



### *Sanity Obscure*

*Sanity Obscure* followed in 1990, and while overall still a thrash-o-rama this album showed marked growth from *Extraction...* in a number of areas. The riffs are much less derivative but no less catchy, and the songs themselves exhibit more diversity in tempos and rhythmic change-ups. The mix is minorly shy on the low end, but the guitars are HUGE--to my ears some of the best thrash guitar sounds ever recorded!! In addition to the 4 rhythm tracks laid down for each song, the band sees fit to overlay several parts (not just an occasional harmony lead) on top of the rhythms--I count 5 parts going simultaneously on the title track--and the end result is a pretty massive wall of metal.

8 songs in just under 40 minutes, and 2 of these tracks sees Believer pushing the limits of what a thrash band can include on a cohesive collection of songs. The first of these is track 6, the visionary "Dies Irae (Day of Wrath)," which successfully marries thrash with full-on operatic vocals and a chamber orchestra; the second is the closing track, a surprisingly faithful cover of U2's "Like a Song," where Kurt's vocals, while still "metal," retain the melody and emotion of the original. This album gets better marks for improvements in songwriting, meaner production, and musical exploration.

As with *Extraction...*, if you like thrash, get this while you can. You'll thank me later.

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-Mark Fields