

Metal Only

Das einzig WAHRE Metalradio im Netz!

Band: Vardan (I)

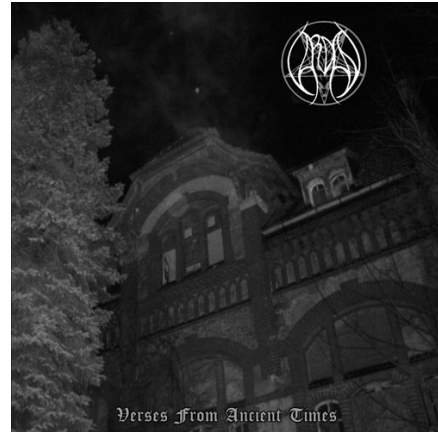
Genre: Black Metal

Label: Moribund Records

Albumtitle: Verses From Ancient Times

Duration: 35:18

Releasedate: 20.01.2015



One of the beautiful things in life is to get surprised again and again. The one-man-project Vardan from Italy released seven albums in 2013 and 2014. Yes, you read correctly, seven albums within two years. I never experienced something like that until now.

My first thought was that this has to be underdone material, quantity instead of quality. Especially as the single responsible musician with the pseudonym Vardan did not even invest time and work for some song titles. But my initial doubts regarding "Verses From Ancient Times" were not confirmed finally. As the band is rather classified into the subgenre Depressive Suicidal Black Metal, the present album instead shows typical Scandinavian Black Metal like he was played at the beginning of the 90's.

Predominantly played fast with a lot of blast beats, overall a wall of sound created with blurred guitars, while somewhere in the background also the bass is bubbling. The vocals are varying between throaty gurgling and screaming, partially electronically distorted, but without sounding like a robotic voice. The whole thing sounds monotonous in a nice way without starting to get boring. Because there are various changes in speed, every now and then vicious keyboard sounds accompany the music in the background, and Bathory-like riffs, reminding of "Hammerheart" and "Twilight Of The Gods", are worked in. Song "IV" heavily reminds me of the first two Satyricon demos as well as the debut "Dark Medieval Times" from 1994.

Of course the album is not made for sound fetishists, but obviously this was intentional. In my ears only the snare drum sounds a bit too tinny during the blast beats, but the guitar sounds are fitting very well to the music.

Asked for the huge number of releases during an interview, Vardan answered in the general sense that sometimes inspiration is running very fast. If this sounds like in the present case, he should keep running on his inspiration.

Conclusion:

Everyone who is in the mood to do a Black Metal time travel back to the 90's and/or still likes listening to the old albums from this time, should listen to "Verses From Ancient Times" at any case. Youtube links can be found at the bands' Facebook page.

Rating 6/10

Recommendations: III, IV

Weblink: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Vardan/291038054432026>

Lineup:

Vardan - All Instruments, Vocals

Tracklist:

01. I
02. II
03. III
04. IV

Author: Mirco / Translator: Sebbi