

## **NORDVARGR/DRAKH - The Betrayal of Light - CD - tUMULt - 2007**

review by: Bastiaan de Vries / Maelstrom 2007

ende/10

The sadness is hesitant; it's not yet ready to come out and wash across the grey matter. It is still growing, it is still waiting for the day the darkness stays the longest. From time to time it slithers its way through the dirt and through the rotting leaves, but it is weak and it then disappears again without having any substantial effect.

But it knows. It can smell the tears and the worries and the loneliness that is bubbling and swirling like a maelstrom. It will eat the sadness, and stretch it out in its stomach. It grows, it grows, and then it explodes in great waves across us. We are pained. We are not hopeful. The betrayal of light.

We wake up cocooned. We are together, millions of us, but we cannot see, we cannot speak, we cannot hear, we cannot taste, we can only sense the sadness as it slithers past us and through us. We are connected through that force, we are fueled by it and we are depended on it. We are enclosed, we are included. Because the sadness is true, we together are true. The sadness with us is what remains. It pulsates, so we pulsate. It retches, so we retch. It howls, so we howl. We are truly together.

We have become the vessel. We are touched by the sadness and we vibrate and the sounds we emit are clean and strong and beautiful. We glide because it allows us to glide. We move across bunkers with swirling red lights and loud alarms. We move through abandoned flats filled with religious bodies in despair. We move underneath it all and feed off the days that darkness stays the longest. We whiz and we whirl, we throb and we spike. We screech white noise when the emotion becomes too strong. We are truly full.

The sadness has become wet. It has reached the deep and it will undergo a transfiguration. It will have two (ambiguous) faces; it will have a thousand faces, all of which will look distorted from any perceivable angle. It will sing and dance before us, and we will not hear and we will not see. We are blind to the sadness, and blind to the metamorphosis. We will be exalted and we will not recognize it. Our bodies will deteriorate and change to reflect our emotion (anatomy). We will turn inside out and the darkness will itch at the edges. It is truly dark now and we are truly lost.

We finally react. We are half-dead and ready for the end but we are hopeful. Our actions betray us as the light has betrayed us. Our actions are the opposite of what we intend to do. We think alive and we act dead. We are infernal. (ende/10)

PS: Having Nordvargr and Darkh on a disk together is always a special occasion, even more so this time because it is released by the wonderful tUMULt, the label that likes the guitar and adores the heavy. I urge you to buy this release because it truly brings the latter.