



Music: Winter: Into Darkness/Eternal Frost

Our Take

New York's Winter may have only been around for about three years, but their influence in the death/doom scene can still be heard. They were one of the first American acts in the genre that truly combined elements of death metal into the doom genre, and in an attempt to help the group gain some further exposure Metal Mind Productions has reissued Into Darkness/Eternal Frost, a compilation of their only full length release and second EP. And if you haven't yet experienced this band for yourself, don't hesitate to pick this disc up.

Though Winter's primary instrumental may be slow, plodding doom what helped them to stand out was their abundance of death metal styles and riffs. Rather than using a rock base for their doom songs, these guys upped the metal element and had a lot of riffs that were similar to what death metal bands were offering at the time only with slower tempos. Winter also occasionally upped the tempo on some of their songs and because of this the material on both Into Darkness and Eternal Frost have a little more variety than your average genre act. The instrumentalists do rely on minimal riffs and drumming at times, but they always ensure that these riffs are able to sustain their sense of heaviness and remain interesting for the entirety of a song. This material may be 14-18 years old but it still holds up today and is sure to appeal to a newer generation of doom fans.

Vocalist John Alman is also one of the primary reasons that Winter's music is so appealing, as he has a low pitched growl that is guttural but also completely understandable. Even in much of today's doom it is hard to find a singer that is able to offer really demonic and evil sounding vocals while still enunciating well enough that all of the lyrical content can be understood without a booklet. In addition to this, the way in which Alman growls is closer to many death metal acts and listeners may be surprised when they realize how many of today's acts use a similar style.

In some ways Winter may have really been ahead of its time, and even today Into Darkness/Eternal Frost is one of the better death/doom metal offerings out there. If you already own either of these two releases separately or have the original compilation version that Nuclear Blast put out in 1999 there are no extra bonuses to entice you to pick it up again. But if you're a newcomer who has never heard of Winter or just never got around to checking them out, this disc is a must own from one of the pioneers of the style.

<http://www.metalmind.com.pl>

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September 13, 2009

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