the lyrics. Lot of the lyrics I write when I'm in a communion with other forces. So lot of my lyrics I don't know why they turned out like that. Some things were probably in my mind and some things just came to me. I never want to talk to much about the lyrics. It's not my favourite thing to discuss really.

**On your Transsylvanian... album sleeve you used politically incorrect words which caused you lots of trouble.**

Yes , we were boycotted by distributors. But how could people judge a band which was working quite some time when this thing happened.

**But still on the CD remained Norsk Arisk BM. What does Arisk , to be an aryan mean to you?**

It doesn't mean much anymore but it used to mean. I change my

opinions all the time as I'm going through different stages in life. So later I can sit back and learn about the things to be in different states of mind. I used to be an anti-racist it used to mean a lot but I change my opinions all the time. I'm going through different stages in life so later I can sit back and learn about the things to be in different states of mind. I used to be an anti-racist and I was put into prison for anti-racist demonstration. Then I went into a more typical racist kind of thinking and now I'm just looking back on them and trying to learn something from these two states of mind. Now I don't care about it. **You really looked like somebody possessed by Satan in this intie. Are you still a Satanist or do you claim to be a Satanist? Although this word has gradually lost its real meaning nowadays.**

Well , I've been on radio many times because I've said that I'm a Satanist and people called me up and wanted to do interviews with me. I don't have so much trouble walking through life as a Satanist. But there are many forms of Satan-ism you know as there are with Christian thinking. But I tend to take individualistic stands in all process but I still call my way of thinking Satanistic. It's easy to call myself a Satanist because the lyrics of Darkthrone are Satanistic. But when it comes to be possessed by Satan it's not something you can really choose. You can be possessed in a short term or it can last for many years. I don't know , maybe I'm not possessed anymore but I still have the spark within me the fire which is burning the flame.

**OK , let's get back to your "new" album which was recorded during '91-'92.**

Yes , it's a rehearsal of an album material that we finished. We were just going to record it in a better studio but we never did it because we were so tired of play-

ing this music , it didn't mean much to us anymore. We were just into BM at that time so we decided to kick the bassplayer out and leave the songs alone. But later we thought that those are pretty good DM songs so I did some vocals on it in '94 and then it was released. But it is not a real album. If it were a real album it would be out on vinyl too but it is only on CD. It should have been our second album.

**But now you thought it was good and you just put it out?**

Yeah , because we were listening to it many years later and we thought , hey , that's pretty good. When we made those riffs we were pretty serious about it. We just let it rest.

**So it's a DM and not a BM album.**

Well , I just call it Dark Metal because it's not typical DM either. It has this rehearsal , strange sound and also the singing is not typical DM. I think it's closer to DM than BM but it's not pure DM. I think the vocals is very atmospheric on Goatlord.

**But putting out this old material doesn't mean that you're out of ideas.**

Right now I'm pretty much out of ideas but when we decided to release Goatlord in '94 we were not. Right now we're just resting. We've made so much albums. I've been on 14 albums since 1991. I'm a bit tired you know I have to rest.

**I heard rumors that you're going to split-up.**

No , we never even thought about splitting-up but we're just a two- piece as Immortal used to be. We'll continue like this because we can't have new members in Darkthrone I think. Me and N.Culto have been together for almost ten years and it's difficult to a new person who would fit in and we've never ever thought about it. We can manage to make albums by being just two of course , no problem.

**But does it mean that you'll come up with a new album soon?**

Well, not soon, I think. We have some lyrics and a few riffs nothing more actually. But I can sit down tomorrow and make four songs and then I don't have to make any.

**So you have to be in the mood?**

I think it has to be more than just the mood. It has to be something that draws you, a stronger force which is behind the creating force.

**Now I'd like to ask you about your projects/ex-projects.**

**What's the latest about Neptune Towers?**

I also did the third album but I'm not too satisfied with it. A lot of people want me to release it. But I don't want it, it would be boring to mix it and go through the whole material in the studio again. It is three years ago that I made the third album and it's lying on the table on a tape but I don't want to release it. It is enough with the two Neptune Towers albums.

**I also heard that you mix some techno under the name DJ Ebola, is that true?**

I quit the name DJ Ebola and

now I'm running around the name DJ Lex Luthar, the bad guy from Superman. I mix techno and trance and shit like that.

**Is it just for yourself or in clubs, too?**

No I don't want to play live because a lot of people just want to dance and they would not get into the music. I'm just into the music I'm not really into dancing, you know. Also the scene is not good here in Oslo or Norway for this music. Too many people don't give a shit of what you play as long as there is a steady rhythm they can dance on. I want to do it more seriously and I want to give the tapes to people who are into the music and will definitely listen to the tapes. I'm DJing a lot of tapes, I'm DJing over 35 tapes or something like that.

**Don't you think that...**

I don't care what people think.

**That is what I wanted to ask.**

Because they think whatever they want, you know. I'm not trying to build myself a mystic personality or something.

**I can judge that now, so you want to carry on with it?**

Yes, I definitely want to carry on with it. But I didn't start buying record players with pitch until two

years ago. But I will not start to make this usual techno, a lot of people doing this already.

**What about Dodheimsgard, did you play on the second album?**

No, I only played on the first one.

**Don't you think it was quite similar to the Darkthrone style?**

Well, I played bass there and I had never played bass before. It was great for me to play the bass there I made a lot of bass lines, stuff like that. I think it was rather interesting but later I didn't have the time because I had so many other things. By the way, on the new Dodheimsgard there are like 6 persons. But the lyrics are great. I have never seen such extreme lyrics, I'm very proud. I never thought that Dodheimsgard sounded similar to Darkthrone, I've never made a single riff there. People just think that because I played there. If it had been another bass player people would not have compared it. I played there so people think of Darkthrone automatically.

**Can you tell me what is up with Isengard?**

Nothing is up. I'm thinking of doing different stuffs and I'd also like to keep Isengard as sounding like Isengard but I've no more materials, no more ideas of this folk inspired stuff. But I don't want to do BM on my own because I'm saving those for Darkthrone. So I'm not thinking of doing more Isengard either and when it comes to Storm it seems that we are not going to do another album after all. We'll see, I'm going on another mountain trip with Satyr next month and we will talk about it then. But he has moved away and it is difficult to rehearse and stuff like that. You can always work in a studio but I really find drumming boring.

**So was the first Storm album was inspired by a mountain trip?**



Fenriz and the editor

No, no. It was inspired by folk music basically because Satyr and me were hanging out together listening to folk music and we wanted to do it ourselves and there it was. It was natural to us not to use violins like some metal people in folk rock, we didn't want that, we used only instruments we were familiar with. If people like it fine, if not they can listen to something else.

**The Isengard albums are seem so hymnical to me, like going on in a battle with Christianity. What was in your mind when you composed those songs e.g. I Kamp Med Hvite Krist (In Fight with the White Christ)?**

Well, it would be better if one asks me this question right after I did it because then I have very strong feelings about it. I haven't even heard this album for a couple of years, you know so I don't really remember. But this particular song was made as a tribute to the first Norwegian Black Metal festival in 1994. I made it for the festival that was my idea with it. I had a studio in my living room so it was easy to make a lot of material. Well, I hate to be in other people's studio so I'm planning to get some studio facility in my home again so I can start making stuff. Sometimes it seems I lack a lot of driving force. If I have to walk an extra km for something I almost never do it. I'm getting a bit lazy because I think I've done so much and now I'm relaxing all the time.

**And what makes you start doing something? A sparkle, the fire?**

No one really knows that. Many philosophers has been trying to figure it out why you start doing something artistic. I don't know why. It is life. If you don't do anything you can even be dead, you know.

**What is your opinion about this invasion of BM bands?**

I think it is both great and also not so great. Because once we

wanted to be a really small, obscure scene but now it is a big scene. A lot of people are playing in bands, a lot of kids are buying the albums. A lot of Satanic art has been made and that is good. There have been lots of Christian art before and now lots of Satanic art. When it came this far I just want to continue. But I don't have to listen to it, I'm making it myself. I don't really have to listen to new bands and I don't really want to either. I'd rather listen to Bathory albums that is where I came from.

**Do you support any band?**

Infernö and Aura Noir with this Black-Thrash thing. But I don't really support new bands with fancy sound, that is not for me.

**Well, you were the beginners of this new era of BM. I understand that you have mixed feelings about this.**

Yes, I have. But I don't want to change. If I would be a Christian I'd say no one could play God but as a Satanist no one can play God. To be individualistic that is the best thing you can do. But it is great that so much Satanic music has been made. People will go on with their lives and they have been part of it and always carry it in their minds. Even if they say I'm ashamed of being a Black Metaller but they still probably won't be Christians and that is good because there are too many Christians.

**You said you never want to play live with Darkthrone because it is not a live act.**

No it is not.

**But I think you played live. We can't say we are not a live band if we never experience it. I don't like the troubles around it. I don't like travelling. You have to make a good sound. Stay sober to make a good performance. I also don't like watching people playing live. I listen to a lot of techno but I almost never go to place where they play that music. I play it at home.**

**Can we say that Darkthrone is alive and going to continue?**

I think we try to make more albums. We've never discussed to quit. We can take our time we have other things on our minds. We have jobs, you know. When you have a regular money income you can do whatever you want in your spare time. But I see a lot of bands who don't have jobs. They have to go on tours, make money. They also try to make good music. But if the trend dies, if it dies and they no longer sell maybe they can't get a job then. I'm playing safe.

**So you work like every average people?**

Yes, but then again I know a lot about average people and a lot of BMers don't know anything about average people. I've been working since 10. October. 1988.

**And what is your job?**

I've always been working with the mail. But I can listen to music all the time, I don't have to serve anyone. I don't want a job where you have to be nice with people like in a store.

**Do you keep the distance with people?**

I used to keep the distance and I like conversation and here in Elm Street there are always a lot of BMers and other interesting people to talk to. But I love the art of conversation. I used to write a lot of mail with the underground scene but I wrote so many letters in a five year period that I got so bored that now I'm talking to people in the last five years. I'm not a loner. I'd not want to sit at home and listen to music but rather drink beer, smoke. I would go crazy sitting at home.

**I think there were many interesting things in the interview and we could only hope that Fenriz would take his word and Darkthrone is going to continue.**

In the next interview we are going to meet with a new up-and-coming band whom Fenriz mentioned as one of the new bands who work with this new Black Thrash music. They are Aura Noir and my partner in this conversation is Apollyon.

**Can you introduce the band first to the readers?**

The band is me Apollyon, Blasphemer and Aggressor. Blasphemer plays all the guitars, me and Aggressor we switch on playing the bass and the drums and also the vocals. The songs I made I do the vocals and play the bass and the songs Aggressor made he plays the bass and do the vocals.

**How did you get together?**

Well, we just met each other in town and after a couple of years we decided to play Thrash-Metal, Old school Thrash-Metal because all of us love that very much. It just happened.

**Did you have the same process in the early days of making demos and looking for a deal?**

Well, not really. It was just a side project for Aggressor who also plays in Ved Buens Ende (Aggressor is Carl-Michael from VBE - the editor). He wanted to do something weird and I helped him on the drums and then we both decided - let's play Thrash Metal instead. We didn't do any demos with Aura Noir except of two songs which are unreleased. We just went into the studio and did it. But it is not the same music that Aura Noir plays today.

