



## Infernal Masquerade Issue 5:

### Editorial:

After a hectic month here is the zine, for all the people that support it, things are moving slowly now so hopefully next month the issue layout will be remodeled and the website will be improved, also if you have contacts with people in labels, please slip them a copy of this zine so I could get promos from them, because its getting expensive by having to buy my CD's and having to publish the zine as well. This issue is printed in small type because of space limitations due to the amount of material that contains, however, next issue we will increase some more pages in order to fit all the covers and the interviews, so wait for next issue.

So this was your editorial, so enjoy. (and visit the zine's website: <http://infmasq.cjb.net>).



## Table Of Contents:

1.- Editorial and Table of Contents

2,3.- Interview with Rain Fell Within.

3.- Top five CD's

4,5.- Interview with Grey Skies Fallen.

6-10.- Album Reviews

11,12.- Demo Reviews

13.- Contributors, and thanks.

1 14- Next Issue



## INTERVIEW WITH: DAWN OF RAIN FELL WITHIN.

This band is one of the best melodic metal bands that I have heard form the U.S. They now have a contract with D.S. and they have a great future ahead of the, you can also see the review of their album "Believe" on the demo review's section. Here is the interview that was conducted via e-mail. -Dark Emperor

*Dark Emperor: Hails, and thanks for the interview. First of all can you tell me alittle more about the band?, and how it came to existance.*

*Dawn (R.F.W):* Well, in October of 1996 I met Kevin at work, and we discovered that we both always wanted to create the same type of band - metal with female vocals. So we some of our friends together who were also into metal and created Rain Fell Within. A condensed version - Will and John didn't seem to have the same goals in music as the rest of us, so after "Solemn Days" we parted ways and now Owen and TIm are with us.

*D.E: How do you define your music?, What influences have you had in order to achieve it?.*

*R.F.W:* Well, I would call it melodic metal or atmospheric metal. Some of our influences are The Gathering, Theatre of Tragedy, Paradise Lost, My Dying Bride, Opeth, etc.

*D.E: What are the things that you think that have envolved in your music since your first demo?*

*R.F.W:* Well I think the longer a band has been together the more developed their sound gets. I think we have established more of a sound and structure now.

*D.E: In what do you base your lyric writting?*

*R.F.W:* I mostly write about things I think could happen, or things I dream up -sometimes starting with something that has happened to me, but never about that. I don't like to share too much of me with the listener.

*D.E: How has people recieved you in live shows where the crowd its mostly hardcore metal fans?, do you have problems finding places where to play live?*

*R.F.W:* Of course the hardcore people for the most part don't like anything they can't run around and hurt each other to (hmm, less evolution could be the cause? I dunno), it just depends what someone bases what they like on. If they simply like what they want to like, or if they only like what they think other people will accept that they like. We have gotten excellent responses from the metal-fests we have played - even the hardcore fest.

*D.E: Do you plan to make any changes in your music for your next release?, what are you planning to incorporate?.*

*R.F.W:* We don't plan on changing anything - I don't think music should be "planned". What ever comes out naturally is what will be played.

*D.E: Are you planning on doing a tour or some live show in southern U.S., or maybe going over the border and play in Mexico?.*

*R.F.W:* Right now we are not planning any type of tour. Maybe after our 2nd release. We can't really do it right now.



*D.E: The scene here in U.S is growing very fast, why do you think that bands are experimenting with diferent sounds, and making more diverse music than the traditional death metal?.*

*R.F.W: I can't say why other people are doing it, but I wanted to do a band like this because tradtional death metal is so overplayed. I like this type of melodic sound, and I didn't want to be traditional.*

*D.E: Are there any bands that you could recomend to the people?.*

*R.F.W: Witch-Hunt, Autumn Tears, As The Sea Parts, Maudlin of the Well, 40 Days Longing, Long Winter Stare, Garden of Shadows.*

*D.E: Do you think that the internet is one of the things that helps you reach more people?*

*R.F.W: I think so - its much easier to get in touch with a lot of people.*

*D.E: well thanks for the interview, and is there anything else you whant to say?*

*R.F.W: ..... (no reply for this question).*

No pictures available but you can check their website at: [www.rainfellwithin.com](http://www.rainfellwithin.com)



Dark Emperor´s top 5 of last month. (in my CD player!)

