

CD Review - Heavyweight Dub Champion Rise of the Champion Nation Champion Nation/MVD

With it's ultra wicked black paper packaging complete with a foldout poster describing the "Liberation Process" - a manifesto of post-millennial warrior ethos intent on manifesting the "Universal Totality", this little mind bomb is clearly designed to be a potent medicine for our current era of pre-apocalypse malaise. Oh yeah, it also features KRS-ONE, Killah Priest, Dr. Israel, and even infamous underground conspiracy (and reptilian alien...) theorist David Icke dropping steady streams of lyrical blitz-bombs on the landscape of mass culture over a backdrop of chest rumbling, pineal gland opening dub/Hip Hop/straight up hard beats, sounds that could easily be mixed into any number of DJ's sets to seamlessly deconstruct the brittle minds of atrophied listeners.

With principal producer/writers Ressurector and Patch laying down a bulletproof fabric of beats and concepts for their guests to grace, the entire album flows seamlessly through conflict and resolution, desolution and inspiration. "Renegade" boldly announces the program, while "Arrival" allows the might Blastmaster KRS to flex his most highly consciouss lyrical muscle. "Trouble" features Lady K on some deep soul gospel to bring it all back to the roots, while Babylon Beast finds Killah Priest waging war on the unholy fuckery of babylon shitstem. "Warrior Divination" parts 1-3 transmits the sacred knowledge of the liberation process in epic words from A.P.O.S.T.L.E., and "Promised Land" culminates the vision of totality in upliftment and harmony.

A high falutin' premise indeed, but the Champion Nation succeeds in its intent because the visions of cosmic oneness are grounded in the gritty realities of urban culture and the lyrical poetics of Hip Hop and Dub. If the beats at times are somewhat spartan and minimal, it only serves to ground the electric transmission of thought in a hypnotic matrix of sound that ranges from womblike warmth to bitter cold.

A sonic tonic for the mind, body and spirit, "Rise of the Champion Nation" is a genre crossing testament to the highest aspirations of the human soul. This may not be a perfect masterwork, but the artists that created this gem are certainly headed towards such an achievement with their fierce unity of purpose. Long live the Champion Nation, One Love!!!

championnation.net

heavyweightdubchampion.com

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3 of 6 5/18/2009 8:41 AM