



"Jhva Elohim Meth" demo '92: This debut demo really took me by storm. Katatonia is without doubt one of the best newcomers ever! It's not very often music has got as much atmosphere as this... it's simply amazing! Listen to it when you're in a dismal mood and you'll get trapped by the strange, beautiful and very evil mood.

"Dance Of Decembersouls" adv. for LP '93 (No Fashion Rec.): The debut album from Katatonia is even better than their demo! The song structuring has gotten even more strange, obscure... and most of all beautiful & atmospheric! There's no doubts that this is one of the best album I've ever heard! The mood is simply amazing! It's like listening to something from another world... Experience it yourself!!

As you can read from these two reviews I have gotten incredibly hooked on Katatonia. They're playing a style I've never heard before... actually I don't know if their stuff can be defined as music, 'coz it really touches your feelings in a much different way. This interview was done with Lord Seth, who has quite a unique personali... which you will be able to discover in this interview!

A lot of black metal worshippers are into Katatonia. Why do you think it is like that?

- I don't really know. Maybe because our music represents the coldness of the North, the sorrow of the forest, and yes, we are influenced by the massive mountains. I think our music is black, but not black metal, if you understand me? Black as the night in December, and of course Bathory is a big source for us.

I know Katatonia has existed for some while. Could you please tell us a band-bio? Why did you wait so long to release your debut demo?

We have been around, but due to extreme failings within the line-up, we had to quit the band. Katatonia was born in '91, and on '92 we recorded "Jhva Elohim Meth" (a classic). We had to wait that long because of those irritable, frustrating persons who wanted us to go in a Morbid Angel way, which we did NOT!!!

Now you're signed with No Fashion Rec. Why did you sign with Tomas? How many albums have you signed for? What do you think of the other bands on the label?

- We signed for one album and he want to sign for two more. We signed to NFR because it was a fair deal, and Tomas payed everything for us. The other bands are really great (well, most of'em). I'm most into Dissection.

There are probably some of the readers who haven't heard your music yet (shame on them!), so could you try to explain which style Katatonia plays? Which are the most important elements in your music?

- I would say we play Gothic Funeral Metal. We try to get our music as sad and mournful as possible. We are one with sadness! The most important elements in our music is sadness, tranquility and silent agony. As the wind is blowing through my silent hills of dying flowers, my tears will never reach the hope I have. As our nocturnal lies open the violins of sadness incarnates my tragedy... Everyone that are into depressive stuff, buy our album "Dance Of Decembersouls"!

Is Katatonia a satanic band or an "anti-god" band. Why have you chosen the left hand path?

- I have never been a satanist. I don't really need a title for my thoughts. I have taken quite strong 'anti-christian' attitude, and I believe in the night. Anyway, I don't care about it so much now. I know who I am, and that's enough. maybe there is a God, maybe there is a devil, who knows? Maybe it is just me, me and my night sky...

What are your lyrics mainly about? Are they important to you? What do you think about the satanic lyrics like e-g- Deicide write? Those which are very direct and don't need any brains to figure out?

- My lyrics are tragic poetry nowadays. I wrote this "Without God" lyrics about two years ago and it doesn't represent what I feel now. I think the lyrics are very important now, and to get them to fit into the music we play, they must be very soft and tranquil, yet filled with darkness, sorrow and death. Yes, they are very important, but it isn't before now I know how I really want them, so you have to wait until you hear and see our next album "Moonbride", to really feel sorrow, the beautiful tragedy, the meaning of death and the description of the lands I have within my dreams. I think the Deicide lyrics are written for 13 year old people, that buys Marvel Comics. Just read some lines by Aaron of My Dying Bride and you can see who the Master is, and to whom I am a humble servant. I am just an amateur compared to him, but time shall show who I am!!!

What inspired you to write lyrics and music? Do you think Katatonia would have turned out the same way if you weren't living in the cold North with the ancient history? How much influence do you think it has had on you?

- Talking about music, we are inspired by bands as Paradise Lost (old), Bathory, Fields Of Nephilim, The Cure (old), Depeche Mode & such stuff, but it is only a small part of everything. Just look at the cold, clear night sky in autumn and you can see Katatonia's music without hearing it. We prefer solitude, darkness, autumn and winter when we get inspiration for new songs. Maybe we would have turned out the same way without living in the North, but that would be hard. The ancient history of the North is very interesting and it is a big source for us.

Do you like living in Sweden? Do you for example often take a walk in the mighty Swedish nature? Do you think you would feel trapped if you moved to a big city like New York and had to drive for hours to be in the nature?

- I really like living in Sweden. It's a pretty good place to live in, and I love the Swedish nature, and as often that I can, I visit our mighty woods. I live in Stockholm, so there isn't too much nature here, but I can find some places to breath in at some big parks. Otherwise me and Sir Blackheim goes to my parents countryside and get inspiration for new songs, and we also rehearse in an old barn there. It gives good inspiration. I would feel terribly trapped if I was living in New York. I would prefer to live as high in the North as possible, in a deep, deep forest and just play music and never meet any people.