- 1.- Graveworm "As the angels reach the beauty"
- 2.- Ancient "The halls of eternity"
- 3.- Rain Fell Within "Believe"
- 4.- Tulus "Evil 1999"
- 5.- Forty Days Longing "The head of the deamon"

OBSCURITY  
WEB DESIGN

Bands: If you dont want your website to be done by a Geek, then get it done by Obscurity web design. Cheap prices and great quality. All this done by Dark Emperor.

See some example of Obscurity Web design work: [umbrae.cjb.net](http://umbrae.cjb.net) and [infmasq.cjb.net](http://infmasq.cjb.net) .  
Or contact at: [darkemperor@mp3web.com](mailto:darkemperor@mp3web.com).



Interview with Grey Skies Fallen:

This is a great doom metal band that was summoned from Staten Island, some of their music has a sound that reminds me of old Katatonia and Anathema. You can also see the review of their album "The Fate of Angels" in the demo review section. This interview was conducted during a chat session at the great undernet channel #doom-metal. –Dark Emperor

*Dark Emperor: o.k, let me start: Define the style of music you play and your influences?*

*Grey Skies Fallen: I'd classify Grey Skies Fallen as a melodic doom band that uses other styles of music as well, like melodic death, traditional metal and others. Influences range from My Dying Bride to Opeth to Death. There's tons of good bands out there!*

*D.E: How did you came up with name "Grey Skies Fallen"?*

*G.S.F: It's a rather boring tale actually. One day I was in the car and I was stuck in traffic because it was snowing hard. I looked up through the sunroof, and saw the grey sky and all the snow hitting the glass. Immediately, the name came into my head. Pretty simple. Heh*

*D.E: Do you get inspired to write the songs that way too?, or how do you get inspired to do so?*

*G.S.F: i think in doom metal, you have to be inspired to play it. The music as a whole is so emotional; that's what makes good doom, emotion. So yeah, obviously a doom band's content isn't going to be the happiest or prettiest, but usually, it's the most heartfelt.*

*D.E: your right about that. Do you compose all the lyrics and music by your self or your band members help you with it?*

*G.S.F: Well, "The Fate of Angels" was written with the original line-up between 1997 and 1998. We recorded it in 1998. Myself and Joe, the other guitarist split the writing like 50/50 on that CD. The others contributed as well. I wrote lyrics to all the songs on the Cd but 3. Our ex bassist wrote the words to those. Since that time, we've gone through many line-up changes. Joe left and came back after a year, the bassist left, and Sal joined as drummer about a year ago. He's an incredible drummer. Anyway, Since that last CD, we've been writing the new stuff. Since Joe wasn't in the band, I did 90% of the writing for the new stuff. At this time, we have about 5 new songs penned thus far, and we hope to be recording the next full length by Autumn.*

*D.E: What changes as far as the sound are you going to make in your music for the next cd?*

*G.S.F: well, i think we've gotten heavier. We're still doomy, but I've been doing more growling. People know the last CD from the song "The purest Form" which was a faster melodic death type song. So, a lot of people think we're a Swedish sounding band. They haven't heard the rest of the CD. This new album is going to start off in that style again, although heavier and more technical. The first 2 songs on the new album will be fast with the growls and everything...the sencond tune then goes total doom at the end, and then we stay doom for a few songs but i think this CD will have even more variety than the last one did, and in one review, we got compared to Opeth and Pink Floyd in the same review. So there was variety on the last CD as well...*

*D.E: Are you planing on adding female vocals or other intruments as well in the new cd?*

*G.S.F: How did you know?, Is that too cliché in doom these days?,heh. Well, actually we are looking into adding several female singers for different songs, as well as a cello and a viola player*



*D.E: I knew it!, ja. Well in other things how was your presentation at the March Metal Meltdown?*

G.S.F: I thought we did really well this year. We opened with one of the new ones, and then played 3 songs from the CD. The crowd that saw us seemed to dig the show. We sold some CD's and shirts after the set which was cool.

*D.E: Its the scene in New York good?, or do you have to go out of state to do gigs?*

G.S.F: The latter. The scene here is dead, save for the big band that comes through here. Then, you'll get a crowd. Local shows don't go over too well here, which is crazy when you think about it. This is the biggest city in the world! So yeah, we do 95% of our gigs out of state. We do all the Metalfests, and other shows along the way to them.

