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Virstele Pamintului (2)



"Virstele Pamintului" is a soul-hypnotizing immersion into an abyss of blackened beauty. I can't understand a word Negura Bunget is saying, and that's not just because of the riveting vocal searing; I don't understand the language! But it's really not necessary for immense enjoyment of this black metal triumph. Paganism comes alive and what you don't understand via the lyrics you gather the feel of through the somewhat unusual softer moments on the disc, which do conjure melodically the flavors of something old and pre-Christian, vintage and darkly holy. The crisp production helps these softer stretches (of which there are several) to shine and also allows for total appreciation of the blistering harshness of the full-tilt metallic sections. And even those are overflowing with the kind of bleak melodies that make black metal so gorgeous in its dense shadow kind of way. The songwriting is impeccable and the execution of said songwriting blooms to fruition in a solid, shifting mass of black metal deliciousness. This is artful but utterly faithful to the genre's aesthetic, displaying craftsmanship and intelligence and not just blaring vitriol. "Virstele Pamintului" sets a high standard for the genre, and it's a tribute to the album's efficacy that it is as solid a piece of metalwork as that to be found on bigger labels. I'd put this head-to-head quality-wise with anything Dimmu Borgir or Akercocke has to offer.



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Upchuck Undergrind listens to a little bit of a lot of things - just note the eclecticism of his reviews. He also reads voraciously and loves movies. He is a very open-minded Episcopalian (and student of Buddhism and Hinduism) who thinks Slayer is one of the greatest metal bands. Ever. In addition to his work with Corazine - for which he has written since its inception (he is a Fishcomcollective veteran) - he also writes for DJFix.com.

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