**Your debut album is titled Black Thrash Attack. What does the title convey?**

It just indicates what music it is. It is just total destruction. Black Thrash Attack should say it all.

**Who published this record?**

Malicious Records from Germany. It was recorded in the same studio as the two



Dodheimsgard albums. It is not any particularly good but it is OK. **Can you tell me about your new CD?**

We have ten songs on the CD and eleven on the vinyl, the bonus is the cover version of Venom's Heavens on Fire and it is very intense and aggressive, lots of nice riffs. I like it a lot.

**So you mix Old school Thrash Metal with Black Metal?**

Yeah, but a bit more modern maybe than at least the German bands but we have been influenced by American bands like Dark Angel, Slayer and Exodus.

**How can you mix these two styles together?**

Ah, it is very easy. I've always looked upon the old Thrash Metal as the beginning of some BM genre. So I don't think it is difficult at all. You just play the old riffs, maybe a little bit tighter than they did before. The vocals is a bit different. It sounds Black Thrash Metal.

**So that is the best description.**

Yes, I don't know how to describe.

**What do you think, do BM fans going to like this record?**

Yes, I think so because most fans of pure BM should like the old stuffs, everything old by Slayer, Celtic Frost. Very intense riffing, not as much focus on moods as in today's BM. Maybe those who only like synth BM bands won't like it. If they are into the very new BM and don't like the old stuff.

**Can you tell a few words about the lyrics?**

We share the lyrics with Aggressor. On the first Mini CD "Dreams like Deserts" Aggressor wrote all the lyrics. The lyrics are total hell all the way.

**Is there some kind of difference between the Mini CD and the debut album?**

Yeah, I think the debut album is much more aggressive and much better. The sound and the songs are better. Not all the songs were finished when we went into studio with the Mini CD. We finished half of the songs there. We wrote the stuff in one month. Now we had more time for creating the songs.

**How do you like the BM scene here in Norway?**

I used to like it very much. But something happened after the murder of Euronymous. It is very different but I still like it. I'm not so much into the music anymore because it is a sort of down period for me when it comes to music. I hope we still have the best scene in the world.

**Do you think that Aura Noir is something new in the underground scene?**

Yeah, because we started playing to revive Thrash Metal and I think nobody did before us to play a whole album with old Thrash Metal, we were the first. We are not totally new but old bands like Kreator and Sodom don't play that music anymore. I hope we will survive!

**Is there anything you want to add to the interview?**

We are going to studio in two weeks time and recording a Mini CD. It is going to be called "Deep Tracks of Hell". Four songs - two old ones and two new ones. The old ones are from our first Mini CD.

**I hope you got a taste of what this new style look like.**

Anyway I think I'm not the only one who used to be a fan of Thrash Metal and I am very curious whether this revival would get a good response or not. If you want some more information on Aura Noir you can write to Apollyon on the following address:

**Aura Noir/Apollyon**

Fjellv. 3  
1410 KOLBOTN  
NORWAY



One of the most controversial bands in the Black Metal scene is definitely Mayhem. They are around from 1987. They got this negative reputation especially because of their live shows and lately because of the murder of Euronymous. He was not only the leader of Mayhem but we can say that the leader of the Norwegian BM scene. Following his murder they put out one album and then they disappeared. But now they are back with a vengeance. I met with Maniac, the "new" singer to find out more what has happened since the murder and what we can expect from the new Mayhem.

**First of all, as far as I know you were not a member of Mayhem when Euronymous was killed.**

You are right I was not. I was the singer and then it was Dead but now he is dead, ha-ha and then they had a session vocalist, Attila from Tormentor.

**Wasn't it annoying for you that it was Attila and not you who was asked to perform the vocals on the De Mysteriis... album?** No, not at all because I was still in good contact with Euronymous but it was never in the plans that I should do the vocals because I was doing a lot of other things then. A lot of really dark, ambient music at that time. It was never in the ques-

tions that I would do the vocals so I was not annoyed at all.

**Do you like the De Mysteriis... album of Mayhem?**

I like about half of the songs there and I like the lyrics because most of the lyrics were done by Dead and he really wrote great lyrics. But I'm still not getting used to the vocals because I don't feel it is Mayhem vocals.

**So the lyrics were done by Dead?**

Yes, most of them. Also Necrobutcher did a few of them.

**Can you tell a few things about this Deathcrush album? I think you were quite young at that time.**

Yes, I was really young. It was ten years ago in 1987 when I was 17 and I'm not sure if I like the album. I don't like the lyrics on the album at all but I like the brutality of it and it was one of the first BM albums that came out, you know.

**I wanted to ask whether you still like it or not.**

I still like it but I'm getting really tired if playing those songs. I've been playing it for so long now. I think it is kind of boring to play them, actually.

**So when did you get out of Mayhem?**

Well, almost right after the Death-crush album like half a year later because I had to move to another place. I lived like 200 kms from the other guys and it was a really long drive to get there and rehearse and every-

thing. I also had to do a lot of school things.

**How did you and the members of Mayhem react to the murder of Euronymous?**

I was quite shocked when I first heard it because I was sitting at home watching TV when I saw this picture of Euronymous on the screen that he was killed. I didn't really react because it felt so unreal, you know. It was like I didn't really believe it but only afterwards. Well, I haven't really thought much about it. The fancy thing was that a day after he was killed I got a letter from him where he said all this stuff of his about that now Mayhem is going to be really great and everything. **That is quite morbid.**

Yeah. I walked down to the post office the day after, opened my mailbox and there was this huge letter from Euronymous and I knew he was dead and I just Wow, you know.

**And how did the others react?**

I can't speak for any of the other members in the band because we were quite alike and very different at the same time.

**Did you want to take revenge on Varg?**

No because it was something between them and I had nothing to do with it at all. I didn't really understand why it happened, anyway. And four years after I don't really think much about it. OK - you die, you live so there is not much to do about it and they have their ways and we have our



ways.

**But it really did the damage for Mayhem and the BM scene in Norway.**

Well, it could have done. But actually I didn't see where Mayhem was going at that time. A lot of people are really curious about it but I can't relate in a way that Euro-nymous was my friend and a lot of people said they knew him but they didn't know him at all. I knew him and I have the philosophy that you die, you live you can't do anything about it.

**And did he share the same philosophy?**

Yeah, he was like that. He was really hated, you know. Kill the weaker people and everything. If you live by that rule and you die then there is not much to do about it.

**Could you tell me about the things that happened after the murder?**

It was totally fucked up because everybody was getting arrested and everybody was slagging

each other. Everybody was arrested from famous BM bands except me, I did not get arrested. People were driven to the police station and were asked about everything. I think that the Oslo police station has a special group investigating the BM scene.

**So they are still looking after people here in Norway.**

Yes, they definitely are. It has been quieting down a bit but they are still looking after people.

**So how did you get back into the band? Whose idea was this re-unification?**

It was back in '94 that I moved back to Oslo and I just met Hellhammer and he asked me if I wanted to join the band again. I thought about it and I said yes. We can rehearse all the time and everything is going to be cool. We also got Necrobutcher back. Hellhammer also found a new guitarist Blasphemer whom I hadn't met before we went to the rehearsal place. He played the songs and I thought it really

kicked.

**Can you tell a few things about Blasphemer?**

Yeah, he hasn't done really much, yet. He is much younger than us but he just came into the band because he is so much into BM. He is a really great guitarist.

**What were the causes of this reunification?**

We just wanted to keep on playing because we felt that Mayhem shouldn't die. You can't really look at Mayhem as a band but rather as a big, huge fucking monster wanting to kill people. That is why we keep on doing and playing.

**When did you have your first rehearsal with the new lineup? Was it easy to start again?**

In the autumn of 1994. Yeah, I grew much older, my voice has changed slightly but I still have the same screaming vocals. And Blasphemer played the songs really well. That was the first time I sang the De Mysteriis... songs but that was great because I listened to the album so many times. I've been hearing Freezing Moon since 1989. I was in the studio when Dead was still alive and they recorded the two tracks. It was really no problem. We felt it was good so we kept on playing. If we had sounded like shit we wouldn't have done it. **But you changed the vocal parts which were sung by Attila.** Yes, I've changed them completely. It is not that I disliked his voice. I think the voice is good but I don't think it suits Mayhem. I really like Tormentor and I think it is a great band but I couldn't sing like that and I couldn't do that in Mayhem. I felt it should be more aggressive. I think the vocals needed rawer vocals. **Are you going to keep the same Mayhem line?** The new songs in a way are totally different because the new vocals is really strange, raw but also normal vocals and the guitars play really disharmonic things,



Mayhem Live 1997

like really crushing and Hellhammer is a much better drummer now.

**Is there a progression in your musical ability?**

Yes , a progression of our music but it still has the same total aggressivity because it has to be aggressive. That is what Mayhem is about- aggressiveness.

**Do you think we will find surprises on the Mini CD?**

Yes , definitely. It is going to crush your brains.

**And what do you think , how the fans are going to react?**

I don't know. We've got a lot of hassels that we started again. People didn't like it bt we are Mayhem so we don't give a shit about that. We play the music for ourselves. I think they are going to like it. A lot of people have heard the limited edition CD that

got out and they liked it.

**You mentioned that some people didn't like that you reunited.**

Yeah , lots of people didn't like it but we don't give a shit about it. We don't care about it.

**But are they from the Black Metal circle?**

Yes , the new BM people because it is like we invited a few people from the old bands to the rehearsals like Fenriz and Nocturno Culto and they really liked it. That is important that the old guys like I don't give a shit if the new ones don't like it. Well , it is not really in Norway but much more outside Norway. Here in Norway most of the people enjoyed that Mayhem was going to continue. If you surf on the Internet you can see a lot of hate things against Mayhem but that's

what Mayhem has always been about. We've always been hated. We are on the hate list in the USA of this fucking vegetarian shithheads. It is like they are going to kick Mayhem to hell and stuff like that.

**Please tell me about that!**

Well , it is like a really small extremist group in the USA who are animal protectors and they put us on their hate list.

**You're a provocative band and you enjoy that!**

Yeah because that is what we want to do that is aggressive music. Last year we were supposed to play in Oslo but we were refused to play because the City of Oslo wouldn't let us play. They would have re-fused the licence of the club. There were articles in the biggest newspapers in Norway - Mayhem can't play because they are degenerating young minds and stuff like that and we were not allowed to play.

**Can you tell me about your contract with Misanthropy?**

Well , not much because Hellhammer does this thing. We release the Mini CD this autumn and we will probably play a gig in London's Astoria.

**Could you talk about the new Mini CD?** It was recorded in Studio-Studio which is a studio way up in the woods in Norway. Four new songs which are totally aggressive with some surprises. It's going to be released in August/September (it was released only recently Ed.). **How is the song writing look like in Mayhem?** Blasphemer does all the guitar stuff first and then Hellhammer puts in the drums , then the bass and then the lyrics. I have lots of lyrics so I just find the lyrics that suits the music.

**What are the lyrics about?**

They are totally personal. About the dark side. But people should figure it out themselves because it is very personal. **But if it is very personal how**



Mayhem Live

**how could they figure it out?**

Ha-ha. You can read anything into the lyrics , you know. Let us just say that there are a lot of aggression in them as well.