*D.E: Any gigs planed in the south of U.S.A or maybe Mexico?*

G.S.F: We were looking into doing this Texas Doom fest, but I haven't heard anything about it in a while. We played November to Dismember in San Antonio, but I hear they're not doing it there again this year, so I don't see us getting down there anytime soon. Right now, we're looking into setting up a little mini-tour with a few bands for late May-early June.

*D.E: As the last question, do you think the doom metal scene is growing in U.S or that its going down?, and why?*

G.S.F: I think it's growing. There's some great bands coming out of the US these days. Novembers Doom, Rain Fell Within, Somnus, although they're not doom, but there's a lot of great US metal bands. It's just a matter of getting the music out there and letting people hear this style more often. Too often like at Metalfest, people are bombarded with the brutal death stuff that the melodic metal goes unheard. I think it's just a matter of time before our style goes noticed.

*D.E: Do you think american bands are getting more support from labels now than they did a few years ago?*

G.S.F: Oh yeah, definately. It seems that the good bands are getting signed. Even if the labels are small, it's cool because you're one of the few bands on that label and they have to dedicate themselves to you, and not 30 other bands. For example, on nightfall Records, it's us, from the Depths, Defiled, and Anal Blast. there's four bands there that get really heavily promoted because we're the focus of the label. But getting back to the question... there's more labels on the underground scene than in the past, which is good for bands, especially in this day and age with the Internet. It's a little easier for labels to do promotion and to get the band's name out there.

*D.E: I completely agree with you. Well thanks for you time and best of lucks in the future for your band. And last remarks you want to make?*

G.S.F: Thanks for the interview. Our website is [www.greyskiesfallen.com](http://www.greyskiesfallen.com) We have mp3's up there as well as reviews, news, and info on how to order CD's and T shirts. Soon, we're gonna put some live mp3's up there as well as clips from the new material, which we will be demoing soon. Thanks again!

Due to limitations of space the pictures were suppressed, so please go to their website if you want to see pictures of find out more about them. [www.greyskiesfallen.com](http://www.greyskiesfallen.com) 5



## Album Reviews:

**(note: almost no covers will be displayed this month because of space limitation, sorry!!, until next month!, or you could see them at the website.)**

Ancient "The Halls of Eternity"

After their disappointing previous release "Mad Grandiose Blood Fiends" I was hoping that they didn't sucked as much as they did in that album, Aphazel kicked Lord Kaiapas out and almost everybody else too, now with him on vocals, Deadly Kristine on vocals, Jesus Christ!, and somebody else named Kriegse, Ancient returns with a great album, much more like the "Cainan Chronicle", this is a fucking great CD, full with excellent guitar riffs, keyboards and good vocals, especially the female ones. There are some repetitive parts and moments where you cant tell one song from the other, but in general its a good album. There are weird parts with spoken vocals, and weird lyrics. This album returned Ancient to my favorite bands list, so if you liked the "Cainan Chronicle", you'll really like this one.

Rating 8 out of 10. – Dark Emperor.

Mithotyn "In the sign of the ravens"

This is a great band that pays black metal with some medieval touches, this is one of the best that I have heard in while, because their sound its very original, and good. Mithotyn creates a very unique atmosphere that could be medieval or maybe Viking, but as it looks on their art work its more medieval. The choruses are great, and the clean vocals kick ass!, their incorporation of keyboards and other instruments such as flutes help a lot to the atmosphere that is created by their melodic guitars. The black metal shrieks are good, but nothing out of the ordinary, but their clean vocals really complement the music. This band doesn't have a lot of weaknesses, they are repetitive sometimes but not as many other bands. If you are interested in original variations of black metal this is the album for you.

Rating: 9out of 10. – Dark Emperor

Ethereal Winds "Saved"

This is an excellent EP from an "old" band from the Netherlands, I don't think a lot of people have heard them, but I think this band its very good for their time. They play death metal with some touches of doom, and with some great keyboards accompanying. The vocals could be compared to the ones of Bart Smits from the original The Gathering, they fit perfectly with the music. This release being an EP leaves you with the need for more, and you can play it over and over and not get tired (maybe after 6 hours!). In general a great band (I don't think they exist anymore!), if they had paid it a little bit faster, they could have achieved greatness, they sound influenced by Paradise Lost, which is great, so if you are into doom or melodic death metal, you should definitely get this album.

