

THY DISEASE

Rat Age (Sworn Kinds Final Verses)

Metal Mind



Thy Disease's *Rat Age (Sworn Kinds Final Verses)* is another re-issue by Metal Mind, originally being released in 2006 by Empire Records. Thy Disease play a sort of industrialized death metal, with tons of loops and samples present, programmed sounding drums, and a biting staccato guitar sound that at times reminds me a bit of mid-career Fear Factory, or Infotainment? era Pitchshifter.

The intro (aka, "Introduction #1) sounds like it came off of a 1980's arcade game, so that's cool with me. From there, we get into the meat of the disc with "Prophecy".

Super heavy riffing, sampled loops, and pounding drums will envelop the listener. At times the samples hearken back to the 80's video game sound from the intro, an other times they are warping around from left to right adding all sorts of craziness to the music. "Earth Will Shake..." has some pretty good lead guitar work in it. "Syndicate" is a basic, yet crushing track with a monster of a heavy riff carrying most of the song, and some pretty good drum work as well.

One of the more interesting aspects of this disc is the story that the lyrics tell. Basically, a company called Syndicate World Corporation has ideas to kill the weak and manipulate the human race to create a stronger being. A group of mercenaries (for lack of a better term), grow incensed by the control of the Syndicate, and infiltrate the organization to get the codes to control the WMD's that the Syndicate has. Unleashing these WMD's totally eliminates humanity, thus ushering in the Rat Age...

While musically this is decent, it gets a bit repetitive by the midway point. Thankfully, there is a pretty decent story behind the music, so that makes it a bit more interesting, and keeps you wanting to stay to the end for the final payload. Not sure what the band is up to now, but a new concept album like this would be welcome, especially with a bit more variety to the music.

B- -Goz