**Fenriz said he has this flame burning inside him while writing. Do you have a similar feeling?**

Yes. I write so many lyrics. I live just outside of Oslo in a very small place and I read about philosophy and religion and that is where I write lyrics. I have books of lyrics. I have to write to get all those things out of me.

**The cancelled concert was moved to Germany, right?**

Yeah , because we were supposed to play there last summer. But we kept on rehearsing at that time so we made the deal in January because we really wanted to play. We wanted to show that we are back and better than ever.

**Was it the same kind of live show that Mayhem give?**

Yeah , let me tell you. Marduk

played before us and the singer threw 20 litres of pig blood on the audience and we got on stage afterwards. We couldn't get pig heads so we used cow heads. They were really big ones with horns and we had six of them on stage. When I came on stage I saw these people in the front with lots of pig blood on their faces and it totally exploded. We just crushed the place , totally aggressive. On the last song I found my little knife and started cutting myself. I cut myself everywhere and the audience went crazy. The show was also filmed. If it is good it is probably going to be released. We got a lot of phone calls that people who were there really liked it. It was totally Mayhem.

**Are you planning to go on a European tour?**

I don't know we are going to play in London and headline a tour in the USA in October.

**When can we expect a new Mayhem album?**

Oh , I don't know. It is really uncertain because we really like doing things slowly , writing songs. We have some material but it takes along time to develop. You can judge it yourself on the Mini Album because it is really complicated shit. It is going to kill people.

**Do you think it is a stable line-up?**

Yeah , we are together since '94 and there were no fuck-ups , we were rehearsing all the time. I think we are going to record more material with this line-up.

**What is your opinion about this new trend of BM?**

I like some of the new bands and it is OK but they are starting to use the synth so much now that I don't like it at all. We could never have a synth in Mayhem. Then we would lose all the aggressiveness. I like some of the music but I think it is too nice , it is too polished. It is not aggressive enough, it is like tu-du-du-du (Maniac imitates the synth). Any band from Norway who says they are playing BM can get a record deal in Germany or somewhere and it sounds like shit. It is like they recorded it in a fucking cellar. I think that is really bad for the scene.

**Do you listen to any of these new bands?**

It depends who you call a new band. I listen to Ulver and of course the old guys like Darkthrone and Emperor. Apart from that I listen to a lot of old English music like Death In June, they are really strange bands.

**I think that is all I wanted to know . Something to add?**

Not really. It is just that people should watch out for the new Mayhem Mini because it is gonna fucking kill !



From left to right : Blasphemer,

the editor and Maniac.

From Black Metal emerged a new style of music often labeled as Viking Metal. Enslaved is the most well-known band but there are other good bands who already established a good reputation in the underground with this style. One of them is Helheim and to find out more about them I met with Vanargandr who told me all the necessary information about Helheim. As far as I know Helheim is the domain of death. Why did you choose that name and does it have a symbolic meaning for you?

We actually came up with that name in '92. Tom came up with the name and we were quite interested in Northern mythology we thought that this name would fit us quite well. The music is quite obscure and it fits the name perfectly.

**So tell a few words of how you started, what was your aim and was it easy to find people to play that kind of music?**

Tom and me started around '90-'91 when we were quite young. We just played the guitar and didn't find a drummer until '92. I began to play the bass, too but the drummer was not really into the music at that time, he just wanted to play in a band with serious musicians so we started and we have progressed all the time.

**What is the current line-up?**

Hrymr - drums, piano, mouth-harp and keyboards, Vanargandr - bass, vocals, Hrymgrimnir - guitars, vocals.

**You put a big emphasis on Viking traditions. Is it like that from the beginning? What does it mean to you to be a Viking?**

I don't see myself as a Viking in that kind of way. I'm interested in and fascinated about our history. I write about actual stories and mix them with my feelings.

**I saw photos of Helheim before**



**and you were wearing Viking dresses. How do you get them and are they expensive?**

Two of them were made by the drummer's mother, actually. But mine, I bought it and it was very expensive. You can get these things here in Norway. But you can make them yourself because it is not too difficult either.

**Who is your favourite personality or god from the Northern mythology and why?**

I don't have a favourite just the whole mythology in one spectre. It is not a favourite god or anything. I find Loki quite interesting and all the Aesirs are quite interesting.

**Your first album in my opinion is very well-played and can create a battle atmosphere.**

**How do you view the Jormundgard album and what does the title mean?**

Jormundgard is the Midgard serpent in Northern mythology. The serpent that surrounds the world. In the final battle it is in war with Thor and they kill each other.

That is what the song Jormundgard is about. We thought Jormundgard is a cool name for a CD. About the album - if we had recorded it now we would have played it better with a lot of differences but at that time I was really satisfied with it because it was a big step from the demo. Also the sound is good.

**For me the vocals sounds a little bit strange. I'm not sure if it goes with the music - this screamy vocals. What do you**

**think of that?**

On the demo we didn't have too much difference in the vocals so we had to do something about it. My voice got higher and higher all the time as you can hear. But I guess the sound of the album, how we mixed it fits quite well because it is a fast music but on the new album I cut them out. I don't use it there. So I think the vocals fits on the first album but we didn't want to use it on the second one. You will hear it, it is much more majestic and bigger sound.

**What do you think is the main difference between the two albums?**

We are better musicians. The music is much more complicated and better performed. Also the sound and the atmosphere is much better in every aspect.

**You used many different instruments on the first album, I guess it is the same on the second, too. Do you think it is important to come up with new ideas like this?**

For us - we want to use it, it appeals to us. On the first we used trumpet, mouthharp and piano. We used these on the second, too but we also included violin so I think it is a progress. We use these instruments instead of keyboards. I think you can create a better and more alive atmosphere with the original instruments and not using the keyboard all the time.

**Please, tell a few things about your new release!**

We recorded it at Grieghallen like the first one. It is seven songs. Much more varied in tempo, more normal vocals, more female vocals. The last song is very interesting, very slow it is a big hymn with violins.

**But you still carry on with the Viking tradition?**

Yes, even more I think.

**How do you create your lyrics?**

Actually, I just come up with the name, a basic story which kind

of fits the song. I write that story and when I choose another song it is a totally new concept in the lyrics. But if we look further ahead I can tell you that we have four songs telling a particular story. That is going to be our third release.

**How do you create a song in Helheim?**

It is me and the guitarist who make all the music, the drummer just performs some classical parts like piano. If we are ready with the music he can put on some piano lines if we want it. We write the songs individually. Like on the second CD we divided, 3 for each.

**Have you ever played live?**

Yeah, we have played two tours and one festival, a release party here in Bergen.

**Which is the better, go to a Helheim concert or listen to your albums at home?**

I think if you are on our live show, well, we play an aggressive show and it is difficult to get into

the lyrics. It is just to let the crowd have a nice time.

**Do you wear Viking costumes on the concerts, too?**

Yes, it is very hot to wear.

**Do you have relationship with other bands here in Norway e.g. Enslaved?**

We don't know Enslaved personally but we know Hades and Aeternus and some other bands. But it is not like we hang out, we just meet them in town. We toured with Hades and Aeternus. But not this total friendship or whatever.

**When are you planning to release a new material?**

I hoped for the end of this year but I think it will be probably the beginning of next year if we are fast.

**Any last words?**

Hail and kill!

**Band contact:**

Helheim  
Sorashogda 337  
5046 Radal  
Norway

In the next interview you can find out more about a band who had a stunning demo called "Alone Walkyng" and right after that a debut album. But after that they really disappeared. But in 1997 they returned on the scene with their second CD. If you still don't know which band I'm talking about I can tell you that it is Hades. Jorn revealed me why they disappeared and what we can expect from them on the new album. Please, Jorn tell me about the early days, how you met.

We met back in 1992 and it was me and Remi who started Hades and we all came from different bands from Bergen. We played for 3-4 months and then a guy joined from Oslo. After that we met Janto or Janto met us. He wanted to come to the rehearsal place. He was asking so many times that we said OK and he was really fitting very nicely. We knew exactly what music we would make.

**Were there any particular aims with the band?**

Yes, we wanted to create our feelings, slow music just very good music.

**Your first material the Alone walkyng demo really created a good response in the underground. Did you expect that? How do you view that demo now?**

When we recorded it on the summer of '93 we did it all ourselves. We didn't expect to sell so much and get such a good response. But after a while Wounded Love Rec. got interested in us and they wanted to print it professionally and they sold about 1000 copies. I still love this demo we never regret any material that we have made.

**You earned a record deal with Fullmoon Rec. and released your debut "... Again Shall Be". Do you think you realized the potential you had after the**



# H A D E S

**demo or you expected better things?**

We are satisfied with it but as you can hear on our new CD the production is rawer and not as clean in sound. We kind of mix the demo and the debut to get a rawer sound.

**I think you have to give not just one listen to understand your songs. Do you agree with that?**

Every song that we make has its own expression, its own feeling. If we use 3 riffs in a song or 10 it doesn't matter it is the feeling, the emotions around the songs which count for us. If you don't understand a song at once that is just good because you have to listen again. So in a way I agree with you.

**Let's talk about the lyrics on your debut. They are usually about the glorious pagan North-land. What do you base your lyrics on?**

Most of the lyrics are written by Janto. But the music inspires all of us and this is the way he formulates his lyrics. We all come up with ideas and titles and mostly they are our feelings about pagan honour.

**Do you think that that the old days can be recalled or repeated again?**

You never know, you know. It is all our goal.

**After the debut you really disappeared. Why was that? As far as I know it was because of the Norwegian churchburnings. Is that true? Yes, I was sentenced. I was in jail for two years. I was tried for church arson and was released in February. That is why we didn't record anything in 1995. But we recorded The Dawn of the Dying Sun CD while I was in jail.**

**So it was obvious you join again?**

Well, I never quitted. After I got out from jail we carried on. **You put out the Alone walking demo on MCD recently. Why happened this? Was it the band's or the record company's idea?**

It was Wounded Love Rec. who wanted to print it on CD and they said if it was OK from us and we said yes. It was OK because people wouldn't forget us and also the demo was released in only 1000 copies. So it was evident that we put it on CD because more people could get it. It is exactly the same DAT tape which was put on the CD.

**After so many years you are back with a new record. Do you have the same idea about music or is there some change in your attitude towards making music?**

Our attitude is the same as always but you know that you always get better, better ways to make music, better ways to write lyrics, better ways to cooperate so we are getting better all the way. I have the same feelings about making music.

**Is there any change in the lyrics?**

There are some changes but the main thing is the same. We are trying different ways to express ourselves.

**What is your expectation about the new album? Do you think people still remember Hades?**

Yes, I know they do because of the tour we have just finished. Of course there was a rumour a couple of years ago that we didn't exist anymore but we did interviews and the record company promoted us. I think the meaning with this album is to show that we

can still make good music and we will never give up. That is honour, isn't it?

**Don't you think that this record must get a good response if you want to carry on with Hades and this is your only chance to show that you are back?**

I'm not sure if I agree with that. But so far the response has been good. So I hope it will continue and I think it will.

**You were there at the beginning of the Norwegian BM scene. How was it at that time and how is it now?**

Around '92-'93 the music was maybe more extreme, the lyrics were more extreme, the music was harder, faster. I think the music now getting more quality classified.