Rating 8.5 out of 10. – Dark Emperor.

Satyricon "Intermezzo II"

After Nemesis Divina I was waiting for their next opus to see if they could keep up with their excellent level of creativity, but to everyone's misfortune, they didn't!, this is a lame release, and they should be ashamed of it, they talk shit about keeping the music and themselves "true" and that crap, but what they should do its keep their music good, than talk shit!. Maybe they think that if the are all bad and shit that music doesn't matters, well they are fucking wrong, I'm and neither should you hear their crap, I would prefer to listen to Dimmu Borgir (which they say that they basically suck because they are "commercial"), than to listen to their "true music" or should I say "true crap".

Rating: 4 out of 10. – Dark Emperor.



## Lacuna Coil "In a Reverie"

Oh my... ,What a great piece of art!. Meo quidem animo. "In a Reverie" its an excellent metal/gothic genre album with great female vocals, style and clarity. It is performed by a five-piece Italian band, and has a kind of power and sadness that produces a unique sound and distinguishes it from another similar band's efforts. Formerly, I used to put no attention on these kind of bands, but a couple of years ago, I've been changing; maybe, I'm getting older and my soul demands more of this melodic music, so I've been looking for different stuff, finding interesting artificia, and from a bunch of failures, I've learned to recognize immediately a worthy band. Lacuna Coil is the case. "In a Reverie" is the second effort of this band; previously, in 1998 they had released their debut album entitled "Lacuna Coil", which they jumped into the big scene. Nowadays, with "In a Reverie", LC defines its best. The female vocals are performed by Cristina who definitely stands out. The male counterpart is Andrea and he also does it good enough. There is a kind of special chemistry that envolve the vocals with the well executed, dense and consistent music. Maybe, you can relate LC's sound mixing current Netherlands's The Gathering with Type O Negative or Paradise Lost, some guys think so. For me, inspite of influences, LC have a metallish style of their own, with great dark riffs, unforgettable melodies, stunning harmonies and arrangements. Highlights from this album are, there is no doubt of it, "To myself I turned", excellent song that evolves in crescendo, certainly the best tune of the entire album, followed up by "Reverie" and "Falling again". However, the album as a whole is a master piece, an Opus Magna. All of you, lovers of good metal, got to get this CD!. As an Epilogue, let me tell you about one curious thing that happened to me; I have been listening " In a Reverie", and I didn't knew the next CD on the CD player was Theatre of Tragedy's "Aegis", so suddenly I didn't recognize this current song I was hearing and I said "What the hell is going on here!., what a weird song, I don't know, maybe, it will be a bonus track", and I was pretty disturbed. Then, for my surprise, a friend of mine recognized TOT's Aegis, so, I can tell you that for an instance both albums sound musically (not the vocals) similar, (too bad for TOT). Besides aforementioned events, I should say that Lacuna Coil's "In a Reverie", reminds me that "hominum animi immortales stunt".

Rating: 8.7 out of 10 - Micer Baeliel

## CHILDREN OF BODOM "Hatebreeder"

This is the second effort of this Finnish five-piece band. Well, I don't have enough words to say anything concerning this CD. Only that "Hatebreeder" (from my point of view) is a pure classic and clean metallish style with killing vocals and perfect arrangements. It is not too easy to remember each song, but those guitar / keyboard duels simply won't leave anyone indifferent. You must listen to the following brilliant songs titled "Children of Bodom" and "Towards Dead End". One bad point: If the musicianship is perfectly solid, the lyrics are quite poor; these guys need to improve more their songwriting, I hope to see that development in its next release. As I previously said, vocals are something like death style, though may probably cause disturbs in anyone else really isolated in classic or power metal.. In fact, when I was hearing this album, a friend of mine said "You know, this band sounds like Yngwie Malmsteen in black metal", and well, certainly that's correct. Although, I like this Children of Bodom release, because I think they were not afraid to do something different, despite the criticism. A second bad point; there are two or three times basically, where the vocalist make mistakes with his growly vocals, and far from this, it seems to be laughing. In spite of, if you are looking for a release full of energy, plenty of speed, well executed and quite different, the Children of Bodom's "Hatebreeder" got it.

