

All fans of classic metal love Judas Priest, just like all fans of white wine like champagne. You've never seen any connoisseur not like the drink, have you? Thus you can say JP are similar to it. Of course you wouldn't want to start a conversation with the apparently random comparison, but after you've got to know your new friend, be sure to give an explanation and he'll think you're a right character. Or freak. Probably freak. Or maybe an alcoholic? Who knows?

Excellent stuff, that's the review introduction over, let's get to business. I don't know if it's true but I heard the guitarist of this band (not sure if it was one or both of them) hasn't ever had a guitar lesson. Pretty impressive. I've also heard he 'doesn't know much about any scales'. That may be true, but some clarification is desperately needed, there. Someone not in the know learning that 'fact' may assume the guitarist in question just fumbles about on his instrument, purely by ear most of the time. There is NO WAY that can be true. Especially not in improvised solo sections. If that was the case, that would make the musician a literal genius, no exaggeration. And if THAT'S true, how come much of later JP is so cheesy and (relatively) boring, and let's face it, dumb? Wouldn't make sense, would it. I'm sure what the guitarist meant - if he did indeed make such a claim - was he doesn't know about loads and loads of advanced scales in all keys. Big difference.

Maybe I'm being cynical, though. Some of the chord progressions in Hell Bent for Leather certainly aren't based on any typical scales, so maybe they came about through ear? (Ok, you could say they're based on the chromatic scale, but that contains all notes, so literally everyone can learn that one). However, the guitarist's treatment of the 'all inclusive scale' is highly musical and melodic and whilst it's not a complete one off, it's certainly unusual for him. You can safely assume he knows what he's doing with his minors, minor pentatonics, etc. because he uses them all the time. Here's another crazy comparison for you: Imagine the singer not knowing any words, yet somehow performing with fluent English. That would be far more impressive than his extensive vocal range. Even the drummer not understanding what a rhythm is would be odd. (Though I have heard that in punk music).

'Dissident Aggressor' is on another album, but let's mention it here for the sake of being rebellious. Apparently Slayer covered it 'because it's their heaviest song' or something like that. Mmm, no I don't think so. There are some JP albums where all songs on them are heavier than DA. I'm sure Slayer's Kerry King does know his Priest, but let's face it, he seemed like a bit of an idiot with that comment, and his not so impressive guitar solo on the cover only makes things worse. If someone told me KK didn't know any scales, I'd believe THAT. Ok, you've now learnt a lot about Killing Machine and you can impress friends and colleagues alike with cool sounding words like 'chromatic' and 'dissident'. (I had to get a dictionary for that last one). Thank me later. Bye! (9/10)