**Do you like being part of that Norwegian scene?**

We don't play BM so we can't compare ourselves with BM bands. If you feel that we are playing BM that is OK for us but we don't feel we play BM.

**Do you want to distance Hades from other bands?**

No, but our music is different from other bands', we don't have fast parts. I think that the meaning of Hades is different from the BM bands in Norway. It is not a problem for us to play with a BM band. The meaning the BM is not the same as it was in my opinion so that is why we don't say we are playing BM, we never said that.

**Don't you think it is bad and ruins the scene that every band from Norway can get a record deal?**

Yes, it annoys me. For example, on the tour some people only bought CDs of bands who wore corsepaint and they were from

Norway. They didn't care what kind of music it was.

**As far as I know you feature Alone walking on the new album. Why is that?**

Because everyone expected us to feature it on ... Again Shall Be and we didn't so we put it on this new CD. Maybe the song is a little faster but otherwise it is the same.

**Do you have any hobbies?**

**What are you doing in your free time?**

Listening to music, playing music, reading. I read everything. I like reading about witchcraft, history, Norwegian history, old folklore, folk music. I would say I'm quite open-minded.

**I think we can expect your next album sooner than the previous one.**

Yes, we are going to studio around the fall of this year. I think it is going to be out around early

next year.

**Anything you want to add?**

Yes, we are going on a tour in the US. We are going to do more original shows than other bands make e.g. corsepaint, fire.

**And what does this original show cover?**

Why don't you come and see it?!

**The interview finishes here and I hope you found out some interesting thing about Hades.**

**If there is something you didn't get the answer for you can contact Hades on the following address:**

Hades/Jorn

Tranehaugen 7

5046 RÅDAL

NORWAY

**The Fantoft stave church which was burned down on 06.06.1992. by Varg Vikernes. It was rebuilt in 1997.**

**If I say Symphonic Black Metal I'm sure that the first band you mention would be Arcturus. I think that this is quite natural because their Constellation MCD and their debut Aspera Hiems Symfonia are two extraordinary releases. The way how they mix these wonderful melodies with raw BM is unmatched in the scene. I was very happy when I had the chance to sit down with Sverd and talk about the "magic" behind Arcturus.**

**First of all, what does Arcturus mean?**

The name Arcturus I found it on a star map. There were different star names but Arcturus sounded the best.

**Your first material was the My Angel EP.**

Yes, we started back in the winter of 1990 as a project outside my other band when I started to play the synth. We put it out on a little French label called Putrefaction as a project to start something new, a new type of music and it was quite a success. **But you completely disappeared after the EP. What happened?**

It was only meant as a project in the beginning and we took some years off, did some other things. Between '91-'94 I played in a band but we never released anything. So we just started again in '93 to produce new tracks.

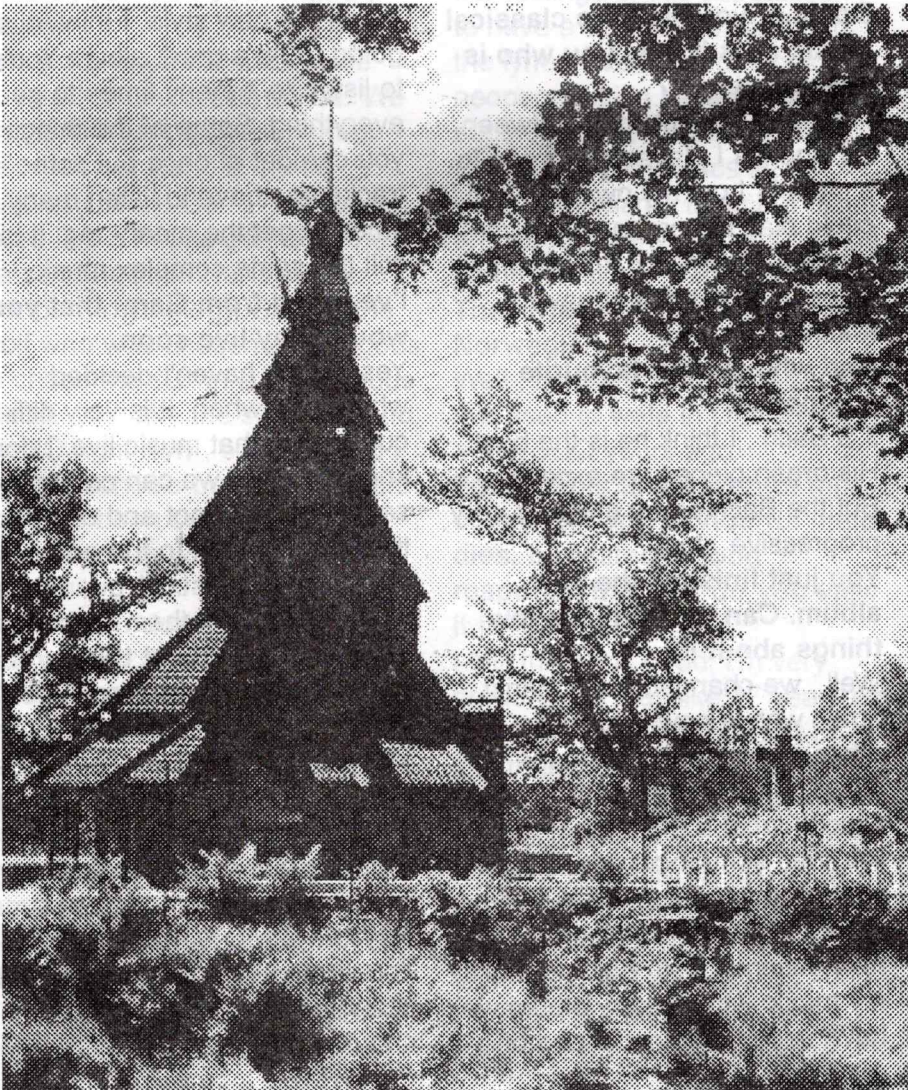
**What were the reasons of this comeback?**

I dropped the guitar and started playing the synth which I think is the better instrument for me. It is much easier to explain what I mean on music.

**How did you get together in '93?**

It was me and Hellhammer started up again and Garm from Ulver and Samoth from Emperor as a session guitarist. We produced four tracks.

**You achieved a big success with Constellation and with**



**Aspera . Did you expect that?**

Well , in a way I expected it. The Constellation was a kind of promo to see how the people react and it got excellent responses.

**You recorded all four Constellation songs on the album with some difference - were these necessary changes?**

Yes , we tried to make it more modern. The album was recorded during the summer of '95 and it was finally released in March '96. It took a bit of time because our first company was not good. The guy in Ancient Lore Creations said a lot of things but he couldn't give it. We signed to Misanthropy. We just signed for Aspera at that time but now we have the option to put out two more after the new one which is coming out soon (it was just released - the Ed.).

**These melodies on the Aspera album are so amazing. There are so many little parts that make up one song. How can you do that? How do you compose a song?**

I've different thoughts and feelings in me when I write it. There are things I can't explain with words so I get it out through music. There are many different ways how I compose the music , sometimes just different riffs we put together and see what fits into the music , sometimes things I'm thinking out. Many of the songs are very personal. We decide every little riff which follows which. Especially on our new release. You have to listen very carefully to an Arcturus album because there are so many details. It is that type of music that you have to listen carefully.

**How do you manage to put so many ideas into one song?**

It is just the way I do it. I think there should be a lot of riffs , a little bit into progressive metal.

**Who writes the songs for Arcturus?**

On the Aspera album I wrote all the music. Music with the drum

machine, all the synth, some bass lines and so on, completely. The album was recorded with the same line-up apart from the guitarist who was Karl August

Tiedemann, we borrowed him from a Norwegian progressive metal band and also Skoll from Ulver was our session bassist. He plays on the new album, too.

**What kind of thoughts , feelings Arcturus create?**

Personal feelings and I feel like walking in the forest , in the mountains , let the wind blow in my face.

**Another thing is that the songs are very hymnical.**

It is majestic , glorious.

**How do you decide which riff you keep and which ones you throw away?**

It is me who decide this. I make the tracks complete. We record the classical parts together with the riffs and don't put it on the songs after they are finished.

**Do all of you listen to classical music or is it only you who is interested in it?**

I can say it is only me. Between '91 and '94 I played the organ in a church. I got my own key and I could play the organ whenever I wanted. I learned it how to play it all by myself. I didn't have a teacher.

**And who is your favourite composer?**

J.S.Bach , I think he is the best. His organ pieces are excellent. But the Bach organ music is very progressive , too.

**You just finished the new album. Can you tell us a few things about it?**

Well , we changed the guitarist again who is now Knut Valle otherwise the line-up is the same. It is different from Aspera which I label a BM type of music. We tried something new. I think it is more personal to me but some of the riffs were produced by the new guitarist , too. But it is mostly my music. On the new album we have seven real tracks and one

track produced in the studio by Garm and the new guitarist.

There is a change on this album, we laid back all the screamy vocals , it is just clear vocals with a lot of chorus.

**Do you think people will like this new Arcturus?**

You can still hear that it is Arcturus it is not so different. There are still some new parts , too. We tried to create a wide variety of songs. Some of them are very classical , some of them are serene - piano and strings. One track which is raw throughout.

**If you can pick one song from the Aspera album that goes closest to the new album , which one would you pick?**

I think I'd pick the seventh song, The Fall of Man. If you listen to both albums you can hear that on the new album the first three songs were written more of in the Aspera style and the four others are in the new style. I think it is going to be a great album. You've to listen to it many times to get everything. Some of the things you can get at once but some tracks you have to listen many times to get the meaning. It is still the same complex music.

**I've heard from Garm that you would play live soon.**

Yes but we haven't decided where and when. It is very difficult to play that music live. I don't know whether we can create the same sound or not and use all the instruments. In the new songs we have string quartets so we can't present them on stage.

**What is the biggest thing you could achieve with Arcturus?**

I think we are going further. We're better musicians every day. We're finding new components to put into the music. I think Arcturus has a real future if we keep on this way.

**Anything you want to add?**

You should buy our new album it is another kind of music you should listen to.



# ULVER

One of the most interesting and unpredictable bands of the underground scene is definitely Ulver. They also have a charismatic leader in the shape and form of Garm, their singer. After helping them in packing their newly-bought amplifiers I sat down with Garm and Skoll to find out as much as I can about Ulver. Also in the interview you will get to know the advantages of the live interview but more on that later. I don't want to make you wait any longer so here we go. I hope you find the interview as enjoyable as I felt while I was making it.

**First of all, tell a few things about yourself, your name, Garm.**

When we started the band we wanted to use artist names. We chose different wolves' names because our band is called Wolves(Ulver). Garm is actually more like a hound guarding the gates of hell like Helheim in Northern mythology. Skoll is the wolf who was chosen by the gods to chase the sun in a continuous pursuit to make the sun go round. I'm 20 right now, soon 21 and I went to schools but for two years now I've been concentrating on music and I'm working in a studio.

**I know you don't like the Vargnatt promo and you got rid of all the members.**

Yes, I really don't like it and when people ask me to release it on vinyl I say that it is cool you like it but I don't. And by the way one member Haavard still remained from that period.