Rating: 7 out of 10 - Micer Baeliel



## DARZAMAT

### "In the Opium of black veil"

Its an interesting thing, to hear more and more about those great bands emerging from Eastern Europe, mostly from Poland. We remember great bands like Sirrah with their great album "Acme", or the recently Artrosis with "Hidden Dimensions". This time is the turn to take a view on "In the Opium of Black Veil", a Darzamat's Mini LP, the second release after their debut album "In the Flames of Black Art". It is composed by a tetrada of new tracks and a music version of "Secret Garden", a song that appear in their first release. This Mini LP is full of black metal/gothic elements (more gothic than black); you know, a lot of keyboards, clean backing male/female vocals, and all that stuff. The fact that make this quintet a good band, (properly, I would say a sui generis band) is the performance and the intelligence to combine all those elements with a good guitar work, producing a well balanced opus. The lyrics are OK, not amazing but good enough. The female vocals performed by Kate are exquisite and enchanting, make you feel haunted by a sorceress. Her vocals reminds me Artrosis's Medea's singing style. The black metal screams and clean male vocals by Flauros are good for me, no more. In fact, black vocals takes a minimal role in this album, are poor and don't cause really emotions; on the other hand, clean vocals assume an important part, are quite different in their performance, certainly plain but OK. That's the reason what I called this Darzamat's effort a sui generis album. In spite of, I like this Mini LP, its well executed as well as the created atmosphere. Personally I recommend you to listen the second track entitled "In the Opium of Black Veil" and the fourth entitled "Ancient Philosophy". Both songs speak for themselves. Finally, let me tell you some words about the interestingly artistic cover of this band. It's done in the same way than "In the flames of Black Art", and expresses itself, the mood and the kindness of the music as a whole. I like the cover art of this album, presents a couple of girls embracing each other. This picture apparently doesn't mean anything, but for some reason, wakes up a bit of strange inner sensations, exactly in the same way that Darzamat's music does it. Its difficult to describe these feelings. You got to see it and to listen it.

Rating: 7.5 out of 10 - Micer Baeliel

## Enid

### "Nachtgedanken"

This is a weird release from a German band, its composed of very few members yet it sounds like there are a lot of them!. I got this album on an original tape?, with a pro-copied inlay, I don't know much about this band, but they are fucking excellent!, the music is something like a folk/darkwave style, but it creates some bizarre atmospheres, they have a great variety of instruments there, how ever I don't know if they are done with a synth, but this doesn't take anything away from their great sound, because the sound excellent. The drums are the thing that didn't convinced me much, because they seem to be electrical, a thing that I dislike. The best moments are the solos with the flute, and a weird but cool solo with a saxophone!, this things make Enid very original. The vocal styles vary form choruses, clean vocals, and shrieks of hate, which sometimes are overlapped with the music in ways that it doesn't sound good. Their style is hard to define because they sound very different from many bands I have heard, maybe a little bit like Lerue Delashay, they can also be compared somewhat to Elend, but the music is more fast that their, and the vocals are very different. This release its hard to classify, but its great, maybe Flakenbach its something like them. In genera a great release and a weird one, but excellent!

Rating: 9.5 out of 10. - Dark Emperor.

Dont forget to visit the Website at:  
<http://infmasq.cjb.net>



### Tristania "Widows weeds"

This is by far the best gothic metal album I have heard in my existence, this is Tristania's second album, this release is very versatile and diverse, because it has gone one step further than many bands like Theatre Of Tragedy and Dismal Euphony, because its more melodic and gothic oriented. Tristania uses more violin solos in this album than Theatre Of Tragedy in all of their albums!, which gives more depth to the music, aside from the violins, the choruses used are great, a thing that ToT never used!, this are the innovative things that Tristania has, but they aren't the only things Tristania is good at, the keyboards create a great atmosphere that goes perfectly with the violins and choruses creating a more gothic feeling. The death growls are great and so are the few shrieks used here, and the female vocals are just perfect because they add a dramatic touch to this music. Well what can I tell you, this is a great release so go and fucking buy it!

