

Today I'll be discussing 'In Battle There is no Law', by Bolt Thrower. First of all, yes there are laws in battle. Quite a few in fact. Three words: The Geneva Convention. I mean there's not doing your research and there's complete cluelessness. Fair enough, BT are somewhat obsessed with Warhammer, and in the game, who knows, maybe there are no laws? Maybe that's what the band were alluding to. If so, why not call the album 'In Warhammer There is no Law'? Having read that title back to myself, my first thoughts were 'Who cares?', so maybe that's why the band weren't so clear. Maybe just drop the whole title and start again. Perhaps a better name for the album would be 'The Production Sounds Like Ass.' Now that I think of it, I've never heard of a Warhammer nuke, suggesting there are laws in that, too. As I believe wars are literally constant in the WH world, I for one would support the use of nukes. Just to get everything over with. Don't take that as fact though, as I've never played the game. But come on, surely a nuke on a very small board would be overkill. Like getting a tank to run over an ant. Not clever, just pathetic.

HOWEVER, those who are a little more open minded won't be put off by the excessive bass, and the fact the guy who was in charge of the treble was shot in the face and disposed of. If you think that sounds illegal, guns are used in battle and in battle there is no law. :(Much black metal music is notoriously raw, and you know what? That only adds to its charm. Over the years I've realised that, which is why I don't hate this album, even if I did at first. In fact I literally used to think it was the worst album I'd ever heard. Worse than 'Spice World' by The Spice Girls. Even the name is annoying. Nowadays I think 'In Battle...' is just a bit dull. That's not a significant improvement, yes, yes, yes, especially when coming from me, but on the plus side, all other BT albums are better. Then again, if I say I'm better at spelling now, than when I was six, that's not so impressive. (Though my surname is hard to spell - I've seen grown men spell it Weederman :O). Furthermore, the guitar solos here aren't so good. That's not such an issue as they don't go on and on, but do you know what does? The drumming. He's about as good as the singer and that's no compliment. Only joking he's not really that bad. That guy has no talent whatsoever. Shouting like a dog is not a skill, so hurry up and get your rabies shot. Seriously, you don't have long.

You may have noticed I've been very harsh, there. I could have been more thoughtful and reasonable, but that would mean examining the album more in depth and playing it through again. Similarly, I don't want to hit my head with a hammer in semiquaver rhythms over and over. If there was some more syncopation, that would at least be something. A more entertaining brain injury, you could say but I'd still get sectioned. Actually I'm listening to Deftones as I'm typing this. IBTINL was torture. Whoops, I've done it again. But I was joking again. It wasn't really torture, just dull. Again. Now let's talk about the album cover. I do apologise earlier for implying Bolt Thrower were idiots for not understanding basic concepts. The artwork seems to depict an otherworldly battle where Earth rules and maybe even WH rules don't apply. Either that, or the warriors ARE of this planet and are afflicted with some very serious skin diseases. So severe, their skin seems to be falling off their faces. If I was in their situation, the last thing that would be on my mind is fair play in battles. Rather, I'd be praying for immediate medical attention or at least some pain killers.

To sum up, if you're one of those people who thinks heavy metal in general sounds like noise, you're going to think this album is a complete turd. I guess if the

production was more polished, it would be polishing a turd. But famously, you can't do that. Maybe the band members knew that deep down and didn't bother. It was either that, or making a world-famous proverb meaningless. A dickish thing to do. I'm listening to the album again, now, and I guess it does have something about it. Again, the solos aren't great, and if you thought that was bad enough, they all sound the same. It's like being forced to eat cabbage over and over again, and I HATE cabbage. On the plus side, this album is a fusion of death metal and grindcore. How exciting right? Two different genres! Well not really, as they both sound the same. As far as I'm aware, the drumming in grindcore is just faster. Woohoo. I think GC words are more political than in DM, but of course, you can't hear them. Not a terrible album, but not good.

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