

Reviewing 'Reise, Reise' by Rammstein will be a bit tricky, as I don't have a flippin' clue what the singer is going on about. (Despite my German name. :( ) Should I use online translator or just Google the English version of the lyrics? Simon, you genius! Let's do that. Let's find the lyrics for track 'Mein Teil', I know that's a bit dodgy. They go 'Today I will meet a gentleman. He likes me so much, he could eat me up. Soft parts and even hard ones are on the menu'. Urgh. I can see why they might feel a bit awkward about singing that kind of stuff in British when they play over here. They're clearly embarrassed. (Nope, on second thoughts their stage shows make the theme of the songs pretty clear. I'd be at least a little awkward, though. Especially as I see my psychiatrist once a month. Not an easy subject to discuss). The lyrics of the track don't really get any better, either. I think Rammstein are Germany's most successful band of all time, but surely their stuff doesn't get played on the radio when the citizens are stuck in traffic, or when people are picking their kids up from school? As in 'Dad, it's that cannibal song, again. Is it eating people normal? It sounds disgusting to me, but I heard the soon to be retiring dinner lady singing it, when giving me evils and serving dinner...'

Let's check out another song. I like track 'Dalai Lama'. The lyrics are something like 'Come here, stay here, we'll look after you. Come here, we are your brothers.' My understanding is the mountains are singing those words to a plane that eventually crashes into them. That's... different. Though when I was a child, I remember lyrics like 'I'm blue, da be dee da ba di', etc., etc. I'm not saying one's better than other, but the latter IS more child friendly, even though it doesn't really make sense to me, at least. Then again, the former also makes little sense. Obviously mountains can't speak English OR German and neither could the jumbo jets of the time at least, but the words are poetic, I think. Is 'Blue badumbi bi-dum dum' or whatever poetic? I guess I'm reminded of The Jabberwocky, but at least that work doesn't just go 'Jabberwocky, jab-jab, jabber' over and over and nothing else. Call me pretentious for criticising a subject I know nothing about, but come on. That's bad poetry. Don't defend it by calling it minimalism, you and I both know it's a load of ass.

I wonder how track 'Amerika' goes down in America. As the lyrics are in English, it's quite clearly against the country. It would be like 'Hello, America! How are you all feeling???' and them getting absolutely massive cheers. Next thing you know, the band goes on a long rant about how corrupt you are. Then the band would be like 'Still feeling good, friends???' No? Maybe the eating people song will cheer you up?... No?... Plain murder and no eating???... No?... Jeez, though crowd...' Track 'Moskau' (or Moscow) is anti Russian! (It's harder to say what they have against the country, as they don't say what's wrong with it in clear language. It's like someone swearing at you in another tongue. You know you should be offended, but you don't know why, making things worse). Why don't the band chill out a bit? I guess you could say they're a bit 'punk' by antagonising their fans, but why is it more socially acceptable to insult people through music? Is me singing 'Germany, Germany, you can go and suck me' ok? I guess it's complicated.

Let's give the band one more try. Surely track 'Ohne Dich' (Without You) is a nice and harmless love song. (Unless it has a weird double meaning about eating people). The lyrics go 'Without you, I cannot be, without you. With you, I am alone too (Without you). Without you, I count the hours without you. With you, the seconds stand still, they aren't worth it'. I have to be honest, I'm scratching my head a bit. Is it

a love song or not??? Still though, it CAN'T be about eating people. Surely it can't?? Ok, NOW I'll give them one last try: Track 'Amour' (Love) HAS to be about love! Here are some of the lyrics 'Love sucks tightly on your lips and digs tunnels through your ribs.' I have to be honest, that COULD be about eating people. I guess that will be fine if the band don't appear on commercial radio, but if they do, again, the parents of the children listening to it, have some serious explaining to do.

In conclusion, it's a very good album! I'm not sure 'wacky' is the right word to describe it, but it would make the perfect gift. (For Jeffrey Dahmer). Whether he'd deserve it, is a subject for another article. There will be some that say he's a monster, there will be some who say he's still human. I on the other hand want to stay the hell away from THAT topic. I'm not saying I'd be offensive, or course not, but is it really the sort of thing John Cleese would discuss, for example? I mean, what would be going through his mind if he did?? Is it the band's best album? Wow... Tough question. I'd say all of their releases are roughly the same quality. Apart from 'Rosenrot', that is, which translates into 'Rose Red'. (Another name that could suggest cannibalism. Dear God! It's getting old!) Anyway, I think... 9/10! Bye!