Rating: 9.5 out of 10. – Dark Emperor

### Graveworm "As the angels reach the beauty"

I got this CD because I heard that CoF's Sara Jezebel sang with them, so I wanted to check them out, but for my surprise there are no female vocals here at all!, so after getting over this, the music for my surprise is excellent. Graveworm plays something like a gothic black metal ala Cradle of Filth, but not that exaggerated. They base their sound in excellent keyboard passages, great guitar work and some great violin and cello parts, which is very original in my opinion, because this I haven't heard before. This elements create a very depressive atmosphere that its very difficult to describe. The vocals are just plane hate and evil, the black metal shrieks reach the tones that Dani reaches, but the bad thing is that in some parts the guy just sounds like he cant sing anymore and it sounds weird, however the death growls are great, and the spoken parts sound very mysterious and great. In overall the mix give them great brutality when they mix several voices at the same time, for my disgrace the album last only 42 minutes, but I can still play it over and over, so if you are looking for some great melodic black metal look no more!

Rating 9 out of 10. – Dark Emperor

### The Elysian Fields "We.... the enlightened"

This is a great Greek band that I happened to hear by mistake in a MP3 file, and I later found that that I had in a tape their first release (duh!!). Anyways, the music its a very melodic black/death metal, and its very elaborated with the inclusion of violins, cello's and a lot of keyboard, but don't think they are weak, they are fucking brutal in their own way. This album sounds a lot like their first one "Adelain", but its more faster and melodic as well, and ofcourse more brutal. The atmosphere created is very different from bands I have heard before, because its hard to describe, especially the guitar distortion or FX they use, but it sound very unique. The bands brutality relies on their savage vocals that sound fit all the parts of the music. The songs are very diverse, because there are some more melodic than the others and some of them a extremely fast so be ready for a rollercoaster ride, when you hear this album. This is a great band and for a two person band they kick ass.

Rating: 9 out of 10. – Dark Emperor

### Black Funeral "Moon of Characith"

I remember hearing that this Houston band, played black metal, but I guess they evolved to fast. Or they just sucked since the beginning. This is just a piece of shit, its probably the worst CD I have heard along with Darkness Enshroud CD, the music is like atmospheric/ambient, it sounds like some ritual ore something but it gets to disturb you immediately, and I don't know if you could call it music, because its a bunch of really annoying sounds, plus the female vocals sounds like she was ran over by a car and she's calling for help with half of her body thorn out, or in plain English, she sounds like shit. In a nutshell this CD sucks, and I urge you not to buy it, or if you bought it claim your money back!

Rating: 3 out of 10. – Dark Emperor.

### The sins of thy beloved "Lake of Sorrow"

I heard this band because a friend of mine made me a tape from them, and let me tell you they are fucking great, they play a more gothic melodic doom metal than my favorites: Tristania. TSOTB create a great depressive atmosphere that makes you want to end your life. The music is greatly composed and very melodic with the participation of this Tristania's violin player, along with great keyboards that compose the atmosphere in 85% of it. The violin solos are great, and they mark the pace of the music. The heavy growly vocals add the brutality into the beauty of the music, but they are not used as much as one would wish!, but probably the best thing is the female vocals that sound like a enchanting young girl singing with her sweet voice. In general an excellent album, but if you don't like very melodic things you'll probably don't want to go here, but even if you are into just gothic music, you'll probably love this album.

Rating: 9 out of 10. – Dark Emperor

### Elend "Lescons de Tenebres"

This is a majestic band from France, that created some kind of strange style of music, its like an opera, or classical music, but with screams, that sound like a madman out of an asylum. I would imagine that the music required high skills from the band's composers, because its a very elaborated symphony, that no normal band could ever imagine to be able to create. The soprano female vocals and choruses are just fucking great, they really go with the mysterious atmosphere that the music creates adding a more dramatic touch to it. The lyrics are in Latin, which its a very cool thing, because it add mystery to the dark passages created by the music. However Elend can get boring if you don't have a like for classical music, or something like hearing Therion unplugged!. The CD its great to hear it when you feel kind of depressed because its very dark and somber. This is a great band that has much imagination and creativity so enjoy it!

