

## K. MEIZTER: Tetraphobia (OECD 117)

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K. Meizter is mostly known for being one half of Beyond Sensory Experience. In 2006 he released two albums under his own name, one of which was released on the cult music label HORUS Cyclic Daemon, which was called 'Travelling Light'. The music of K. Meizter can be best described as BSE but with less upfront percussion, and also incorporating philosophic ideas. And this is no different in his latest work, 'Tetraphobia', which literally means the fear of number 4. This is most common in East-Asian countries, kind of what we have with our fear the number 13.

The first song 'The Process' starts right away with a great and deep melody and rhythms. Given the title of the song, it seems like it is inspired by "The Process Church of the Final Judgment", which is derived from Scientology. The infamous Skinny Puppy album from '96 'The Process' also dealt with that cult. Anyway, it's K. Meizter's time to shine, so let's move on. The second track, 'Protoscience', sounds very much like a BSE song, with its rhythms and deep sounds. Still, the song has that special K. Meizter touch that makes the song just a tad different. 'Samarkand' uses deep and dark sounds that also can be found on later BSE albums. It sounds like deep space in medieval times, a very dark song. The album's title track 'Tetraphobia' is up now and we should expect the worst to come. Actually, it starts with some lighter melodies. When the song progresses, deep and dark layers of drones come in to create a vast landscape of dark images. This is also a somewhat melancholic song which seems like the zenith of the album. The next song 'The Golden Mean' continues with the melancholic ambience. It's very dark and brooding, a perfect song to contemplate your ideas. 'Retroduction' is a fantastic little song! It uses some short synth lines in a progressive rhythm, which works wonders. It's too bad it's the shortest song on the album, just over two minutes. 'K-Shaped' uses very dark sounds to speak to the inner psyche. Here and there some short piano keys are used for the introvert emotions. 'Projections' start with some sounds that really sound like it came from a projector. A couple of slow and heavy drums are added later. 'Synkemina' uses gothic-like piano keys to sadden up the sound even more. In-between there are some short epic-like soundscape bursts, which feel as a kind of catharsis. The album ends with 'Introspection', which starts with some sounds like it came from a horror movie. Very creepy whisper-like sounds and dark drones. Various sounds and subtle manipulations are going on to give it a nice subliminal effect.

What is on offer here is an amazing album of introvert sounds and deep, multilayered meanings. All tracks fit nicely together and the order of the tracks is put together with excellence. Where BSE uses a lot of percussion, this one is for the most time devoid of noticeable rhythms. 'Tetraphobia' uses lots of deep drones and interesting sounds design to get its message across. For ambient connoisseurs this is a given, own it NOW!

Grade: 9/10

*Fabian*

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