

'Paranoid' by Black Sabbath is said to be the best BS (BS? On second thoughts, let's not use the abbreviation) album ever. It is with great shame I say I don't know that much BLACK SABBATH stuff, in the way I do Metallica for example, because a metalhead not knowing their Metallica is like an astronomer not knowing what the sun is - a bit odd. However, it seems to me that this is the last Sabbath album with truly interesting bass playing on it. After this release, the bassist seems to have adopted the 'ah screw it, let's just copy the guitars' attitude. Though as explained, I may be wrong. (Yes, I clearly have the screw it attitude too but at least I don't claim it's a form of artistic expression. That's something people like Geezer Butler do say. He just takes a more minimalist and less pretentious approach later on in his career, right?? Or MAYBE he's just lazy).

This album may be great for the most part, but opening number 'War Pigs' genuinely has one of the worst endings I've ever heard. It speeds up and gets higher in pitch, bringing to mind some kind of alien space ship taking off. Let me tell you this: Paranoid has NOTHING to do with aliens at any point, not even in the song 'Planet Caravan'. At least I don't think that's based on UFOs, etc. I have better things to do than go all the way over to the internet to find out. Ohhhh. There goes the screw it philosophy from me again. Good. Anyway I'm pretty sure PC is just about caravans, the band probably used the word 'planet' because 'caravan' on its own would be dumb.

For whatever reason, the track 'Paranoid' is a little quieter than the others on the release I own. For one of the most successful heavy metal albums of all time, you'd expect at least a very basic level of attention to go into the production. Apparently not. On a more positive note, apparently Paranoid was a filler song that was written in less than an hour. It's impressive the way the 'worst' song is a classic. Why could that be? Maybe the band had a problem with putting too much thought into their other material. For example they might have went 'Caravan's a stupid name for a song, right? How do we improve it?' (Hours pass) 'Of course! Planet Caravan!' Would you believe track 'Hand of Doom' is my favourite on the LP, and it's perhaps the most obscure? Isn't that crazy? It's also the only song that doesn't play properly on my CD player much of the time, which is annoying.

Don't be fooled by the closing track's title 'Fairies Wear Boots'. It has nothing to do with fairies, you can tell by the lyric 'smoking and tripping is all that you do'. Either the band are COMPLETELY clueless about the subject of mythology, or they're being a little adventurous with their lyric/title writings. Oh yes, the band were off their faces on drugs, weren't they? That could be an explanation. Of course it's easy to say NOW, but singer Ozzy Osbourne claims the song is about thugs, and the title is supposed to mock them. HOWEVER, if someone said Ozzy believed in the things, absolutely no one would be shocked. I know for a fact he's said some pretty wacky stuff, even when sober which is troubling. I believe he even tried to find the Loch Ness monster.

One last thing, I think Van Halen once considered calling their band 'Rat Salad'. (After Paranoid's track of the same name). If they did, their live shows sure would be different. Instead of going 'We're Van Haleeeeeen! :O' and getting a whole mass of cheers, they'd go 'We're Rat Salaaad! :S' and get a horrified silence. Even the most popular musicians are well known for getting things thrown at them on stage, who

knows what more controversial ones would have to put with. Maybe grenades. One super last thing: What's the score?? Well, as it's one of the best metal albums of all time... I mean... 10/10... Yep, even though the ending of War Pigs is total balls. Is the outro as bad as the one in Dream Theater's 'Pull Me Under'? Maybe, the competition is pretty stiff. Bye!