

'I paid good money for this album, why do you have to be so mean to my eardrums?' That is what many listeners will be thinking, when experiencing Unholy's 'The Second Ring of Power'. It's a valid point, extreme dissonance is almost non-stop in this music. Harsh chord progressions are nothing unusual in doom metal, but Unholy are avant-garde doom metal. That means this band don't care one bit about being mainstream, so they can be as demented as they like. Are there any nice moments in this LP? None whatsoever, don't let titles such as 'Dreamside' fool you. Are there any interesting moments? Yes! Everything from classical chord progressions, atonality, and odd time signatures are thrown in. This is done with much sophistication. It's still torture, though, don't forget that.

Well, I say sophistication, the last song on the album, 'Serious Personality Disturbance and Deep Anxiety' is.... Well, it's shit. There's being creative, and then there's alienating your audience, with random sounds. I presume from the title alone, this piece is meant to be scary, but it comes across more as idea upon idea thrown at each other. It's not really music. I would rather listen to a dying, crippled man playing the bongos. Oh wait, that's what this is. In part, anyway. In Unholy's defence however, there isn't really much else to criticise. This band's genre isn't always associated with impressive musicianship, in the ways that power metal and thrash metal bands are. However, here you get some really expressive, cold hearted guitar playing, with an unsettling lack of vibrato. It's not flashy, but it is very atmospheric.

Their lyrical content is good, as well. Here is a well known DM song by Black Sabbath. It goes 'Is it the end, my friend? Satan's coming 'round the bend... No, no, please nooooo!' Silly, right? In contrast, here is what you can expect to find in 'TSRoP'... 'loosen souls dimension, for sorcerer exhaustion brings ecstasy!' What the hell do those words convey?? Makes you think, right? And what about the album title, itself? I don't even know what THAT means. The cover art offers no clues, in fact I can't come close to making out what it's supposed to be. It looks like a blue and white splodge of paint, on a black background. Maybe it's supposed to be left open to interpretation. Is it what evil looks like under a magnifying glass? Could be.

To sum up, Unholy come up with some unique stuff, although maybe this is because no one else wants to sound like them. The reality that this band has now broken up, could suggest that not even they do. What rating do I give this project? For innovation: 10/10. No question. For enjoyability:.... Hmm.... 1/10? Well, that's what most people would say. I on the other hand, would say possibly 5/10. Finally, for obscurity, I give this album 10/10, as no one knows about it. However, as that isn't or shouldn't be a way to judge music, I will combine my first two scores, to give.... 7.5/10!