Black Sabbath by Black Sabbath… The original heavy metal record. The genre soon turned out to be rather popular, didn't it? But that's not all; the title track was also the first doom metal song. It abused the devil's interval repeatedly for the first time in all of commercial music in fact; a big no-no at the time, even for the experimental Beatles. (Imagine the pop legends going goth. Simply wouldn't happen, right?) Alright, doom metal never became that popular, but muddy sounding grunge did, though. No Black Sabbath, no grunge. Yes, without Tony Iommi's filthy downtuned riffs, who knows how music would have turned out in the future? It's possible classic rock would have kept repeating ideas for years, if not decades. I do like the minor pentatonic and blues scale, just not that much.

Despite the album totally saving the day in 1970, guess what rating it got on Allmusic.com?…. 4.5 out of 5! Black Sabbath completely revitalised music! What more do you have to do to get 5 stars?! Ok, ok, ok. Maybe the music whilst innovative to put it mildly, isn't very good. Errr… No…. According to Rollingstone.com, BS's debut is the fifth best heavy metal album of all time. It's the fifth best metal album of ALL TIME, it invented at least two new genres and that wasn't good enough?? Clearly to get the perfect score, you need to invent at least three styles. Actually, the band pioneered thrash metal five years later with their 'Symptom of the Universe'. If only they recorded it sooner. :(

Hang on… The intro to the first song… It starts with the sound of rain and church bells. It's surely the first ambient/noise metal song ever recorded, as well! Anything else? BS might well have invented the English language as far I'm concerned, they were on fire. Speaking of language, how many bands prior to the group can claim they wrote songs about the devil? Certainly not the Beatles, again. However, it's a common fallacy that Sabbath mainly write about Satan, they actually rarely do. 'The Wizard', for example is about drugs. (I think). It seems the band aren't so different to the Liverpool foursome after all. They should team up and write a genre-crossing super hit. The Black Beatles, maybe? Or Beatle Sabbath.

To sum up, you're not a true fan of HM if you don't know this album. You need to buy it, listen to it every day and sometimes even give it a brief, lizard-like lick. (That's just how it works, don't ask why). True fanatics may want to surgically insert it into their stomach, but that's for the real hardcore. Don't worry about that. Doom metal fans however, need to take things further as the genre is relatively obscure and harder to find. (Apart from here, obviously). Admirers need all the material they can get their hands on and so have to eat a copy every 24 hours. Again, that's just how it works. What score do I give the album? It has to get a good 4.5/5! Joking of course. 9/10. Still joking, 10/10. There we go.

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