**How did you find the other members?**

It wasn't easy to find people I can work with. Erik our drummer

actually played in Burzum with Varg Vikernes for a couple of rehearsals Skoll was my friend for a long time Haavard played in Satyricon and actually was a forming member of Satyricon. **Your first album "Bergtatt" is as far as I know based on a Norwegian folk tale. Can you reveal us what is it about?**

It is about a superstition that the subterranean people, the little people of the underworld abduct people into the mountains to live with them for all eternity. They are violating something sacred, like the dark forces violating something sacred, we chose to let the maidens be the protagonists of our fairy tale. We adopted our feelings of this superstition, to have a symbolic meaning in the lyrics. We built our lyrics in neoperspective based on an old superstition. So the album was like five different lyrics all depicting the same thing but different stages of the process, of the mountaintaking.

**The lyrics are in old Norwegian.**

Well, they are actually in Danish. We used to write in Danish here about 300 years ago.

**For me this is a beautiful mix of raw BM and wonderful melodies. It created a good response but how do you view it in '97?**

I still think it is good. I'm very proud of it. I was like 17 years old when I wrote the lyrics. But I don't see the need to repeat myself and actually at that time we were very much into extreme forms of expressions. So even though we did a kind of melancholic, melodic, beautiful thing on that album we really wanted to go in a more extreme direction but at the same time we were

playing with the idea of making an acoustic album. So the idea was to release the acoustic album and the Madrigal of Night parallel together. But we had some problem with the line-up because our drummer was going on a military service. So we recorded the acoustic album which look like our second album and last year we recorded our third album The Madrigal of Night. But that album actually was written like right after our first album because basically we wanted to go in a more extreme direction after Bergtatt. Now we want to go in other directions because that was three years ago and now we want to do different stuff.

**Your second album surprised many people. What inspired you to make an acoustic album like that?**

Basically the same moods as for the first album. I think we realized that the acoustic parts on the first album needed to be cultivated further in an other creative effort so with the second album we felt like continuing that way of expressing those moods, the kind of nature, mystical elements in the first album which we chose to cultivate throughout a whole opus. I don't know, we created that record in moments of observation of old fairy tales. We were like going on trips and we were just sitting outside of a cottage in the forest and playing acoustic guitars. We let our minds flow into that mystical tranquillity. It is difficult for me to explain why we chose to make a whole album like that.

**As far as I know it was only you and Haavard who recorded the whole album. But still it was re-leased under Ulver's**

**name. Why?**

Because we are both in Ulver and it is very much the same concept. But we didn't really need bass and or drums on the record so it would've been wrong to release that album under another name because it

deals with folklore and it was two of our members who did the album and those two are the ones who really write the music of Ulver and on the other hand we had Aiwariiki-ar the drummer, he did some flute there. So it is like we were three members from Ulver doing very much still an Ulver thing though it wasn't metal. But we are not limited to metal, we are about music composing and not metal.

**Can you tell me what are the songs about?**

Basically, as I said earlier it was very much down-to-the-core music. I think the music was very lyrical. The vocals are not really lyrics they are just singings. We didn't want to touch anything particular with that album other than the feeling of mystical kind of faery tale. Actually there are only 2 or 3 real lyrics and they are portrayals, happenings of folkloristic framework.

**Listening to this album I imagined you as a person full emotions and feelings. Are you like this?**

Yes, but also the other side. I'm not really, really sentimental. I can be deep but I can also be very cynical.

**Your latest release is again a big change. You returned to the old style like on the Bergtatt album. Why did you go for this raw BM again?**

Well, basically I told why. But I think it was necessary for us to make something violent, ruthless. Also the lyrics are more intense on this record. The lyrics are intense so they enable us to make music in an intense, violent way. That was basically the idea.

**Is it premeditated to change the style on every record?**

No, it is not really for the sense of changing styles. We are all people who listen to different kinds of music. I think it is very important for us not to repeat ourselves and do different things. And it also became an integrity thing that we try to follow the lyrics with our music. So it has been necessary to change radically the music because of the lyrics.

**The lyrics on Nattens Madrigal are about Lycanthropy. Does it interest you? Do you read about it?**

Yes, I read a few books. But for me Lycanthropy is the symbol of the beast in man, the awakening of the animal, the animalistic forces.

**So it is only a metaphor you use.**

Well, I don't believe in werewolves. Everything I do is in a symbolic way. I see it as a beautiful symbol of as I said the animal forces attacking the civilizational forces in man today. To quote that in a folkloristic framework is very easy, because the werewolf holds a very strong position in all myths and folklores.

**All the three albums were recorded with the same line-up. It seems to be working. How do you divide the work?**

Skoll: It is mostly Haavard and Garm who make the guitar riffs first of all, they make them together and I make my

basslines and I use Garm's ideas as well. The lyrics is completely up to Garm. Garm: But still it is necessary to say that when it comes to develop the concept of Ulver not only lyrically but how to promote our art I've a massive cooperation with our drummer Aiwariikiar. So we are the two dealing with the aesthetic part of the band and Haavard and me pretty much do the music when we rehearse, Skoll makes his bass-lines. We work as a band and I think not only as a band but a group of friends.

**Is it difficult for you to get your ideas accepted, Garm?**

No, I don't think so, it is not difficult. We've a very good communication in the band. We are the kind of people that come around, smoke some pots, listen to music. Skoll: We kick on the same kind of music and we want to play more or less the same kind of music and that does help us as a band.

**So you are not just together for the rehearsing.**

Skoll: We are like friends. Garm: We are a pack of wolves running around together, we stick out for each other.

**So what can we expect from the new Ulver album, Garm?**

I don't know, we haven't started working on it, yet. But I think you can expect some radical changes there as well. We want to do something darker, more fluent, more technological, more



Haavard and Garm from Ulver

based on experimental stuff. Skoll will have a bigger role on the new album I think.

**What does this more experimental thing mean?**

I think we discard playing metal, I think Skoll can tell you about our ideas. Skoll: My ideas are quite mixed actually, I have a few basslines, melodic nice tunes that we can mix together with basically anything. I don't know whether we use much synth on it but we are going to mix all sorts of elements. With computers probably as well.

**Is there an agreed time you start working on it?**

Basically, I don't think we have our own studio. So the idea is to start recording a couple of ideas down on tape. Try to do this album more like a produced effort. We probably use Skoll's bass for a backbone on our next album, I think. We'll use that to be up front in a melodic sense and we probably use the guitars

on a much more experimental level regarding the sonics, the sounds of the guitar, how to play the guitar. We make our own drum rhythms, we cut them, we dry them through different kind of filters, we loop them. I think our next album will be quite direct. Like a Satanic Pop Album.

**Can you tell me about your projects?**

Skoll: Arcturus has taken up most of our band times recently with Garm. Recording, getting the cover but we soon finish with it. With Ved Buens Ende we have been quite inactive - the same problem with the rehearsal place. Some material has been made but haven't been put together with the drums. Garm: The second Borknagar album is out in August and it is going to follow pretty much the same line. I think it is more commercial this time. The sound is better, the vocals is more melodic. (Garm has left Borknagar now - ed.)

**Do you need to take singing lessons to be able to sing in so many different voices?**

No, I have never done it. Actually Century Media asked it recently if I wanted to do it. They offered to pay for it. So actually I think I'm going to take singing lessons with Birgit Zacher (Tiamat, Moonspell). That is going to be my first.

**What is your expectation about the future?**

I think our reputation will change drastically because I think with our next album and with the new Arcturus which is absolutely not a BM album, I think as an artist I'll have a different status but I don't know what to expect from myself. But I will certainly develop in both spiritual and musical ways. I take things as they come.

**Anything you want to add?**

Learn, destroy, create - Ha-ha-ha.

OK. ( Then I thought we finished the interview but Garm had



some other things to say , too. As this was a live interview we had the chance to discuss what Garm felt important. That is the best thing with a live interview. So Ulver part 2 begins!)

I guess we didn't speak as much about ideology , mostly music but that is OK.

**Well , just go ahead!**

Ha-ha. No , obviously you need the right questions. No problem. I think Ulver wants to promote in the future certain values probably as much as we want to promote music. Because I'm fully capable of realizing that we are not the great-est musicians in the world but we still think that if we can do our own things in the right perspective we can connect our musical abilities with our abilities to express ideas or attitudes. To show people a different approach to the concept of Satanism or whatever. I think we can reach with that pretty far.

**Is there an ideology , a whole concept behind the band?**

Yes , very much but it is very difficult to say it in one sentence. It is very much that we are working towards it. Skoll : We still have pretty much the same things to say with our music but we are working on different ways to express ourselves.

**But do you strongly believe that you can get some "message" through with Ulver , Garm?**

No , not really a message because I am not concerned with being a Messiah. If I had been I would have burnt down a church a long time ago. What I'm concerned with is getting to reach what I consider a more mature audience. I want to find myself in this band , that is what i want to do and in this process of finding myself I give this approach which I feel would also appeal to a lot of other people. The kind of strife to find the same values in life that I do. And that is basically I think

for Satanic people.

**So it is like getting to know yourself and what it means to be on the dark side?**

Of course. Otherwise I think none of us would be interested in anything , we would sit around playing computer games all day. That is what it is about. Either you write lyrics , you paint , you play music. It is all about expressing yourself.

**So can we say that since the beginning of Ulver , late '92 it was a self-maturing process for you?**

Yes , very much. Actually at a very preliminary stage I really knew what I wanted to do but I didn't have the clues of how to do it. Now a couple of years later , I've done this , I've done that , some of the things I'm proud of , some of the things I'm not that proud of. But I am still very much into developing on the ideas I have already developed , you see. It is always about a certain sense of evolution.

**By the way, have you ever played live with Ulver?**

Skoll : Once , that was before I joined. It was in a place called bootleg here in Oslo. I was among the audience. It was not so long after the demo was released. It was with Beyond Dawn. Also the first guitar player before Aismal came in.

**And why is it that you don't play live?**

Garm : Very much because if we were to play live we would have lots of difficulties with the trolls on stage , crashing with them. Skoll : I think we wouldn't be quite able to bring the message through thoroughly enough with our music. Garm : I was just kidding by the way with the trolls! Skoll : We would need one hell of a show. Our drummer was doing his military service so we had a long break. We just want to keep it for ourselves. It is a better expression when you are sitting at home. Garm : I think the thing

is that what we are trying to express are things that go beyond a crowd drinking beer , watching a band on the stage and I think we really want to remain withdrawn from the public in a sense , it is not that we want to remain very mystical people , obviously.

