

Quo Vadis Passage In Time

8/10

Canada 2001



The title of this CD describes EXACTLY what it contains. This is a re-release of QUO VADIS' demo tape, with a re-recorded song ("Vital Signs"), a new song ("As One"), a remix ("The Hunted") a couple of live tracks (Where I was there for!), the songs contained on their (Cassette only, I believe) demo tape, and a video for "Dysgenics". If you don't know what QUO VADIS sounds like, the best way to describe is: Take SUFFOCATION type riffing and mix it up with Swedish melodies. Two versions of "Vital Signs" is somewhat redundant, because nothing is really changed within the song, except that the new version doesn't have the Classical Music inspired intro, has clearer recording sounds and the band is more tight. The new song is more in the vein of their material on "Day Into Night", being very melodic and catchy, yet brutal and heavy, with a wall of double bass drumming keeping the pace of the song. The remix of "Hunter/Killer" is pretty good, although pointless, because the main structure of the song has remained somewhat intact. The intro and the interludes have modified riffs, but that's really it. It's still interesting though. The two live tracks show to the world that the band is tight as can be, and they do not screw up! It's one thing to be able to play technical music alone and not make mistakes, and it's another to play it with a group of people. QUO VADIS proved that they are amongst the best musicians in Metal today, and are also a VERY energetic band live. Then we come to the four songs that were released on the band's demo tape. The sound quality is lacking compared to the tracks preceding it. It sounds much less refined, more primitive. The songwriting is also rawer, opting more for feeling and spontaneity in the songs, making them more brutal and heavier, but less sophisticated than the ones contained on the following (or preceding) albums. The singing is similar, with the two singers sounding less unique, because on "Forever" and "Day Into Night", Arie and Bart both have a distinct singing/growling style, which did not get fully developed at this stage. Never the less, both of them do their job well, although in some cases the delivery sounds a bit off and in a rare case ("Sons Of Greed"), a bit weak. Nevertheless, this is a very good album. QUO VADIS had a great deal of potential from the moment they had started, and this album proves it. (Online February 10, 2003)

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