



Ragnarok – Of Ages

RAGNAROK, hailing from the earliest days of Folk / Black Metal deliver this compilation of re-mastered songs spanning the bands existence.

Musically “Of Ages” reveals the diversity of RAGNAROK exploring the extremes of the genre with both Black Metal and acoustic folk music.

RAGNAROK, cannot be compared or classified with many modern contemporaries, offering a range of styles that maintain your attention. Driving Heavy Metal riffs, thrashing Black Metal with howling vocals arranged around melodic passages or entire tracks (River of Life).

You will find “Of Ages” to contains tracks from the bands three demos “Völuspá”, “Ragnarok” and “Beloved of the Raven God”, together with bonus tracks featured on their albums “To Mend the Oaken Heart” and “Domgeorn” and unreleased material including the original version of the cult classic “Legion of Death” from 1987, all re-mastered for this release.



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| 1. Sunset Over Middle Earth (intro) / Across the Sea to Niflheim [1991] | 06:11 |
| 2. Legion of Death [1991] | 04:49 |
| 3. Thunderhammer [1991] | 03:57 |
| 4. Samhain [1995] | 05:54 |
| 5. Remembrance of Innocence [1991] | 03:36 |
| 6. Pertemhru [1991] | 03:26 |
| 7. Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi [1994] | 05:54 |
| 8. Sons of Odin [1995] | 06:14 |
| 9. Vampyra (Spectral Maiden) [1991] | 06:55 |
| 10. Legion of Death [1987] | 05:18 |
| 11. River of Life [1992] | 02:21 |
| 12. Ride of the Valkyries / Of Gods and Norns (outro) [1991] | 11:08 |
| 13. Heart of Steel [1999] | 04:50 |

Total: 70:33

Additional Release Notes

All music by RAGNAROK. All lyrics by Deörþ.

Except: *Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi* - Carl Orff [1895-1982] (Gema/Schott & Co. Ltd)
Heart of Steel - Joey DeMaio (Warner Chappell Music Ltd)

All artworks and design by Deörþ. Additional layout by Aurora Australis.

RY:FXMH

History

The Twilight of the Gods: the end of an age and the dawn of a new era. Probably the most powerful and colourful tale of ancient Germanic mythology, and so it's no great wonder that the name has been taken by a whole host of Pagan/Black Metal bands from afar afield as Norway, Spain and Brazil, to name but a few. And yet, there has existed in England a band playing under the RAGNAROK moniker since 1988 which, though the constant plague of line-up changes and the resultant bouts of inactivity these have caused kept them obscured from most of the Metal world for many years, are now recognised world-wide as one of the most original and diverse acts in the Extreme Metal genre. "Of Ages" is an album which delves back into the swirling mists of time to give an insight into the history and musical development of this much acclaimed, and highly influential, band.

Originally formed under the moniker 'NASTY' in 1987 by Deörþ (bass/vocals) and Paul Trotter (guitar), the band immediately began to display an originality and extremity well ahead of its time. The only surviving recording from this time is of the track "Legion of Death", and, as you'll notice, this tape has not borne well the passage of time. Recorded on what was little more than a glorified karaoke machine, with a cheap drum machine and a keyboard which was basic even by 1987 standards, what it lacked in production quality it certainly made up for with its originality (Remember that, at this time, BATHORY had only just released their "Under the Sign of the Black Mark" album and were still a full year away from their first foray into 'Viking Metal' with "Blood, Fire, Death"! Even in its most recent, if less 'Black', incarnation on the band's "Domgeorn" CD in 1999, this track still received tremendous praise from the world press and fans alike.

Shortly after this recording, Paul left the band to join Thrash Metallers, HOLOSADE, and, in early 1988, was replaced in the now named RAGNAROK by Morgoth. A short while later Cernunnos joined on drums and, over the next few years (with definitely the most stable line-up the band has ever had) the RAGNAROK notched up a very respectable number of live shows around Northern England prior to recording their first professionally recorded demo, "Ragnarok", in April 1991. The tape contained four tracks, - a re-recording of the, by this time, RAGNAROK 'anthem', "Legion of Death", "Thunderhammer", and two tracks which truly show the already developing musical diversity of the band's material, "Vampyra (Spectral Maiden)" and the folk inspired "Remembrance of Innocence". Aside from a handful of tapes sent out as promos to record companies or sold at live shows, very few of these were ever produced, - likewise with their second demo, "Völuspá", recorded in October of the same year. This second offering contained three tracks plus an intro and outro: - "Sunset Over Middle-Earth (intro)", "Across the Sea to Niflheim", the band's one and only ever venture into Egyptology "Pertemhru", which was actually a re-written version of a NASTY song from 1987 titled "Don't Laugh at the Dead", the epic "Ride of the Valkyries" and the outro "Of Gods and Norns". In many respects, particularly as far as live shows and line-up were concerned, 1991 was truly a golden year for the RAGNAROK but, as the year drew to a close, musical differences were starting to cause rifts between the band members and, in the early months of 1992, both Morgoth and Cernunnos left to pursue different musical directions. - Morgoth (aka Martin Richardson) appeared with NWoBHM band BLITZKRIEG on their "Mists of Avalon" CD in 1998.



Beloved of the Raven God
Self-released, 1995

For a little while, Deörþ continued with the band as a solo project; writing new material and concentrating particularly on developing the more 'folky' aspects of the RAGNAROK sound until, in the Autumn of 1992, female guitarist Moon joined the band, though it was to be another two years of auditioning other musicians, all of whom, for one reason or another, proved unsuitable, that the RAGNAROK, in a final act of desperation, decided to utilise the services of a session second guitarist, Graham Bowman, and a drum machine to begin work on their third demo, the cassette album "Beloved of the Raven God". Containing nine tracks and having a total running time of over 46 minutes, this was, after many delays, finally put out in the Summer of 1995... and the rest is history! This cassette was so well received by the underground scene and the world press that it led to the band being signed to the legendary NEAT METAL label early in 1996. (Their debut CD, "To Mend the Oaken Heart" being the first Extreme Metal release on the label since the VENOM albums in the early 80's).





To Mend the Oaken Heart

Neat Metal, 1997



Domgeorn

Eldethorn, 1999

The band continued to be plagued with line-up problems,- Stenfält (guitar) and Senrith (keyboards) joined the band late in 1995, and Moon left to be replaced by Ashrath just prior to the recording of their first CD, "To Mend the Oaken Heart" (released in 1997). The subsequent departure of both Senrith and Ashrath shortly after this album's release meant that the band was once again reduced to just two members, and again had to rely heavily upon session musicians for the recording of their "Domgeorn" album, released on the NEAT METAL sub-label, ELDETHORN, in 1999.

All seemed well for the band – two CD albums released, each receiving worldwide acclaim, and a third album, "Prida", well underway in the studio, which was promising to be the band's greatest and most ambitious work to date – an epic monument to Heathen Warrior Metal! – when, out of the blue, in the early months of 2001, with ne'er hint nor warning, NEAT METAL sold up and folded. The band spent many months trying to recover the parts for the "Prida" album from the NEAT METAL vaults, but to no avail, and as the months passed to years, so the legacy that was RAGNAROK was lost to the mists of ages...

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