**Don't you think that it creates an anti feeling against Ulver that they want to distance themselves from the public?**

So be it. That is not my responsibility. People can accept it or not. That is really how I'm. I don't really feel that I would be alone. It is not to be an asshole , obviously. It is just that I don't belong to a scene of Heavy Metal people sitting around in a pub and talk about rebel and Heavy Metal and stuff. I don't work that way. As I said we very much like to hang around just ourselves , smoke pots , listen to some good music , have a relaxed conversation. I think we are very different from most of the Heavy Metal/ Black Metal scene and I think we choose to remain that way. Skoll : It is not that we say that we never going to play live. There might be a chance that we play live in the future. We are going to play live with Arcturus for example. Musically , Ulver will be changing drastically. We just have to see how it can be performed before we can give you clear answer. Garm : Another thing is money actually. Because if you play the kind of music that we have done you don't have so much money. You can't do what you would like to do. But I think with our next album we will hit a broader level of people and probably we would get more money to do some interesting thing on stage. **But does it mean that the music of Ulver will get commercialized to get it to more people?** But how do you see commercialized? Commercialized , commercial means to play music in order

to sell music and that is not what I'm talking about. What I'm talking about is that we are developing into a way of playing music that is more commercial, that is easier to embrace by different people. I do not play music for others I play music for myself. So obviously I'm not a commercial person at all. But I still have become more commercial with the years because I have listened to a lot of different music and I very much into different kinds of music. I talk to different kinds of people. I'm not really a guy hanging around on Elm Street Pub talking shit about what all these people are talking about. I don't wear spikes, I'm not that kind of guy. And the consequence of that is that now I'm open to play more with the masses, you see.

**So do you want to distance Ulver from the rest of the Norwegian BM scene?**

Yes, very much. I don't want to but we are very much separated from it. But we are still very much BM 'cause we have played metal and a couple of us are self-proclaimed Satanists so it is BM, no doubt. You get my point, right? I still hang around when

people want to talk. I mean I've known different people from the scene for years. And every once a while it is cool to get together with Emperor, Darkthrone, Enslaved whatever. Just have a beer and talk around but still being who I am implies interests outside of that kind of circle. Because a lot of BM people here in Norway are very concerned with one thing and that is this little condosive gathering of people wearing black talking about BM music. That is not me, that is not Skoll, that is not any of us from Ulver, that is not our interests and that is not our intentions either.

**So are you a normal person?**

I don't think. Actually I have been trying to tell people, hey, I'm quite natural but all people go around and say, hey, you are a very strange guy. So I think people see me as a strange person. **If we go back to the bestial features, I think there is a wolf in everybody. Everybody has the feelings of hate and the feelings of love.**

Yes, but there is a sheep in a lot of people as well. That is a very positive way of seeing people that there is a wolf in everybody. I

don't think that. I think that perhaps there is a wolf in everybody but I think people try to get rid of the wolf.

**Yes, I think people want to repress this.**

Yes, basically that is what our third album is about. It is about paying honour to the rise of that wolf and not the repression of those instincts. But I think most people glorify the quality of the herd. I think it would be entirely wrong to say that everybody has a wolf within.

**What does the word individual mean to you?**

It means very, very much. I think that all the stuff I'm very much into are very focused on the individual growth and the individual quest for wisdom and perfection. So I guess the individual is everything to me, it is very important.

**And for you Skoll?**

The individuality is a necessity. You have to express your individual self to live out yourself, to feel on top of yourself.

**I hope you didn't get bored but I think it was very interesting to talk with such a person as Garm!**



# NORTHERN

I would like to give you a brief survey of the gods and persons of the Norse mythology now. I hope you will find it interesting, my aim is to familiarize you with them because they are often the characters of BM songs.

In Norse mythology we meet with a multitude of gods, giants and other supernatural beings. They are everywhere - in the sky, on the earth, in the sea and in the underworld. It is the gods' job to see that the world is run and ruled by law, while the giants, representing the forces of chaos, try their best to destroy it. The gods belonged to two different families or "camps", the Vanir and Aesir. The Vanir were associated with the seasons, fertility and other matters of human concern. Njord/ Nerthus, Frey, Freya and Ull were all Vanir gods. The Vanir were, in time, supplanted by the Aesir. Odin became the god of the ruling classes, worshipped by kings, warriors and poets. The Norse myths are filled with drama, but also have their comic moments, showing that the gods were often just as fickle as humans. The world of the Norse gods was arranged on three levels. The gods lived in the highest level, in Asgard, by the sacred World-Tree, Yggdrasil. The level below the fortress of the gods was Midgard where humans lived. There was a wall around Midgard to protect it against the giants who lived on the shores furthest out to the sea. The lowest level was Niflheim, the land of the dead. Now let's see them one by one!

**Odin** is the father of all the gods. He is the highest and wisest, the supreme ruler. He is the noblest and oldest of all the gods.

Warriors who die in battle join him in Val-halla. Here they feast in pork and drink mead in great store. Odin, however, only drinks wine. Gunge is Odin's spear. Nothing is beyond its reach. This was the spear Odin cast at Ragnarok, thus setting up the final battle between the gods and the forces of chaos which ended with the destruction of the world. Odin is the god of death, but also the god of wisdom. When he sacrificed himself to himself he gained the deepest wisdom and the knowledge of the art of the runes and poetry.

**Thor**, Odin's son, is the biggest and strongest of the gods of the Aesir. While Odin is the god of the ruling classes, Thor is the god of the common people. He is continually at war with the giants. Thor drives around in a wagon pulled by two giant goats. His weapons have supernatural powers. Mjolner, Thor's hammer, hits its every mark and always returns to him. He also has a special belt that gives him double strength, and a pair of iron gloves. His home is called Trudvang.

**Balder** is another of Odin's sons. Not only is Balder fair to behold, but he is also good, wise and merciful. He lives in Breidablikk where no evil is found.

**Njord** was originally one of the Vanir. He came to the Aesir in exchange for Honir, thus bringing peace to the rivaling camps of the gods. Njord reigns over the wind, the seas and the fire. He is rich, prosperous and known for his generosity. He lives at Noatun.

**Frey and Freya** are the children of Njord.

**Frey** is the god of rain, the sun and the fruits of the field. People call on him to bring a good har-

vest, peace and prosperity.

**Freya** is the most important god of the Vanir. Men turn to her when seeking fortune in love. The Germanic term "Frau" (Norwegian "Fru"), the title of honour given to women, originally stems from her name. Freya is married to Od. When he is away on long journeys, she sheds golden tears. But Freya is often off on adventures of her own.

She travels in a wagon drawn by cats. She often uses different names - Mardoll, Gevn, Syr - on her journeys from her home at Folkvang. Freya is the goddess of fertility, but she is also associated with death. She claimed half of all the warriors who fell in battle. The dwarfs, known for their skill as smiths, made a special piece of jewelry for her, called Brisingamen. It was a necklace. **Frigg**, Odin's wife, is the greatest of the Aesir women. She can see into the future, but keeps her vision to herself. She is reckoned to be as wise as Odin. She makes her home at Fensale. **Brage** is wise, well-spoken, a master of words. He is well-versed in the art of poetry. He is married to Idun who owns the apples that the gods eat to stay young.

**Heimdall** is the son of 9 maidens. He lives at Bifrost, the rainbow bridge connecting Asgard and Midgard. He sits and guards the bridge, protecting the Aesir from attack. He can see over great distances and his vision is just as keen as by night as by day. His hearing is so good that he can hear the grass and wool grow.

**Hod**, the Blind One, is a figure the gods look upon with less pride. It was his misfortune to shoot Balder, a misdeed no one can forget.

**Vidar** is known as the Silent One.

# MYTHOLOGY

His strength is second only to Thor's and he lends his help to all the gods.

**Vale**, son of Odin and Rind, is a brave warrior and an expert shot.

**Ull**, Thor's stepson, is a skilled marksman and skier. It is wise to seek his help in man-to-man combat.

**Forsete** is the son of Balder and Nanna. All those who bring their disputes to him come to agreement. His home, Glitir, is known as the best court of law in Asgard.

**Ty** is the bravest and the boldest of the gods. He can decide the outcome of battles, and those preparing for battle evoke his name. When it is said that a man is "as brave as Ty", it means that he surpasses all others in bravery. The term "as wise as Ty" is used to describe someone who is wiser than anyone else.

**Loke** is a figure of shame for both men and gods. He is counted among the Aesir, although his father is of giant stock. Loke represents all that is false and cunning. He is evil, unreliable, conniving and sly. He has three children by a female giant: Fenris the wolf, the Midgard Serpent and Hel. Odin fetched the children from the giants. He threw the serpent into the sea where it still lies, encircling the world with its body, its head holding its tail by the mouth. Hel was sent to Niflheim where she rules over 9 worlds. All who die of sickness or old age come to her. Odin kept Fenris, though only Ty was brave enough to feed it. They secured him with a chain forged of the sound of cat's paws, women's beards, cliff roots, bear tendons, fish breath and bird spit. The Aesir swore there was no cunning or evil in him. To prove this, Ty placed his hand in the wolf's mouth. That is how Ty

lost his hand. The gods people worshipped depended on their place in society. Chieftains, kings and warriors seemed to have favoured Odin, while the common people placed their trust in Thor. Gods could also be called on because of their special powers. Frey, who brought prosperity, health and fertility was one of the most important gods in Viking times. According to the Christian missionary, Adam of Bremen, people made sacrifices to Odin, Thor and Frey at special gatherings held every ninth year at Uppsala, Sweden. Of these, Thor was considered the greatest.

## Sacred trees and groves

Certain forests were so sacred that they became the meeting places between gods and men. Today we may ask why but people of the Viking Age never posed such questions. They accepted that certain people, families, places, animals, plants, stones, waters, weapons and points in time held special po-

wers that had to be reckoned with or could be called upon to bring help and fortune. The so-called Edda poems let us glimpse this world and its belief in the inherent power contained in all things. People of the Viking Age sought and found the "holy" in nature - in sacred groves.

Contemporary accounts report such meetings. Adam of Bremen describes the sacrificial offerings that took place in Uppsala, Sweden. Here, humans and animals were sacrificed to Odin and hung in the sacred grove by the holy spring. Odin, the wisest of all gods of the Aesir is also associated with trees and water. In his quest to gain the deepest wisdom Odin drank the waters of the well of wisdom and knowledge and then hanged himself in Yggdrassil, the World Tree as a sacrifice to himself.

**Well, I hope you found some interesting things in this article and I was able to your interest rise about Northern Mythology!**



# DIMMU BORGIR

This band has been around for a couple of years now and with their third longplayer they really bursted into the scene. This re-lease "Enthroned Darkness Triumphant" created good response both in the BM scene and outside of it. I was interested in how they achieved this status and the way they think about it. The band was well-represented during the interview because my questions were answered by Silenoz, Shagrath and the new guitarist A... (I try to give you who is speaking but sometimes I was not able to differentiate because of the lot of noise that occurred during the recording of this interview - Sorry!) Can you reveal us what Dimmu Borgir means?

Shag. : Yes, it is an Icelandic name it means the Black Castle. It has a lot of history behind it.

**What is the current line-up?**

Shag. : It is me Shagrath on vocals, Silenoz rhythm guitar, Nagash bass, A... the new guitarist from Australia, Tjordalv drums and Kimberley Goss keyboards. We kicked out our synth player because he didn't show up when we played at Dynamo.

**Your debut For All Tid was a good debut. It was like a tribute to Northern pride. Do you agree with me?**

No, not actually. Many people think that because we used Norwegian lyrics. Of course I'm proud of our history but we don't use that in our lyrics.

**Was it easy to put your ideas on the album, did you have to leave out something because of the lack of money?**

The debut album was recorded with very low budget and we didn't have much experience. We went into studio after we made

like six songs - we circulated the tape and we got a very good response. We recorded six songs in August '94 and then we recorded four more songs and put out the debut.

**Your second album Stormblast is good but not much better than the first.**

Shag. : I don't like the Stormblast album anymore but I think, well the production of the album is really bad. Sil. : But I think it is better than on the first album.

