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[Upon Infliction – Inhuman...In Human](#)



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Often enough groups get praise for having a “retro” sound. I myself often have a soft spot for bands who can give a nod to the old school while trying to keep their sound fresh. This year, [Nuclear](#), a thrash band from Chile, released an album that is a good example of this. However sometimes an album just sounds dated. The retro vibe is there, but there is no evolutionary step to back it up.

Unfortunately, [Upon Infliction](#)’s sophomore record, *Inhuman...In Human* falls in the latter category. This Floridian death metal band sounds like they came out of Morrisound Studios about seventeen years ago, and not in a good way.

[Upon Infliction](#) features many ties to [Malevolent Creation](#), sharing two current members; drummer Gus Rios and guitarist Gio Garcia. The band’s vocalist Kyle Simmons also had his time with [Malevolent Creation](#) in the early 21st century. [Malevolent Creation](#) were one of the death metal pioneers from the early 90’s, sharing the stage with bands like [Suffocation](#) and [Cannibal Corpse](#). They really helped shape the American death metal sound. Unfortunately, [Upon Infliction](#) also sounds like they were formed in the early 90’s.

The riffs are brutal, the vocals are guttural and the drums are pretty tight, playing some pretty fast blast beats. This all sounds good on paper right? Unfortunately the sound is tried, tested, true, and unfortunately very predictable. It's not so much that [Upon Infliction](#) is a bad band per se, it's just that anyone who is well-versed in death metal knows what's coming next. One aspect of the album that sticks out in my mind is that many of the tracks have an opening guttural roar. This is a staple effect of not only death metal, but metal in general; but it is abused on *Inhuman...In Human* to the point where you come to expect it, kind of like the pick scrapes on early Boston records.

The production is also lackluster. When I said they sound like they came out of Morrisound Studios I wasn't exaggerating very much. The sound is very boxy and doesn't hold up to many modern day professional recordings. Instead of giving the album a nice vintage charm, it actually hurts the music a bit since the brutality of the tracks are not as well captured as other recent death metal recordings. Had they had a tone closer to that of Sweden's [Miseration](#), I'm sure the record would have been a bit more invigorating to listen to.

This being said the album isn't all bad. "Immortally Unleashed", the sixth track on this opus is a barnburner of a track with some very tasty riffs and a nice flow and progression throughout. The closer, "Dark Path", is very different from the rest of the album being instrumental and being more mellow and a touch more progressive. "Morbid Obsession" is also a pretty catchy track and features some good guitar playing. The rest of the album just isn't as memorable. The tracks aren't terrible, but they don't stand out either.

If you're a diehard fan of the early Floridian death metal invasion of the early 90's you may very well enjoy [Upon Infliction](#). However if you've turned the page, the odds are you'd rather listen to the latest [Decrepit Birth](#) album.

