

How do I review an hour-long drum solo with shouting on top of it? Well, with 'In Their Darkened Shrines' by Nile, I'll have a go. Ok, I've exaggerated a little, of course there are guitars and bass, too, along with some keys and brass instruments, but the drums really do stand out as crazy. Maybe even unique. Who knows? Not me, as I don't listen to TOO much death metal, but I have heard a reasonable amount, I guess. Why haven't I listened to much of the genre? Get ready, because this will be one of the most logical things I'll ever say: I don't like it that much. I don't dislike it, I'm kind of indifferent. But are Nile different to what I've experienced in more ways than one? Let's find out...

Let's analyse the lyrics. Obviously I can't make them out, no one could, but I can try. Here's my interpretation of one lyric: 'Ignore the soft drink, it can damage self-control.' That's actually pretty deep. You should ignore soft drinks as they are bad for you, and they are addictive, too. Huh. This could be fun, let's try another... 'Their shadows are really boring.' That one doesn't make as much sense. Boring words over rampant music? Hm. Oh well, next we have 'amazed you have broken legs.' I'd like to say that was deep too, but we both know it wasn't. I'm not going to feel too bad though, as if you ever watch 'misheard lyrics' videos on Youtube, you'll know they're never any better. I hate to sound arrogant, but my first one is perhaps the wisest I've ever seen. Next up: 'I can't see you, Emperor Sandy.' Who is/was Emperor Sandy? Apparently he never existed, which I guess is why I can't see him. THAT was deep.

Let's move on to the guitars: It seems Nile are going for another world first - The soloing may well have the slowest vibrato I've ever heard. Why could that be? What is about ancient Egyptian culture that brought slow bends to mind for the musicians? (Because Nile REALLY like to sing about Egypt. They're obsessed with the place. They don't seem to have a complete understanding of its history though, as you'd think the people back then would have at least ONE good day. Apparently not). Anyway, why the slow vibrato? Were people laid-back, back then? Again, a huge no, it seems. Then again, the playing sounds more creepy than anything else. Were Egyptians creepy, then? Well, let's have a look at some REAL Nile lyrics on the internet. Right off the bat, 'I Whisper in the Ear of the Dead' goes 'Whisper in the ear of the dead, and my words of power are heard in the underworld. The dead, they are compelled to obey me'. Sounds pretty creepy to me.

What rating do I give this album? I'll tell you what I can't give it: A 'D' grade. Why? Because if I did, that would be D Nile. In other words, I'd be lying to myself. Get it? Ohhhhhhhhh! Cheese; but in a good way. So what DO I give it? I don't know. I mean it's one of the very few death metal albums I enjoy. That has to be a good thing, right? On the other hand, and now that I think of it, if things were really so bad thousands of years ago, why did anyone bother doing anything? You'd expect everyone to just lie in bed all day, not build wonders of the world. Ok sure, those 'wonders' were nothing more than huge 3D triangles, (who cares? They're just shapes that even toddlers can draw, who care's how big they are?), but still, effort DID go into them. Long story short: 8.5/10!