**But was there any progress?**

Shag. : I think there was, a big step from the first album. I think we progressed between the albums and became much better musicians. And the songs were much more mature.

**You had so many record company changes.**

Yes, our first EP was put out by Necromantic Gallery Prod., the first CD was published by the second by Cacophonous Rec., our MCD was published by a Norwegian label-Hot Records and now we are with Nuclear Blast.

**Why happened these so many changes?**

It was because of all these shitty labels. They did a terrible job. We were satisfied with Hot Rec. but with the MCD we just wanted to show the audience the new songs. So they would be prepared for the album.

**Are you satisfied with Nuclear Blast?**

Yes, very much. They do their best for us and we are on the main list for them.

**OK, we return to this later but I want to ask about the MCD.**

Shag. : Well, that was my intention to put out this MCD to show people that we put things a step further. Musically we changed very much after the Stormblast

album. And we have just developed as musicians, a natural progression. Well, I worked there so we could easily put this MCD out.

**Your latest release Enthroned Darkness Triumphant has got controversial critics. Some people really like it and others think that it is too nice for a BM band. What do you think of that?**

Ha-ha. I can understand what they mean but for us it is very important to have a good sound because we have so much detail in our music and we always try to achieve perfection with the sound. We couldn't have a bad sound, we need a good sound to get our music through.

**A magazine labeled it as a Bon Jovi sounding CD.**

A... : I didn't get mad but I think if you didn't have the own style with keyboards and stuff you would be like anybody else and we would get stuck in with all the other BM bands. It is different and people might say that it is nice but it is just because it is different from other stuffs. And if the other stuff is really evil and dark then you have to say it is different and if it is different it must be happy. But it is not. It is just their perception.

**Do you care about these critics?**

Sil. : Well, we take all the critics, bad or good. I think it is OK if some people come and say that this album is not as good as the previous ones.

**Can you tell me how you compose the songs in Dimmu B.?**

We compose most of the songs together. Silenoz brings the lyrics and ideas and we just try to put it together as good as possible. Everybody contributes.

**But it is not like only one or two members?**



Well , it is like someone has a riff on guitar or keyboard and what the other person plays to that riff he makes it for us all. So whatever we are playing has been made up by us all even if maybe another person had the idea we put our idea into it as well.

**What does the title symbolize? Why did you choose that?**

Shag. : The title represents all the lyrics on the whole album. It is not a sentence it is more like three words only Enthroned , Darkness and Triumphant. There were three people who wrote lyrics for the album. We have different lyrics because we have different views and we are different individuals in a band. I write about very personal, Satanic stuff. Sil. : I'm doing the kind of more artistic lyrics , some of them in my eyes are Satanic related but I think it is important for us as a BM band to have a Satanic image 'cause that is what BM about and BM is all our interests and environments.

**What did you want to achieve with this album?**

We said that if this album wouldn't work and we don't get success with this album why should we continue. We wanted to reach to a lot of new listeners. We worked so hard to get where we are today so I think we earned our place.

**You still wear corpsepaint.**

**What does it mean to you?**

**What can you say about the fact that some bands don't wear corpsepaint anymore because it became a trend?**

Well , it is hard to say who wears the corpsepaint seriously so I can only talk about us. When it comes to Dimmu Borgir it is not really important for us to wear corpse- paint. But when we play live it is very important because the shows are kind of our inner selves and it creates the right atmosphere. On the forthcoming album we will probably not wear corpsepaint. We don't stop doing

it because of other people doing it if we feel right to do it we will do it.

**How do you get the weapons we can see on the photos with you?**

You can get most of the stuff , you can buy it in stores here in Norway. There is also a guy who makes them and we get it from him.

**How would you define the music of Dimmu Borgir , Shagrath?**

A kind of dreamy , atmospheric black music. It is a thing that everybody should find out him-/herself.

**It was quite some time ago you published your first material.**

**What kind of changes occurred during this long period?**

Shag. : Personally I got more mature when it comes both to writing lyrics and music. We also changed from writing lyrics in Norwegian to English. We felt that writing Norwegian lyrics was not good anymore because everyone around started doing the same. The artistic side of writing in Norwegian just disappeared , the feeling was not there anymore. And since we were looking for a bigger company we thought it would be more suitable to get English lyrics. Sil. : I think I'm still the same person as I was five years ago. Shag. : When it comes to musical direction it is

just very simple , natural progression. We worked very hard , we rehearsed very much , we became lot better musicians. It is very easy now for us to come together and create

some stuff. That is what we want to do we don't have normal jobs. **You played a lot of gigs recently. How was the response? How does a Dimmu Borgir show look like?**

In some places it was very good , sometimes it was not so good. We were surprised at some places because they sang the songs of the new album. I think the stage is very "ordinary". We use a lot of blood , fire-breathing , make-up. I think it suits our music.

**And how was the Dynamo?**

We were not able to play with the synth so we had to reorganize how we play the songs. It turned out quite well. It was more aggressive without the keyboard. I think we played very well although we felt that something was missing. But all the shows in Germany were very good. We played a lot of show recently so hopefully we gained new fans. Shag. : Everyone can find something on the new album that he/she would like. We have things for Heavy Metal and Black Metal people as well. That is why I think that Dimmu Borgir is quite a unique band because we are



able to mix different kinds of music. Sil. : It is also because we are inspired by different musics , we are very different. Nobody in the band is narrow-minded who listens to only what the other people listen to.

**It seems that Nuclear Blast does everything for you.**

Yes , they are supporting us all the way. They are working very hard for us and to make our music get through to different people and countries.

**Don't you think that people will say that Dimmu Borgir has sold itself and has become a commercial product?**

Sil. : That is absolutely not true because we do the same things that we did four years ago. For us it is not important to make money al-though we have to have money to survive , you know. We don't have jobs , the band is our job. Shag. : If they say this they can fuck-off. We do what we want and we don't listen to anybody else. Sil. : If people don't want to buy our music that is OK , we don't care. Shag. : That is too narrow-minded and childish. So many underground people have talked bullshit because we signed to Nuclear Blast - that it is too commercial and we sold our-selves. Sil. : It makes me laugh so hard! Shag. : We really don't give a fuck , we do what we want. We are able to send a message through to a lot of people as well and that is a positive thing and everybody should think of that.

**Is there some concept behind the band?**

Just to play together , to have a good time together. To get our music through to as many people as possible , that is my main concern. I think our lyrics are different from any other BM bands'.

**Do you still consider yourself a BM fan?**

Shag. : There are a lot of good bands around the world and some of them are BM bands but

mostly they are just shitty BM bands. I won't say I am a fan of BM though I am of Heavy Metal.. I almost don't listen to BM at all , mostly older stuff.

**Do you consider yourself a musician or just somebody who likes music and he plays it or something more?**

I would say we are artists not ordinary musicians because we are not only musicians because there is so much more to it than playing in a band. Everything that has to do with the band is important for us so just to be a musician is a small part of it.

**What is your expectation about the future?**

It is really hard to say because we never make any great plans for the future but I think and hope

that Dimmu Borgir will become a much bigger band.

Shagrath told me after the inter-view that he received great support from his family. His mother is a big fan of the music of Dimmu Borgir although she doesn't like the Satanic image. An MCD was scheduled for the autumn with the title Entrance but it seems that it would get a new title and would be out in the winter. So that was the interview and it did turn the light on one or two things you were not aware of before the interview. I just want to say that in my opinion they deserve the support and hopefully in the future they can cope with the attacks they receive.



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## **FORSTH : Helvetic War (Last Episode)**

This is the second longplayer of this Swiss band. Following their debut, *Winterfrost*, they are back with a new material which pretty much follows the same guidelines as of the first record. This is quite variable Black Metal with key-board. But the keyboard has a prominent role in the music and not just a secondary status. It really gives a nice touch to all the songs. All the songs are quite variable and there is always slow and fast parts within a song. To tell you the truth I like the slow parts better because I think they are more original than the fast ones. The vocals is really "nice" if you know what I mean - really evil screaming. My biggest problem is the sound and the mix of the whole album. The drums' sound is quite OK but sometimes it is puffing. I think they put the bass too much in the front though it is true that there is only one guitar in the songs. But I still think that a better guitar sound would make the whole material better. The sound of the bass is really frustrating in the fast parts. Anyway, if you get used to it after a couple of listenings you can enjoy the album because it is not bad. This album can be obtained from : **Last Episode, In der Vorstadt 114, 73529 Schwabisch Gmünd, Germany.**

## **CASKET : Tomorrow (Serenades Rec.)**

Well, this material isn't any way suits the topic of this whole magazine. It is a melodic metal album from Germany. I'm not really into that kind of style. It is mostly mid-tempo or balladistic type of songs with a very good

sound. There is both a female and a male vocalist and they sing very nicely. A lot of acoustic guitar and piano. I wonder if any of you is interested in it, anyway in its own style it is quite good. Perhaps if you have a girl-friend who is only into rock you can buy it to her and listen to it together. Especially to the *Last Days...* which is a love song. They will go on a tour with *Moonspell* in spring 1998. For further information write to the address of *Last Episode* address because *Serenades Rec.* is also taken care of there.

## **SOULSEARCH : Gwynedd (Serenades Rec.)**

The debut album of this Austrian band who plays a kind of Doom Metal. According to the information sheet the album required two years of intensive preparation. The band has a very concrete concept which is built around the old pagan times. The songs are hymns from the Celtic times. First of all, it does seem that they prepared well because the songs are built up very nicely. The structure of the songs, how it flows from one thing into another is nicely done. You have to devote some time to get the full taste of this album because it is much more than some ordinary Doom Metal. It sometimes really looks like nature hymns from the ancient time of mankind. If you have some affection to Nature and heathendom you can really get into the music. The whole album is very powerful and each song is a separate entity but they are connected to each other through the lyrics. They use a lot of unusual instrument, interesting noises and sound effects to make it even more colourful. My

only problem is that most of the lyrics are in German although it is not too important sometimes. It is for open-minded people and I hope that some of you will get to know this special album. The address is the same as for *Last Episode*.

## **MAYHEM : Ancient Skin (Misanthropy Rec.)**

This CD single was put out in only 500 copies to celebrate Mayhem's return concert in *Bischofswerda*. The first song is a new one, called *Ancient Skin*. It is really aggressive all the way with crushing guitar that destroys everything and with immense drumming. This is an extremely fast song with only a little stop in it. The vocals of *Maniac* is very different from that of *Attila Csihar*. It is just one thing to say that it is hysterical. It brings you death and pain, you can really get a killing instinct while you listen to him. The second is an old song, *Necrolust* in a new version. It is interesting to listen to it in a new and better recording and with a different vocals. The same aggressiveness there, too. *Maniac* wrote me that the sound is not the best, well that is true but with a clear sound it will blast your head off surely. It was good for a taste but we want some more what we get soon with the new MCD. Hopefully a new Mayhem longplayer will go to follow that.

