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KULT OV AZAZEL – DESTROYING THE SACRED – ARCTIC

80/100



Every once in a while comes an album with a sound made of thunder, image from the nefarious pits of hell and words comprised of wisdom unconventional and sovereign. Destroying The Sacred is that rare musical masterwork. With black metal as its mantra, Kult Ov Azazel has released an album that matches the glories of its brethren Marduk, Immortal and Dark Funeral from start to finish and makes no excuses for its American origin. Track after track riddles one with Satanic speed, hefty heaviness and volumes that screech to the maximum. The band begins and ends on a high note of speed with a couple of songs, like the title track, slowing down, which in the case of this Kult implies crushing heaviness. The vocals are doubled up and the music processed for effect on occasion. The voice is screaming death. The musicians create as much power as anyone in the genre with a special nod going to the accuracy and blasting power of Hammer on drums. The odd man out is the unlisted closing cover version of Nuclear Assault's Hang The Pope whose poetic title belies a punkish deviation away from metal purity to extreme punk realms.

The album's cover artwork was censored in the land of the free and home of the brave. The impaled and beheaded character Jesus is now depicted inside the album's booklet. With the events of September 11, 2001 having awakened a wider consciousness in the USA the band turns its bile not exclusively unto Christianity, but also to Islam and Judaism.

The penalty superlative bands pay for such power is alienation from the mainstream. Kult Ov Azazel will never be a popular band. For that they need our support and appreciation. – Ali "The Metallian"