



AMORPHIS, a death metal band from Helsinki. Esa and Jani, ex-members of VIOLENT SOLUTION found the band in autumn '90. Line-up is Tomi (voc./gtr.), Esa (gtr.), Oppu (bs) and Jani (dr.). At the beginning Tomi (ex-ABHORRENCE) was only a singer, but when ABHORRENCE split up, he started to play guitar too. Esa answered these questions.

At first, we should talk about your debut demo, "Dismant of Soul". Are you satisfied with sounds? At least I don't really go arse over elbow when I listen to the guitar sound?

Esa: "We're not satisfied with the sounds, neither are we satisfied with that demo in general. We blew up something in the studio and that's the reason for the great sounds."

Could you describe these songs on that demo?  
Esa: "Well, musically they're pretty good in my opinion, but..."

What are the lyrics like? Are they Satanic, dealing with death in general or perhaps socially conscious?

Esa: "The lyrics on the demo are mainly about death. Nowadays lyrics deal more with life, and early middle ages."

Well, what's this trend like in your case? Would you recognize death metal as a trend?

Esa: "It seems to be a trend, but I don't give a shit about it anymore. Metalion of Slayer mag. said that real death metal period is over. The real death metal bands have come from the years '85-'88 and today's trend people can't admire these. Everyone just wants to play more brutal than the others. Let's take this for example: how many band was playing the same kind of stuff as CELTIC FROST in '84, or as HELLHAMMER played earlier? There are some pretty fuckin' great bands today who can create something original, though."

How about gigs, how many have you played? Have you planned playing abroad, Sweden perhaps?

Esa: "We've played a good ten gigs all over Finland. Later we'll probably go for a tour to Europe and to States. I can't tell any further details about that."



Are you the new ABHORRENCE?

Esa: "No, even though many people think so. Let's say it one more time: ABHORRENCE is dead, the only thing that we have to do with it is Tomi."

How often do you rehearse? Are there any particular covers you play?

Esa: "Nowadays we rehearse a couple of times per week. We've played one BENEDICTION song as a cover, but not anymore I think. A VENOM cover would be cool."

Why do you think that the most famous bands in Finland come from Turku?

Esa: "I don't know. XYSMA is the Finnish hope in this business, thanx."

Are there any other good bands in Helsinki apart from AMORPHIS?

Esa: "NUXVOMICA, SATANIC EVIL and CORPORAL PUNISHMENT."

Has anyone offered you this so famous ep deal?  
Esa: "Well, yes."

Can we talk about a "Finnish death metal scene" yet? Or does it need to grow up?

Esa: "That doesn't exist."

I think that here in Europe there are more original death metal bands than in the States. Do you agree?

Esa: "Yes."

What about your hobbies apart from the band?

Esa: "I am very much into sports, as we all are. In our free time we all play football and of course drink some alcohol every once in a while."

What do you think about these Finnish black metal bands, such as UNHOLY, IMPALED NAZARENE etc.?

Esa: "UNHOLY? I haven't heard them. IMPALED NAZARENE made a positive impression for me in Oulu. Their demo is brutal. I recommend to everyone and wish good luck to them in the future."

How much do you read 'zines? What do you think about these interviews?

Esa: "'Zines are a good part of underground. I read 'zines every once in a while. It's nice to answer interviews."

Which are the bands that have influenced your music?

Esa: "CELTIC FROST, CANDLEMASS, TROUBLE, NIHILIST, SLAYER, PARADISE LOST..."

Will you change your style if someone finds out a new cool style?

Esa: "We'll change our style only if we manage to create something ourselves."

What do you think about Dead's suicide?

Esa: "A sad thing. I hope he's happy wherever he is now."

What about the future plans from now on?

Esa: "The vinyl will come out before christmas, I hope."

Well, what about your upcoming lp for Osmose prod.? How did you get the contract and what is it like?

Esa: "The record won't come out through Osmose prod., but Relapse/Nuclear Blast America. The future releases we will do for the same label."



What do you think about these Finnish bands like CONVULSE and SENTENCED? Do they need their deals or is Thrash rec. becoming like Seraphic Decay?

Esa: "Nice guys. I hope Thrash rec. will never be like Seraphic "rip-off" Decay."

And the last greetings.

Esa: "Greetings to everyone. Demo isn't available anymore. If somebody wants to ask about that record, then write to Relapse/Nuclear Blast America rec. Thanks to you Sami for this questions and good luck for you 'zine. Hellspawn rules." (I translated Esa's answers from Finnish to English. I hope his message came across./Jari)

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DARKIFIED: "Dark" demo '91

First I thought that this would be really dark black metal, but no, I'm surprised. This is fast death metal with good sounds, not bad at all, but not so good that I would like this. I hate the vocalist, he's a typical death metal singer. Of the tracks I like most the one called "The forgotten city". Nowadays this kind of music could get a contract. This was done without bassist, but it sounds quite good nevertheless. This isn't for sale anymore as it's sold out, maybe this says something. Address: Jocke Göthberg, Stengårdsv. 13, 61400 Söderköping, Sweden.

MARDUK: "Fuck Me Jesus" demo '91

All right, now we have a pure fast black metal band, not in the vein of BLASPHEMY but better. On this demo there's a very original intro, not any synthesizer music...there's someone shouting "Fuck me Jesus", but it's impossible. Who believes in Jesus? I like vocals very much, they're aggressive! DARKIFIED's drummer plays also in this band, how interesting. There are three tracks and intro/outro on this tape. I've to say that this is really good. Ask this from: Jocke Göthberg, Stengårdsv. 13, 61400 Söderköping, Sweden

Sami Hanhela