## **RAVEN GOD : Battle MCMXCVI (DEMO)**

This is a side project of *Orjan* from *Helheim*. What really struck me was the sound quality. I dare say that it is better than some

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albums'. It is fast Black Metal which is nicely performed and it is OK to listen to. But there is not much new thing in it you can get really excited about. The drum - guitar parts are quite good. So in all this is not bad and you can give a try to it. As far as I know it will be put out by a label, too. You can get it from : **Raven God , Sorashogda 337 , 5046 Radal , Norway.**

## **AURA NOIR : Black Thrash Attack (Malicious Rec.)**

The debut album of these Norwegian guys who try to revive old school Thrash Metal. They are absolutely true to their aims with these ten songs they offer on the CD. All these songs were written in the style of Thrash Metal. It is slightly more brutal and also the voice is darker a little bit. The songs are really fasts , there is not much time they let the listener to rest. I really like the whole sound of the album , the guitars are very rough and the drums is well-positioned and well-sounded , too. It is nice to hear these Thrash Metal riffs again and I think they are doing it quite well although some-times you are sure that you have heard the riff somewhere before. This is really true for the title song because I think the initial guitar part is a one-to-one match of an old Kreator riff if I am not mistaken. You can find all the necessary ingredients of a good old Thrash Metal here and if you think that you want to recall the old times , then you should check out this album. This is really headbanging stuff. It is available from : **Malicious Rec. , P.O. BOX 21 04 08 , 72072 Tübingen 21 ,**

## **Germany**

### **DEMENTOR : Kill the Thought on Christ (Immortal Souls Prod.)**

The second CD of this Slovakian Death Metal band. What they offer on this CD is nine songs of fast and brutal Death Metal. There are also quite a few grinding parts in it , too. The guitars play some melodic stuff and solos but they are quite good. I think they should not use the grindcore elements in the songs because it makes the music average they should leave them out. The brakes in the songs are well done and if they work on it they would grow better than an average Death Metal band with some good idea. This is quite listenable stuff but they can improve. The

sound is good along with the deep , powerful vocals. I wonder what kind of changes they will make on their next release. If you want to get this CD , send 15 USD to : **Immortal Souls Prod. c/o Juraj Harin , Brezova 9 , 03401 Ruzomberok Slovakia.**

### **HADES : The Dawn of the Dying Sun (Fullmoon Productions)**

After a couple of years of silence of silence due to Jorn's imprisonment Hades is now back with their second full-length album. After a few seconds you can easily recognize that it is Hades. The mixing and the guitar sound along with the vocals are characteristically Hades. You cannot find too many fast parts on the album , it is usually mid-tempo or



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slow. They put the emphasis on these parts to be as heavy and raw as possible. All the songs has this touch of hymnical feeling. All these guitar riffs are so hymnical and glorious and they are matched by the lyrics. The lyrics are about the pagan spirit and glory and by listening to this record you can easily fly back to those ancient times when no Christianity existed. They don't show us too many new things or even surprises on this album but that is not to be ashamed of in the case of Hades because the kind of music they play is in their veins and they are rightly popular with it among the fans. For the CD you can contact : **Fullmoon Prod. 2039 Roxburgh Court , Lake-land , Florida 33813 U.S.A.**

## **ARATHORN : Niemals Kroen-ender Als Was Einst War (Folter Rec.)**

To tell you the truth I was a little sceptical about this release from this German band called Arathorn. But I was mistaken because their music which is labeled Medieval Majestic Metal is quite good and I do like it. Perhaps some of you would say it is hymnical Black Metal but this is not totally true. As you can guess the keyboard has an important role in the music but it oes play very interesting and unusual themes and it really improves the picture. There is only four songs on the CD but it covers 42 minutes. It is obvious that there are a lot of tem-pochanges and different things in one song. The way they tried to solve the problem going from one to another is more or less successful although sometimes the songs stop for a second because

of the break. Perhaps one more guitar would make the sound bigger but I don't want to complain too much because I think it is good stuff. Nice acoustic guitars and piano and good ideas which are well-perform-ed. Hopefully you have the same opinion if you buy the CD. Perhaps the last song could have been short-er because I feel there is too much repetition in it. They use German language but it is not too disturbing luckily. Here is the address you can write to : **Folter Rec. , Kollwitz Strasse 39 , 10405 Berlin , Germany**

## **ADORNED BROOD : Hiltia (Folter Rec.)**

The debut CD of this German band and the music is referred to as Teu- tonic War Metal. What is surprising is the use of the flute , they use it very often which gives a kind of medieval atmosphere to the songs. The flute has a dominant role in the music and when they combine it with the guitar it sounds OK. This is a very good idea but it is not enough to get really excited about the album. It is unfortunate that they use some old and often played Death Metal parts , they should leave these things out in the future. They should rather create fresh riffs and not use old ones. In my opini-on the music is quite average and the only improving force is the flute. If you have some spare mo-ney you should try this out because of the flute. Maybe they can im-prove on the second CD. Till then you can order Hiltia for 18 USD from Folter Rec. See the address above.

## **BLOODTHORN : In the Shadow of your Black Wings**

## **(Season of Mist)**

This Norwegian band is built on the ruins of Manes. Probably you heard about them and as far as I know they were good. We've said so many times that Norway has produced a lot of good bands and still new ones are coming. I'm not partial when I say that Bloodthorn is another talented Norwegian band. It is hard to categorize their music I would say it is innovative Black Metal. Perhaps Black Metal is not the best title here so let's say it is heavy and dark music. You can find some hypnotical synthesizer and piano parts which are really amazing , as well as a female vo- calist whose voice can really lift you to the skies , floating in the universe. They did dare to create new things and you know the say-ing - Who dares , wins! - and in the case of Bloodthorn this is absolute-ly true. This high standard is main- tained throughout the whole CD.

You cannot find a bad song

on this CD. This is more than recommend-ed stuff and you can get it for 17 USD from : **Season of Mist , 24 rue Brandis , 13005 Marseille , France**

## **ANOREXIA NERVOSA : Exile (Season of Mist)**

Well , the promo copy has a very nice cover , two half-naked women in a SM interior. The original cover will be much more SM , darker and more offensive they promise. I wo-ndered what kind of music I will inside the cover. Well , it is a mix of different styles such as Gothic , Dark Wave ,

Industrial and EBM. But luckily this mix turns out to be reasonably good in the end. There is two different vocals here , one is aggressive and the other is filled with pain and suffering. It is very difficult to listen and write about this CD when you are sitting in your room. It is hard to get their music in such simple interior. I think that it could be more interesting to see them live and embrace their music with the theatrical setting they use on stage , the information sheet is writing about. You have to listen to the music yourself and decide whether you like it or not. For me it was a little bit strange but OK. If you are interested in this kind of stuff or you are just curious to take a listen to it you can order it from Season of Mist. It costs 17 USD , see the address above. Hopefully , some of you will get the chance to see them live!

**ARCANA : Cantar de Procella  
(Cold Meat Industry)**

The second CD of Arcana and if you are familiar with them you know what to expect. If you haven't heard of them before I can tell you it is not easy to comprehend and get to like the music they play. You cannot find any electric guitar , bass or drums on this album. So what is on it , you could ask. Well , the music is created by keyboards and is supported by strong male and female vocals. The songs are hymns , chants , liturgies and other interesting stuff that makes you feel yourself in the early Middle Ages. They bring back the atmosphere of a forgotten era when mankind has much less power over its environment that we have today. Some of the songs are seemed to be like prayers to supernatural forces. If you have some kind of fascination to this era and you consider yourself an open-minded person this music can really enchant you. You either like it or dislike it , there is

no middle road left. The use of all these medieval instruments is more than amazing. You can order this magnificent and magical stuff on the following address : **Cold Meat Industry P.O. Box 1881 , 58117 Linköping , Sweden**

**DYING WISH : The Night Embraces Me  
(Demo '97)**

What we have here is a four-song demo of a Hungarian band. The music can be described as Heavy/ Power Metal. They use two different vocals on the demo. One is a very deep vocals the other is normal vocals. They try to combine the two which sometimes OK , sometimes not. I think the normal vocals is too high and not too strong. They should really work on that. When it is the deep vocals the music often reminds of Crematory without the keyboard. The guitars play nice riffs and solos , quite melodic though. The sound of the



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demo could be better and the guitars should get a lower tone so the sound could be bigger. Anyway, this is quite listenable stuff. You can order for 550 Ft.(Hun.), 5 USD (Europe), 6 USD (World) from Dallas Distribution, Patak u. 4, 3525 Miskolc, Hungary. Band contact: Papp Lajos, Szondi u. 6, 4150 Püspökladány, Hungary.

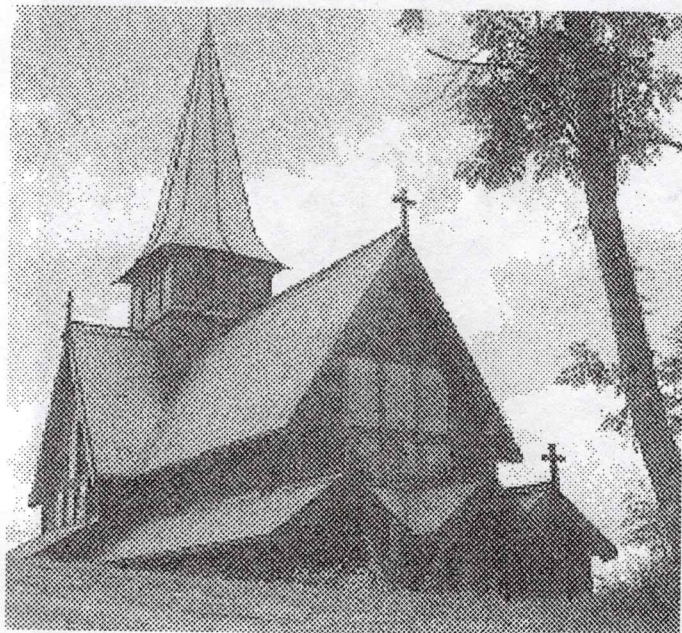
**ANCIENT : Mad Grandiose Bloodfiends (Metal Blade)**

Ancient is back with their third album. There were some changes in the line-up. From the previous album only Aphazel and Lord Kaia-phas remained. They have two new members, a female vocalist and a guy called Jesus Christ!, a promising name so to say. But now let's talk about the music. They remain-ed on the same path they started with their second album. Very good sound and nicely built up songs are again the characteristics of this album, too. The vocals and the piercing screams of Lord Kaia-phas are extremely good. The songs are variable and they were aware not to create similar

songs. They were succesful with it and they managed to come up with a few new ideas, too. This is a very good Black Metal album which should be necessary to all of you!

**EMPEROR : Anthems to the Welkin at Dusk (Candlelight Rec.)**

Last but not least I would like to write a few words about the new Emperor album. After their great debut they returned with the same quality stuff though there are new things on this album. Perhaps the biggest change is the usage of the normal vocals. I think that Ihsan's voice is amazing and I'm fond of those normal-vocals parts. They use strings as well. They were able to develop and still were able to create a Black Metal album that rules the earth undoubtedly. They are really talented and deserve every praise they get. The band is very rightful - they are the one and true EMPERORS. Hopefully they will be able to maintain this high standard in the future, too. I am hoping that someday I can see them live in Hungary.



**The Holmenkollen Chapel**

Burned down in 1992.

Rebuilt in 1997.

This was the last article of the first issue. I hope you found my magazine interesting and I could welcome you to the next one too!

## ROCKNESS

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