How important is Katatonia for you? I mean, is it what you're living for or is it just a hobby? What are you doing besides Katatonia?

- Katatonia is my life right now. It feels good when things are going as good as it does now. It is not a hobby for me. It would never be! Outside Katatonia I am unemployed with no money. I am just sleeping, rehearsing and spending time with my girlfriend. That's my life.

What do you think about the current black metal scene? The biggest scenes are in Norway, Greece & Finland, I think. What are in your opinion the biggest differences between these 3 scenes and which one do you prefer?

- The black metal underground is getting too big, and I don't care about it. Yes, you're right, and I prefer the Norwegian one, because I happen to love bands like Enslaved & Emperor. Other good bands are Darkthrone and Perdition Hearse. Two days ago Eurononymous from the true Mayhem was brutally murdered. That was a big loss for the real underground, I think. The differences between those scenes is that the Finnish one consists of drug-addicts without brains and the Greek consists of La Vey satanics which are not so good. Greece is the wrong land to play black metal in. fucking hot place for tourists.



Do you think you will ever know the purpose of life? I mean, why are we living and what is a person's aim here on earth?

- Hmm, I often think about this, but it is a very hard question. Maybe the meaning of life is to bring new life to Earth and to be a good servant to the overall Creation. Life is wrong to me. I am born, but what the hell? I am not the new saviour or Messiah, I am just the one that my parents brought to life, and I can't stand having a lot of expectations hanging over me all the time. I mean if I wasn't born, noone would care, because they shouldn't know who I am. That is sick! Maybe you should make the best out of the situation (the birth and the adolescence and forward)??? Do what's best for you and what you believe in!

If you had to compare the way you look (& your personality) to an animal, which would it then be?

- I don't know if I look like a certain animal. Doesn't all people look like monkeys in general? My personality could maybe be compared to an eagle, I don't know. I am the more tranquil type and I have always wanted to be able to fly.

... Katatonia interview continued!

Katatonia only consists of two persons. I guess that avoids a lot of arguments when there are only two opinions. But what about gigs? It surely would be a problem to get the style atmosphere live, not?

- Actually we are three persons now, and actually we played live one time with Hypocrisy, Disharmonic Orc., Obscurity and some other shit bands. It is still only two opinions, because we don't care what other people says. Sir Blackheim writes all the music and we both arrange it. Then I write lyrics. If anyone is about to join, he can never even think about giving orders. We are the true Katatonia and we must decide how things shall be! The atmosphere live was the same as on the demo, except for the keyboards. I know that we are one of the best bands around and so will we act. We are far beyond shit bands like Unleashed and such brainless crap (*Hmm... I actually happen to like Unleashed a lot, but it's of course up to each person to have his own opinion - ED*). Katatonia's next release will be beyond the limits, so Tiamat can stand there with their shitty music and think they are original... pfhhh!!

Basically I think some parts in your music remind me of melancholic depressive pop like New Order & Pet Shop Boys! What do you think about this comparence? Do you consider yourself as an open-minded person when it comes to music... and opinion in general?

- I am not openminded! I can't listen to other types of music than depressive stuff, that must not necessarily be death metal. All kinds of depressive music is welcome, even Pet Shop Boys! My opinions in general doesn't change so often so I am not so openminded in that way either!

Which are your all time fave albums & demos?

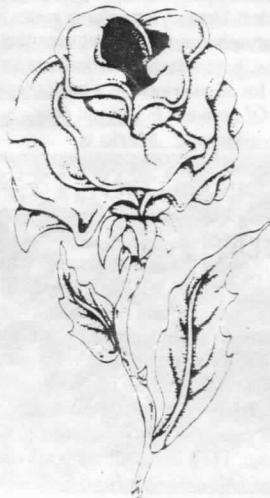
- ALBUMS: Paradise Lost - "Gothic", Bathory - "Hammerheart" & "Blood Fire Death", Anathema - "Crestfallen" & "Serenades", My Dying Bride - "As The Flower Withers" & "Thrash Of Naked Limbs", Enslaved - "Hordanes Land", Emperor - "Emperor", Fields Of Nephilim - "Elizium".... DEMOS: Carnage - "The Day Man Lost", Anathema - "All Faith Is Lost", Uncanny - "Nyktalgia", Chorus Of Ruin - "Les Miserables", Thy Grief Eternal - "... On Blackened Wings", The Equinox Of The Gods - "Watch The Shadows Dance", Darkthrone - "Thulcandra" etc etc.

That was it! how did you like this interview? If you have any last words then you'll have the chance to unveil them now....

- This interview was simply great! Thanks! We will rehearse for the new album now, so buy "Dance Of Decembersouls" first and hear the ancient sadness of the North... May the winds of Eslanthur protect you on your journey...

This is undoubtedly one of the best and most interesting interview that has ever been featured in Emanzipation. I hope you all enjoyed it! As you read Lord Seth is not afraid to give his 100% honest opinion which is a rare thing these days!!

Svandammsvagen 6 / 126 32 Hagersten / SWEDEN.



