

Rage Against the Machine's self titled debut album - a perfect combination of metal riffs and rap singing with a powerful peace loving, pro-environment message. Of course peace is a good thing as is the preservation of natural beauty, but these guys take things way too far. Did you know this album comes in a tacky cardboard case, just so the world isn't further infected with lethal plastic? What do the band think they're achieving, exactly? Do they take pride in the fact that eventually their release will decompose and won't bang into various sea creatures once dumped in their home? Well first of all, I WANT my CD collection, and secondly if my album was oil based and somehow made it into the sea, it would do **** all to whatever it collides with, other than cause mild annoyance. Things wouldn't exactly get trapped in it.

'But what if a fish ate your plastic CD case when your boat capsized and you dropped your portable CD player?' That's a good question, it would probably cause the creature a fair degree of discomfort. BUT WE EAT FISH ANYWAY! If RATM cares about animal rights so much, they might be better off saying how terrible it is to eat meat, rather than pissing in the wind to such extreme levels. Ok, ok, both singer Zach De La Rocha and guitarist Tom Morello ARE vegetarians, but they're not preachy about that fact in their music at least. Well, not in this album anyway. Whether they eat fish as some veggies do, I don't know. If they did, it would be funny that they showed them so much care before consuming them, but that would be something, I suppose.

Think I'm going to talk about the actual music, yet? Nope, I'm still upset about the packaging. Here's another thought: Where does cardboard come from? That's right, trees! And where does plastic come from? Things that were already dead millions of years ago. What material is really the most ethical to make use of? It's the latter, isn't it? Trees may not have the most exciting lives, but they do have lives soaking in the sun all day, often for hundreds and sometimes even thousands of years. Alright, rant over. Now let's talk about the music.

Mr. Rocha sure does like repeating himself, I can tell you that much. Check out an example of his lyrics in the fittingly named 'Bombtrack': 'Burn, burn, yes ya gonna burn'. Lots of burns, right? Well times that whole sentence by eight. Then you get another 'burn' to finish the phrase. For the sake of variety you soon hear 'Ugh. Hey yo, it's just another bomb track, urrgh, check it out.' THEN you get another 8 burn, burn, yes ya gonna burns, before ending with an extra climactic 'burn!' And don't go thinking those kinds of words are the exception, because that's far from the case. Look at the lyrics in 'Killing In The Name'. It goes 'And now you do what they told ya' 11 times, followed by 'But now you do what they told ya', followed by 'Well now you do what they told ya'. My word.

... And what are the axe riffs like? Classic rock style! (But beefed up a bit. Metalised, if you will). Classic rock/metal with rap? Are these people crazy? Well maybe Morello is, with his interesting guitar with 'arm the homeless' written on it, but I'm fairly sure that was a joke. But then again, it's easy to say that when criticised. The drumming has a great groove to it, and the bass playing is stylish and funky. As are the songs. As are the songs. As are the songs. As are the songs. As are the songs. As are the songs. As are the songs. That's what the songs are. Ugh!

10/10 (For the music).