

# Metal Only

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Band: Ghoulgotha (USA)

Genre: Death / Doom Metal

Label: Dark Descent Records

Albumtitle: The Deathmass Cloak

Duration: 53:15

Releasedate: 13.01.2015



Already while merely looking at the cover of "The Deathmass Cloak", the debut album from Death/Doom band Ghoulgotha from San Diego, cosy anticipation of rumbling, classical Doom emerges. And after the first few minutes of the album, one is not able to avoid saying that the quartet is completely right with their description "rotting old skull doom/death". And such depressing music comes from sunny southern California? For sure!

With a wall of pained guitars and tragic piano sounds the first song is creating a simple, but in this case fully suitable, sophisticated introduction. After that, "Gazing Into Melted Night" rumbles on in a rough and indignant manner, and one would think that indeed the listener is taken back into the nineties' underground. The production remains consciously rough, the sound is anything but smoothed, and right this is fitting very well. The power of beating guitars, a very pithy bass and drums that are nearly apathetic from time to time creates a very authentic atmosphere, also caused by the strong reverbs. Even though this reverb makes the growling from singer Sarantopoulos completely unintelligible.

The single songs wallow ahead like viscous lava, but are also driven by a strong doublebase, and then they pick up speed intensely. In this fluent transitions the melange of depressing Doom and scabby, old school Death metal appears in their full glory, and this with absolutely enough changes in rhythm and time, so that there is no way for boredom.

Ghoulgotha cannot create real peaks yet, but all of the songs are actually at the same level, this makes it hard to highlight one of them in particular. In my opinion, "Arteries Unblest" creates the most dramatic suspense, what conversely shall not mean that the other songs are considerably inferior. The album as a whole counts, especially within Doom metal, therefore one cannot reproach Ghoulgotha with the songs being hardly differentiable from each other. It is always better than demanding new climaxes song by song, isn't it?

Conclusion:

Not the real big thing yet, but everyone who likes Doom from the heavier kind and also values some rougher productions, in which one could only speculate about the lyrics, should definitely give a chance to Ghoulgotha.

Rating 7/10

Recommendation: Arteries Unblest

Weblink: <https://www.facebook.com/ghoulgotha666>

Lineup:

W. Sarantopoulos - Voice, Guitar

C. Koryn - Drums

I. Mann - Guitar

J. Moreno - Bass, Voice

Tracklist:

01. Solar Awakening (Intro)
02. Gazing Into Melted Night
03. A Neck For The Nameless Noo
04. Austere Urns
05. Saturnal Rites
06. Prophetic Oration Of Self
07. Arteries Unblest
08. Citadel Of Heathen Flesh
09. Cartilage Imperfect
10. Levitate Within The Curse

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