Acrimony

"A Sombre Thought" demo '92: What fascinated me about Acrimony when I contacted them was that they were from Wales, 'coz I had never heard anything from that country before. I got really surprised about their doom/thrash. The first song "Eversleeping Dawn" is just killer, the mainriff is almost too catchy! The demo is no longer for sale, but maybe you can send a blank tape + some I.R.C.'s.

"Adv. for 7" ep '93" (Shiver Rec.): Acrimony got signed with their debut demo and I think that's more than fair! On these two new songs they have changed their style pretty much. now it's no longer doom/thrash, but atmospheric doom/death instead, played in the British vein. Some of the part are pretty '70-inspired like new Cathedral, which makes it have a different edge. Both songs are absolutely great, I just love that mood & the beautiful solos. This is a must for doom lovers... and it surely is one of the best 7" eps I've ever heard.
Stuart O'Hara / 239 Pontardulais Rd / Tycroes / Ammanford / Dyfed SA18-3RD / WALES - UK.

After having heard "A Sombre Thought" I decided to make an interview with Acrimony and like a few other ones I split it up in 2 to get it as interesting as possible. That was a really wise idea in Acrimony's case, because there has happened a lot with the band between the two interviews, which were done in May & late in July '93.



The only band I know from Wales is Acrimony, so please tell us about your scene. Are there any advantages or disadvantages being a band from Wales?

- Actually there seems to be more and more Welsh acts starting up now. The scene is getting a little healthier. Some bands to check out would be: State Of Confusion, Desecration, Tortoise Corpse, Rectify, State Of Art. The gig scene is also getting better as more bands are coming to Wales to play. The best 'zine from here is Verbal Aggression, but you've probably heard of that. I'd say there is no real advantage of being in a band from Wales, there are some disadvantages like not having enough places to play and if we do get the chance to get out of Wales, we have to travel a fair way.

Your debut demo is more than a year old by now, so How do you look on it nowadays? In which ways have you changed since then?

- We still think it's pretty good since it was our first attempt at doing a recording, but I do think we've worked away from it on our newer material and yes we have changed a fair bit! Back then we just wanted to bring out a good death metal tape but since then we've widened our influences a lot. Our new recording is still heavy and doomy in parts, but it also has a real good feel to it, there is more melody involved. I wouldn't class it as a total death recording - I hope it has something for everyone.

I think your music has pretty much atmosphere. Is that important to you? Have you ever thought about including other instruments such as violins or cellos?

- I think it's good for all music to have a sort of atmosphere. The atmosphere touches on the demo just came naturally, especially on the track "Mourn The Dead". Our new stuff has got some classic parts in it! As for using other instruments in our songs - Well, we'll just have to wait and see. Believe it or not, on one of our new songs "Formorrow", we wanted a part with a harmonica, but sadly we couldn't find anyone to do it.

Tell the readers a bit about each member...

- Well, you know who I am (*Yeah, I do, but I'm not too sure all the readers do! - ED*). I'm 21 and at the moment I am well into stuff like Kyuss, Sleep, Trouble, Cathedral's new stuff and I'm an apprentice welder. Dorian, our singer, is 22, works for Earache Rec. (*So it won't be any surprise if Acrimony is on Earache soon, or what? Ha, ha - ED*). He's into anything from HC dance/rave stuff to classic Heavy Metal and industrial stuff. Darren, our drummer, is on the dole at the moment, since he quit college for a while. He's 19 and loves industrial tunes and Sabbath. Paul, our bassist, is going back to college soon, he's 20. Loves 70s rock/metal and classic doom/death. Lee is the total doom freak in the band. He's electrical mechanic and he's 19.

That was the first part of the interview from May, now it's time for the second part which I received from Stuart on the 21th of July.

On you new songs you have gotten more doomy and less thrashy. Why this change? Isn't it dangerous to play this style these in days, I mean it has become pretty popular!

- Well, to be honest we've planned to change for ages,

we wanted to get more feeling on the new material, more of a groove if you like! And no I wouldn't say it is dangerous to play this style, we just play what feels good to us, we don't intend to sound like anybody - If it happens that way, well there you go! I would also like to say that we are less influenced by DM these days... Which is good in a way, as it makes us a little different.

Your 7" should be out on Shiver Rec. really soon. Could you tell us some more about it, both concerning the production, the artwork etc.

- It's all up to Shiver Rec. when it'll be released, hopefully damn soon! It was recorded in the same place where we did the demo by the same guy, Tim Hamill, the new recording was done on a 24 track which was much better and for the artwork: That was done by our bassist, Paul and we're really chupped with it. It's kind of weird to describe, sort of a collage of various colours.
Now some other questions: What sort of persons do you hate? What do you like/dislike about yourself?
- I hate the kind of person who has a go at you for no reason, maybe for your look etc. That's fucking low. About myself, well that's a hard one. I guess I'm a pretty easy going person, who'll give most people a chance, what I dislike about myself is that sometimes I get freaked out about certain situations, when really there's nothing to them.