Nicknames

by

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You'd presume all nicknames people give themselves would be good, right? Sometimes however, it's really not clear. Take for example the heavy metal singer Tim 'Ripper' Owens. Sounds pretty badass, right? But what does he rip? Bags? Cereal boxes? It could be anything. Maybe he does rip bags and that was the coolest thing about himself that he could think of. It would still be true though, unlike some other nicknames I can think of. 'Messiah' from black metal band, Mayhem, is flat out pretentious if not completely baffling. Who does he think he is? An admired Holy leader? Why the hell are his lyrics so morbid and evil then? Even five year olds know words such as 'violent torture, death has arrived, armageddon, terror and fright' would NEVER be in any kind of hymn. Moron. To be fair though, some black metal aliases are pretty profound. Singer 'Dead' is sadly now dead. Sure, everyone dies at some point, but he did make himself dead on purpose. Of course he SHOULDN'T have made himself dead, he should have checked into a local mental institution, where he could have entertained the other patients with his tortured voice and made them feel at home in a weird way. In my experience, such places have things such as steel drum lessons, so maybe he could have enjoyed them, being the musical man he was. He could have pioneered Jamaican black metal. Who knows?

'Necro Butcher' again from Mayhem, sounds pretty cool as well. But what does 'necro' mean? Relating to corpses and death, right? (Thanks, Google). But aren't all butchers necro butchers? What butcher works with live animals? Hopefully none. Really he should call himself 'Butcher' for the sake of snappiness. But who cares, anyway? It's just an ordinary profession, just like accountancy or banking is, just a bit bloodier. In the complete opposite direction of 'self-promotion' is Alice Cooper. Why would any man want to give himself a woman's name? Imagine a group LGBTQ friends hoping to see a Bjork-like artist, and then seeing the band members dressed as zombies, cutting their heads of with (fake) guillotines. A ruined day. Now I'll move onto the only nickname I can think of that is completely non-descriptive: Joe Satriani's 'Satch'. What's that supposed to mean? Nothing. Ok to be fair, it kind of sounds like his surname, but if he wants a name like that, what's wrong with 'Tree Army'? As in Joe Tree Army Satriani. Not only does it have a nice ring to it, it conjurers up Lord of the Rings, the most epic story ever told. If you're reading this, Joe, please feel free to use that name for yourself. I know you like music that is somewhat spacey, why not go magical as well? Magic Johnson springs to mind, but he's not a musician. He should be, though.

Now I'll move onto a more mysterious nickname: John 5. What does he have five of? Five fingers? If so, altogether or on each hand? If the latter, what was he thinking? It's like calling someone Benny Two Eyes, or Peter One Nose. To be clear though, I really don't know what his name means. I can only speculate and arguably badly.

Here's the most fitting nickname I can think of at this point: 'Fast' Eddie Clarke from Motorhead. You know what? He was fast! Not exactly shred metal fast, but certainly pretty speedy. That's the kind of thing I want. It's the kind of name you don't have to pull your hair out over. In a perfect world, all aliases would be like that. For example Yngwie 'Tasteless' Malmsteen, or Joe 'Copy Cat' Stump. What's my favourite name someone has given themselves? Syd 'Schizo' Barrett. Ok, he never called himself that, but he should have done. End the stigma and all that. Of course I don't really think there is a stigma as you can probably tell, but end the stigma anyway. If you know what I mean. If not, don't worry about it, because neither do I. And it's ok to admit that. I will end this monologue with the weirdest logical nickname: Paul 'Gill' Bert. Because as we all know Paul 'Gill' Bert (Sometimes written as Paul Gilbert) is part fish. Exactly, weird yet makes sense, doesn't it? Ok! Bye!