

Today, I'll be reviewing 'The Downward Spiral' by Nine Inch Nails. It is highly respected in the metal community, because of its frequently recurring motifs, but unless such ideas are part of a fugue, repeating bits of music really isn't that complicated. In fact it can make things easier if you're running out of material. I'm not saying the album isn't good, I'm just saying band leader Trent Reznor isn't as talented as Bach. Believe me when I say that if all classical composers did was repeat things in different places, they wouldn't be nearly as admired, just as me writing about pizza over and over again, doesn't make me Shakespeare. That sounds extreme, but really it IS the same logic. As in 'Wow, that playwright talked about beef pies FIVE times? He's a genius!' (Though to be fair, writing about pies in an Elizabethan war scene, would be hard to pull off). Not only that, the musician really isn't good at bending the strings on his guitar. It sounds like he needs massive Arnold Schwarzenegger muscles on his fingers to do so. God knows what gauge strings he must be using. Just use lighter ones and turn the volume up. Your guitar sounds like you're trying to kill it.

Apparently the album was made when the musician was suffering from depression and addiction. The article I read implied that was a good thing in that it made the music more 'real' or whatever, but people who have no motivation and are out of their minds do not write good music. It wouldn't really work, would it? How does staying in bed all day whilst thinking your friends are out to get you make you a productive artist? Drugs can make you very aggressive, and again, how would that help? Would it make your band members more willing to practice with you for hours and hours? No. It wouldn't. So, NIN are lazy, deluded and repulsive to others. Great! If only all workers were like that. I wish my doctor was a psychopath who couldn't be bothered to work. The same article compliments the album's range of loud and quiet volumes. Again, playing at different levels doesn't make you a genius. The ability actually comes naturally to most toddlers.

One lyric goes 'You can have it all, my empire of dirt. I will let you down, I will make you hurt.' Again, imagine if your doctor said that to you. Or imagine if it was your exhausted psychiatrist who laid in bed as he spoke to you, not the other way round. That would suggest he finds it very stressful dealing with you, and to be fair, such situations can happen. It makes you wonder why Johnny Cash covered the same song, late in his life. Is that how he wanted to be remembered? Saying those words would be bad enough, but him SINGING the words suggests a particularly manipulative personality. By that I mean, if someone sang they were sad to you, would you REALLY believe them? Or it's like this time I saw a criminal singing a sad song in the hope of getting his sentence reduced. Did anyone take him seriously? Of course not.

In conclusion, lyrics such as 'Nothing can stop me now, because I don't care', don't make any sense. 'Nothing can START me now' would be better, as explained. At first, I was actually impressed with some of the drum soloing on the album, as it seemed to use some very creative rhythms. Then when I discovered it was leader Trent who performed such parts, I quickly came to the conclusion he was simply playing out of time. The lyric 'Don't you tell me how I feel, you don't know how I feel', is completely untrue. He goes on about, or at very least implies how he feels from the album's start to finish. Personally I think NIN's 'Pretty Hate Machine' is better, but TDS is very decent. Finally, to make an analogy, mentioning beef pies is easy,

making a proper story about them with protagonists, villains, and action/sadness/joy, less so. 9/10. Bye!