Rating: 8.5 out of 10. – Dark Emperor

### Dismal Euphony "All little Devils"

If after 3 excellent releases I wasn't disappointed by them it came to me in shock to hear this release, they had change the line up, so maybe this could explain their evolution, but some of the magic of the music its now long gone. The music is more gothic oriented, than their last album, and they use more female vocals, but they don't sound good enough to me, the music got very weird and different than before, except for the "All little devils" song that reminded me of the old times, but after it, it just gets weird again. Some of the songs and lyrics are a little psycho to me, so maybe they did this album on Acid or something like that. If your are a hardcore fan of them get the CD just to satisfy your curiosity, but don't say that you weren't warmed!

Rating: 7 out of 10. – Dark Emperor.

Bands, If you want a website done for your band, but dont want to pay much (or even pay!!), please contact Obscurity Web Design, the E-mail is: darkemperor@mp3web.com. Some examples of sites designed by Obscurity Web Design:

Umbrae's Website at: <http://umbrae.cjb.net>

Infernal Masquerade E-zine site: <http://infmasq.cjb.net>

And opening in a near future:

Antiqua's Website: <http://antiqua.cjb.net>

Legion Metal Zone: <http://legionmetalzone.cjb.net>



## Demo Reviews

(note: Some of the material reviewed here are not exactly demos, but they are from new bands, and im putting them here so more people will see them., if you want your demo reviewed please contact: [darkemperor@mp3web.com](mailto:darkemperor@mp3web.com)).

### Forty Days Longing “The head of the Demon”

This is a 3 song demo, first of all I don't know the name of the songs, and there is no cover, or anything, just the CD. The CD presentation doesn't even compare to the music!, the music is great, on of the best demos I have ever received. This is a very elaborated recording with excellent violin use, and the vocals are just fucking great, just the black metal shrieks need a little more work. The music reminds me of early Anathema, and My dying bride, which makes them unique. For a unsigned band they kick ass. They have a lot of old influences, but they make it innovative with the constant use of the violin, and its perfectly mixed to not be over powered by the guitar work. In general, get this demo, because this band could get really far.

Rating: 9 out of 10. – Dark Emperor

Contact: F.D.L., 7011 Mathew St., Greenbelt, MD, 20770. USA or: [daysandcounting@hotmail.com](mailto:daysandcounting@hotmail.com)

### Anwyl “Bloody Mary”

This is a Black Metal band from Kansas, their CD presentation is o.k., but the must funny thing I've seen in my life is the cheesy cover they have, its a virgin's Mary statue covered with supposedly blood, but it looks like they took a shit over it, or something like that, but it looks crappy as hell. Aside from this the music is not that bad, its a harsh black metal, with some clear European influences, but they play it very well so its kind of good, the drumming is fast as hell and the singing is great, but the guitars don't add anything special to this band, that's why their sound is very primitive, but not bad, they just need to put more work on their guitar work. In general its a fairly good unholy release, with the worst thing being the cover!.

Rating: 7.5 out of 10. – Dark Emperor.


Contact: ANWYL. P.O. Box 192. Hutchinson, KS, 67504. USA  
<http://www.geocities.com/anwyl666> or NON COMPOS MENTIS RECORDS 95 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Deer Park, N.Y. 11729, USA. [Noncomposmentis6@aol.com](mailto:Noncomposmentis6@aol.com)

### Buried Dreams “Beyond Your Mind”

This is a Mexican band that plays a melodic death metal. This band is very good, because they are excellent musicians, all the instruments sound perfectly timed, this shows that they have been playing for a while. The keyboard creates part of the atmosphere, but their primary element is the melodic, Swedish style guitar riffs, they create some excellent passages that sound great. The also have two vocalists to add more variety to the songs, and they sound o.k. Their lyrics are very interesting also. In general they are a great band, and the release is quite good and very original. This is a must have for death metal fans, and for doom metal fans also.

Rating: 8.5 out of 10. – Dark Emperor

Apdo Postal 5 – 629, C.P. 06500, Mexico, D.F. , Mexico  
Or: [www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Palms/2985](http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Palms/2985)



### Avzhia “Immense Dark Sky”

This is a relatively old Mexican black metal band. They play old school black metal, and they do it really well. Their lineup is the basic, guitar, bass, drums, and vocals, so the music is rough and primitive but effective. The guitars sounds very violent, and it stays that way for the whole album, the bass doesn't sounds much, but you can still hear it, also the drumms are like blasts from hell. In general this band is great and it really plays the most unholy form of black metal that ever emerged from Mexico. The only setback is the singing, because their English is terrible, so the lyrics are destroyed by this, because the pronunciation sucks, but far from that this is a great unholy band that you should get.

