

Today, I'll be reviewing 'Beneath the Remains' by Sepultura. Sepultura means 'burial grave'. Why are these people so fixated on things that are underground? Is mud really that exciting for them? Because whilst there are some cool things underground, it is mostly mud, and you wouldn't even be able to see it! There is so much more variety and life above ground, why not celebrate that? Because it would be too happy for such a heavy band? Personally I'd rather be happy over slowly suffocating. Fine you wouldn't, you're too 'cool'. How about 'Raining Skulls' for a name, that's above ground at least? Because it can't rain skulls? (Ever seen bone symbols on a weather program and a serious looking presenter?) Well what can you do beneath remains? Nothing, you'd be stuck, so again, how's writing about that make sense? Yes, you can write about simply being stuck, but that's pretty much it. Could you write about climbing free? Yeah, good luck with that, you'd quite literally have to eat your way to freedom to have any chance of survival. (Actually that is an interesting idea for a song. Dark or funny? You decide). And fine, graves ARE pretty metal and cool things to sing about I suppose, I'm just saying mud isn't. My suggestion? Call the band the not so different 'Skeleton' and forget about the mud, clean it off, it doesn't need to be there.

So yeah, 'Muddy Skeleton' isn't a good name for a metal band. To me mud brings to mind toddlers playing in the dirt, the word 'muddy' even sounds like one a toddler would use. Calling a band 'Muddy Skellington' isn't a million miles away. I'm just saying toddlers often say the word 'skeleton' as skellington'. Well my brother did. That's interesting as I remember watching 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' as a child and the film had a character called Jack Skellington. Was my sibling influenced by the film? If so, maybe he could have grown up thinking skeletons could wear clothes and sing, like in the film. I'll have to ask him. If he did... Well, he's never going to hear the end of it. No, you know what, I've just realised a plane could drop a load of skulls, it doesn't have to literally rain skulls, so there you go, it can at least appear to rain skulls. Why? To freak out the enemy, I'd be scared at very least. Are those dropping the bones suggesting that my life would be in danger? In a war? Double danger? That's even worse. Then you realise you can't be in double danger, or at least die twice. What a strange thing to see and definitely a subject that can occupy a soldier for long periods. It would also take his mind off more important matters, weakening his ability to fight and making him more prone to write contemplative poetry instead.

It's interesting the band's next album was called 'Arise'. Clearly my previous writing had some truth behind it and the band agreed with such thoughts. It has a track in it called 'Under Siege'. Oh for God's sake! Then I realised in this case the word 'under' doesn't mean 'under ground' so the band's new, above ground direction appears to be all good and fine. Another song in the album is simply called 'murder', which is also fine. In contrast, how the flip do you murder someone underground? You know what gets to me? BtR is supposed to be one of the band's best albums! Ok, 'murder' wasn't on BtR, but how are you going to survive underground, as hinted at earlier? Some may say I'm just looking for material by repeating things and that would be true, I've been stuck for some time. Like in mud! You know what? I apologise for saying a poor guy trying to eat his way back to land could be funny. That's clearly not the case. Similarly it's not funny if someone dies getting stuck in an aquarium and trying to drink all the water so he could climb out, and similarly again, how did happen in the first place? What in God's name were you doing to get in that

situation?? Swimming with fish in a public place? Do you want friends or even strangers to know that's how you passed away? Yes fish don't judge you, but there's no need to take such risks. When no one's looking, just pat one on the head.

Oh if only you could arise out of the water. See, there's nothing wrong at all with a metal band writing about positive subjects. Getting trapped in an aquarium in the first place is still pretty dark, I'm just saying some stories should have happy endings. Imagine having to eat your way to safety. Even if by some miracle you survived the situation, how are you going to explain how it happened? You have an extreme need to feel mud all over your body in total darkness? As you can't breathe? As worms climb all over you? You may have kept your life after breaking free, but you'll lose a lot of friends, too as your behaviour isn't so much human, more the behaviour of a badger, and it's not what people are used to. Yes badgers are harmless, but you can't be friends with them like you can people, can you? If you do see someone talking to a badger, don't trust him at all. Anyway, do I like the album? It's ok I guess, the speed picking is certainly very impressive. I'm imagining the guitarist's hands vibrating super fast as he plays, he could probably use his vibrating limb to dig far underground, who knows, maybe that's how the band got stuck beneath the remains and then decided to write a song about it. That's mere speculation, though. Let's give the album a reasonable 8/10.