



SEPULCHRAL AURA

Reviewed in 017's Probation section and nearly receiving a perfect score, Sepulchral Aura's debut demo is a brave, belittling thing. It's one of those record(ing)s that make you feel small, unimportant, meaningless – something larger to behold than, y'know, 'music'. Wise ears caught on, and now the demo's been amended with an additional, equally blower track under the guise of *Demonstrational CD MMVII*. While the guts-fuck contents remain constant – swirling, swallowing-you-whole black / death / even-bestial wreckage, chaos powers harnessed and then reversed, something perversely life-damning – giving, in equal measures, that latter point in particular signifying the luminescence of mainman J. Partanen's violently nuanced vision – and the demo takes an even deeper, more dire aura in this (professional) format, you've just gotta applaud the bollocks of something arriving so fully formed. "Sepulchral Aura was formed to serve many purposes on both more or less concrete and abstract levels," begins J., "of which the most concrete goal was to release a recording of some sort. Sepulchral Aura is vigorously advancing the very way which the first visions and intuition have illuminated. Thus, it cannot be said

that the aesthetic matters are already fully formed with *Demonstrational CD MMVII*, but the direction is nothing but the right one, though."

In addition to the profoundly occult inclinations of the early Greek idiom, Sepulchral Aura here conspicuously nod to turn-of-the-'90s DM, particularly the Swedish and Finnish varieties, yet turns them on their heads all the same. Were those idioms perhaps too overlooked, that their darkness and morbidity and above all unearthly *vibration* were forsook for the more immediately recognisable 'evil' of early '90s Norwegian BM? "I grew up with that stuff, so it's quite obvious that it's reflected in the music somehow. But being just a repetition of early '90s death metal or black metal would not serve any real creative urge; trying to sound like something that's already done would be just dull. Many things are being overlooked in their own time, although I couldn't care any less. I've learned that the process of creation finally transcends all response – be it praise or overlook – and such things, so there are other more important things to pay attention to."

Pet question: can altered states truly be reached through regression, a primitive consciousness yielding enlightenment? Pertinent here, punters: on one hand, Sepulchral Aura is supremely ugly and barbaric and often chaotic – on the other, the vibration beneath it all suggesting refinement, intellect, or at least self-contained elitism. "I wouldn't call it necessarily 'primitive,'" reasons J. "One has to know both or all sides and aspects of the true self. There are aspects in man of which others are bestial and others divine, and equilibrium is what I'm aspiring towards. Gnothi Seauton – Know Thyself. To be of those qualities mentioned is nothing but invoking these different aspects into more conscious forms and scrutinising them and their interaction between each other. On a more 'idealistic' level, we're all beasts of the most subterranean caverns whereas we are gods of highest luminance among the unknown stars." But isn't it a bit, uh, "retarded" that folks like myself put such a quasi-intellectual spin on what's ultimately *instinct*? "In a mundane man, instincts surface and act beyond the control of their vessel. I seek to learn of my own instincts and thus aspire to be able to utilise and cultivate them. My will is to become something higher than just a man who is but a slave to his own lower nature – although this lower nature has its own function and hierarchical place in the dynamic whole, the true self."

NATHAN T. BIRK

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