

Atlantean Kodex - The Golden Bough

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Atlantean Kodex - *The Golden Bough*
Reviewed by Andy "Dinger" Beresky (www.StonerRock.com)
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If you're into traditional metal at all, one of the bands that you'd have heard a lot of hype for in the last couple of years is undoubtedly Atlantean Kodex. You might find this strange, considering that the enigmatic band hasn't had a full length release (until now), keeps a low key web presence, and seems to revel in their status as a well kept secret.

Even if you have heard their very limited releases up until this point, you still may wonder what the big deal is. It's epic metal, reveling in early Manowar, Manilla Road, and other cult acts of that era. Atlantean Kodex just happens to be one of those bands that plays a particular style so flawlessly, and with so much conviction that they're impossible to ignore. This album is so well done, and is crafted with so much care and detail that it transcends genre altogether.

Less driving than the band's critically acclaimed *Phakotic Demos*, this album certainly brings more doom to the fold. The riffs are heavier, that's for sure, but there's also a lot more going on melodically, and this was already a band with a keen melodic sense. The vocal harmonies are staggering in their grandiose arrangements, and the twin guitar attack is done with distinctive flair. The songs are fully actualized in their deliveries, with more depth and breadth of influence than was displayed on the demos.

What makes the album shine are the little touches; acoustic folk flourishes, sound effects emulating the wind gathering in the sails, and the echoes of a thunderstorm all meld seamlessly with the classic metal to give the music a lyrical, poetic quality that matches the band's epic themes.

If you've read my reviews in the past, you know that I sometimes find it difficult to get into longer albums, more drawn out albums, but that wasn't the case with *The Golden Bough*. Listening to it, you become totally immersed in the world that the band inhabits when they create this music; it's all encompassing. Of course, this isn't going to be for everyone. Some are going to find it too over the top or indulgent, but that's what makes epic metal, well, epic. You can't be sailing with Jason and the Argonauts, or looking for the ruins of Atlantis, if you band isn't able to take you there. Some people aren't going to want to make those treks, but those who love the classic epic albums of the 80's, as well as epic doom like Solitude Aeternus and Solstice, are going to eat this album up like ambrosia from Olympus itself. Highly recommended.

URL: <http://www.atlanteankodex.de/>

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