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Negura Bunget - 'Virstele Pamintului' (Code 666)

CD Reviews

Written by David Whistance

Sunday, 01 August 2010 05:00



where we come from and where we go back to...apparently!

Transylvanian black metal band Negura Bunget have a mighty task ahead of them. Their last album 'OM' was classed as a black metal masterpiece by the underground metal fraternity, ranking a very credible number 6 in the top 100 albums of the last decade by Terrorizer magazine. 'Virstele Pamintului' translates as 'The Ages Of The Land/Earth', and is an album embracing your destiny, choice and consciously assuming a way of life. And if you were one of the lucky 555 people who bought the special limited edition wooden box edition of 'Virstele Pamintului' you would now be the proud owner of your piece of earth from the band's homeland. The earth being a symbol of

Recently my knowledge of black metal has vastly expanded thanks to my less satanic colleagues at Über HQ, who have supplied me with an array of dark offerings this last year, and like most musical genres you have the good and bad. I have discovered there are so many styles of black metal from the ÖTT metal onslaught of Immortal to the pantomime antics of Dimmu Borgir to the more extreme Mayhem. Whilst researching Negura Bunget on the web, I found that apart from their loyal legion of fans unlike so many others in the genre they appear to distance themselves from the usual black metal attire, no corpse paint or black leather and spikes on offer here. Instead they simply let the music do the talking.

Opening with the not so obvious choice of black metal instrument, "the panpipes" via 'Pamint' the band then continue into what I would describe as a musical voyage. From my understanding (but I could be wrong here) the band are far less about preaching to Satan and sacrificing virgins at the altar, and more about celebrating their native land and the spirituality of their ancestors. The album being something of a spiritual voyage; just listen to the music as I did to find it musically gratifying as well as exigent. Being recorded in the local Carpathian Mountains somehow helps give the music a touch of the wilderness and sovereignty.

A large portion of 'Virstele Pamintului' is simply an instrumental soundtrack and it's when the vocals are introduced that any casual listener not experienced in the fine art of black metal will be put to the test. Personally I feel Negura Bunget have managed to construct the perfect blend of vocals, both spoken in their native tongue and with the devilish growl that we expect from the black metal scene.

From that recent research I mentioned earlier I have discovered that legions of devoted metal fans are already hailing 'Virstele Pamintului' as a masterpiece, and who am I to argue?

www.myspace.com/negurabunget


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