Rating: 8 out of 10. – Dark Emperor

Contact: I dont know because the tape I have its a copy of the demo.

### Grey Skies Fallen “The Fate of Angels”

This is an American band that play's doom metal. The music starts fast paced and very intense with some great growly vocals, that reminded me of old Anathema, Katatonia, and Opeth, then the great vocals come to an end, and some ugly clean vocals start, this made the song weak from their great beginning, so well I thought that it was only going to be for a while, but almost the whole album is like this ,for my disappointment!. The music is not that bad, they are excellent musicians, and the atmosphere they create reminds me of Katatonia, all the music is perfectly arranged, but the thing that I cant assimilate is the clean vocals, and why the need to use them. The death growls are still used for some parts but not as much as they should be. The music get a little repetitive, but is very elaborated and if it wasn't for the vocals, this release would have been in my top 5 demos of all times.

Rating: 8 out of 10. – Dark Emperor.

Contact: [www.greyskiesfallen.com](http://www.greyskiesfallen.com)

### Rain Fell Within “Believe”

This is a great band, their music style is a melodic metal, with some gothic and doom influences. They are signed to a label here in US. Their sound is very unique, but I don't agree that they are influenced by My dying bride, as they claim, because I cant find any resemblance to them. The music is very good, its fast and elaborated as well as melodic, the guitars just keep jamming the whole songs which is great. The drums are very fast in some parts. And the keyboards are just great perfectly timed and fitted into the music. The operatic female vocals are just great, because they aren't to high and not too sweet either, they are used along all album, and with no other vocal aid, it left me satisfied, mainly because I can find some resemblance to the singing style of Kari of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the mortal, so this means they are just great. In overall this is a very good, and highly melodic release, their musicianship is great, and they are very original, so you should get this CD to be able to experience them for your self.

Rating: 8.5 out of 10. – Dark Emperor

Contact: [www.rainfellwithin.com](http://www.rainfellwithin.com) or: Dark Symphonies. Box 547, Billerica, MA, 01821, USA. [darksympho@aol.com](mailto:darksympho@aol.com) , [www.borg.com/~lordxul/dsl.htm](http://www.borg.com/~lordxul/dsl.htm)



## Contributors and thanks:

### Contributors:

Dark Emperor: Reviews, Interviews, and code for the website.

Micer Baeliel : Reviews (very long ones!!), and some CD's

Rurik: He didnt got the reviews on time this month, but wait for next month!!.

### Thanks:

To the following bands for their CD's and the interviews : Grey Skies Fallen and Rain Fell Within. Also thanks for their CD's to: Anwyl, and Non Compos Mentis Records. To Final Tragedy (sorry next month your review is up!).

Also for lending me tapes, support and opinions to: Natalia K., Jason H. , Mark H., Angie S., Josh H., Eduardo Ch., and many more!.

No thanks to the record lables, again!!.

Fuck off to: The fucker that gave me bad feedback on Ebay, the neighbor for complaining, Hip-hop!, Religion, Racism, and every thing and every one that I forgot!.



Dark Emperor  
(editor. and webmaster)

This is your evil editor, and webmaster of the zine, if you wish to contact me please email me at: darkemperor@mp3web.com if you are interested in becoming a contributor for the zine, or if you have band and want your demo reviews, or if you are a hot chick, im o.k with that, but no perverts!!!!!!!.

Also if you are interested in placing an add here, please contacme!. (they are not expensive!!!!!!).

## Next Issue:

### Interviews:

- Graveworm (probably)
- Somnus
- Discantus

### Album Reviews:

- Therion
  - Aeternus
  - Night Conquers Day
- ..... and many more

### Demo Reviews:

- Somnus
- Final Tragedy
- Mortigena
- Evangelium
- ..... and more.

### Articles:

..... I dont think so!

- Also the layout will be re-designed, there will be more reviews, that mean more pages!.
- The website will be also re-designed so it will kick ass!!!.
- So wait for the next Issue and be amazed.

Til then.

- Dark Emperor.