

In two of my music reviews, I've simply listed the track listings of albums and made poems out of them. However, I've never analysed what the poems mean, so let's do that now. First up is the 'The Voice of the Cult' tracklisting by Chastain...

The voice of the cult, live hard. Chains of love, share yourself with me. Fortune teller, child of evermore, soldiers of the flame, evil for evil, take me home.

Now here's my interpretation...

The voice of the cult, live hard? I think that means the message of the cult should be very dramatic, possibly to attract attention and gain new members. Pretty straightforward so far. There are at least metaphorical chains in all cults, but chains of love? No cult I know of is truly sentimental. Seemingly sentimental maybe, but not genuinely. Maybe the chains of love are phoney in this case, too? It's impossible to know for sure who is saying the poem. Is it the leader or a member? That complicates things, but you could assume it's a cult member as the chains of love most likely share themselves with followers. Ever heard of a loved up cult leader? Exactly. But again, he could SAY he is a mushy leader who likes being in chains to appear equal. I don't know. Fortune teller, I'm assuming an everlasting child, soldiers carrying flamethrowers, people who trade evilness for other forms of evil take me home? I know what fortune tellers are, but everlasting children? Maybe the cult members are brainwashed into thinking at least some children last forever. Probably to up the interest of the group. Flamethrower soldiers imply the cult is a military one, and the evilness is consistent with most if not all cults. Take me home could be a metaphor. Maybe the cult members FEEL at home with all the things mentioned. Whatever the case, a fascinating subject for a song, I think.

Next up is 'Through the Ashes of Empires' by Machine Head...

Imperium, bite the bullet. Left unfinished elegy in the presence of my enemies. Days turn blue to gray. Vim seasons wither, all falls down. Wipe the tears, descend the shades of night.

Absolute power has to do something that's unpleasant? I wonder what that could be. I guess I'm reminded of Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk (two super powerful people) organising a cage fight. Is that still going to happen? That was weird. An unfinished poem for my enemies? Is that a passive aggressive way at getting back at either Mark or Elon? By that I mean the sender didn't even bother to do a good job with the writing! Payback. I suppose the the CEOs just mentioned could fight using words too, they're very intelligent people. Days turning blue to gray is fairly straightforward at describing sadness - the two don't REALLY want to fight each other. Similarly, vim seasons withering hints at depression. But ALL falls down? That suggests both entrepreneurs are going to lose, which is an interesting twist. Wipe the tears because they've both lost, and get ready for blackness. Poem sorted. It should be noted that TtAoE was released before the two people organised a fight, but that only makes the album more impressive and ahead of its time.

Now to analyse the poem completely created by an online random word generator...

Trial major, miner ground. Departure acid, spy drown. Fix article projection

salad. Lot conviction laboratory shout. Adoption acceptable.

A court case for the military man where miners work? Maybe because the elite major thought he could get away with conning poor workers? A pattern that happens throughout history. Deep stuff so far. The acid leaves as the spy drowns? The bad vibes leave as the spy dies? Bad vibes for the major, anyway. The spy working against the offender was probably assassinated. A pattern seen throughout history. Fix the article projection salad?? You sometimes get word salad in articles. Bad articles, anyway. Which I guess is why you need to fix them. The article is about projection, possibly whiteboard projectors. The major wanted the bad whiteboard projector article to be fixed so he appears in charge and competent? Maybe he's not just in charge of the army, but the education system too. Just saying schools often have projectors and whiteboards. An item sold at an auction that gets arrested as a laboratory screams? That's completely random. Which is why an adoption in this case is acceptable. But an adoption of something else whilst the random idea gets thrown in the bin. Wow, tough one. Next!

I couldn't make a decent poem out of Van Halen's debut album, but with the final three songs, you do get 'Little dreamer ice cream man on fire'. Horrifying.

Ok, here comes a real poem... Let's see if so called 'intellectual' band Dream Theater can come up with a better one with their album track listing of 'Images and Words'... (New songs are shown in capital letters).

Pull me under Another day, Take the time. Surrounded Metropolis part 1: the miracle and the sleeper. Under a glass moon Wait for sleep. Learning to live.

Right! 'Take the time to pull me under another day!' This guy is loving life! The surrounded city (I'm assuming where the person lives) is miraculous, yet people aren't so full of energy there that they find getting to sleep difficult. It really is the perfect city, no wonder the guy is so happy. Why is the city surrounded? Probably because everyone nearby is trying to get in, I know I would! The people there sleep under a glass moon? The moon is glass and therefore fragile? What's that mean? I think the moon is feeling insecure because the city is so perfect. Sleep is mentioned a second time, I'm guessing to really point out just how easy it is to get rest there, despite all the fun things there are to do. Learning to live? I bet you are.

Right! I'm not sure if that poem was any better than the first two, but I do think it is better than the completely random one. I tried making a poem out of Cannibal Corpse songs, but really it was just a list of ways people die. I was expecting the Blink 182 track listing to be really silly and entertaining, but it didn't make any sense and was actually worse than random poem. A depressing thought for the punk band. Similarly the Iron Maiden albums I checked out were nonsensical. On the plus side, if you're a poet and you can convincingly pair at least two words together, you can hang your head up high and say 'I can do better than the track listing of Blink 182!' Start small. Bye!