

Hails to you Draugr!

As you, me and our readers know, this is not the first time that we have spoken with each other. However, this time I would like to focus on more specific matters, one of them being that you have a fulllength coming out pretty soon by the name of "Galdr". Would you mind telling us what influenced you when you first started writing the material for "Galdr"?

Greetings! Yes, I have the self titled full length coming out soon, although there is no certain release date. The album was influenced by simply the time and atmosphere in which it was written. The songs are fairly old form this album, like always, I was doing alot of forest walking and sleeping in the woods. The album is about nordic magic, heritage, amongst other subjects, the album is an experience of such things, although my performance wasn't as great as I wished it was during the recording, the album has kept it's nostalgic and magic value to me.

When it comes "Nordic Magic" what is the first thing that springs to mind and do you in actuality "practice" some sort of nature magic/shamanism?

Yes, naturally. You can say I practice "Galdr", and I experience these spirit touching practices. I do very personal practices that distort my spirit and also mend it enabling me to see different realms of conciousness and nature on a regular basis. I base much of the music and artwork off of these experiences. I practice ancient norse shamanism, I experiment with sub-conscious power, Sleep, Rune Magic, Elemental Magic (which goes along side rune magic), And many others that I won't mention. I think it's important for someone who wishes to gain knowledge and power to remove himself from the sickening blights of modern society and exist as much as possible without it. Am I saying you shouldn't use the computer or drive a car? No, there is a difference between bad progression (like multiculturalism being openly more accepted) and good progression (Like technological advances and preservation of natural habitat).

While of course they both have good and bad side-effects, such as multiculturalism may influence some to become even more active within their own heritage, as they start to feel a loss of ancestral individualism, and with technology, making people ever the more lazy and reliant on machines to do the labor that once made them strong, character-building people.

Although I think that we have slightly touched the subject in your previous answer I am still curious as to what the word "heritage" means to you and how does that influence you and Galdr?

It's important for one to celebrate and have pride in their own heritage, the practices of their people influence them in ways they otherwise might not realise, The way they look, act, etc. What some influences in the world would like today is that nobody has a heritage identity, that way nobody feels "left out" or with hurt feelings, given that some cultures are less "rich" than others, in intelligence, advances and general "culture" . This would also make the whole mass of people easier to control. Some would say divide and conquer would be the way, but in this case, if there was only a minority of advanced cultures in the world, then a government would have an easier

time herding people. Heritage is ever so important in your magic practices as well, in many cases, only someone from a culture could understand that culture's ritual practices, obviously all of these practices come from ancient times, and it's important for someone to study these, if they wish to become a more powerful being, and if they wish to become closer to the very essence that makes them exist. Indulging other culture's practices and symbolism would be a waste of time, because either they were not designed for you, or because they simply don't work/are pointless.

Now that we have that covered I would like to go back to asking about your upcoming album again. Looking back at the recording of "Galdr" do you feel that you have succeeded in putting out something that you are 100 % satisfied with or are there things that you think could have turned out better?

There are definitely things that could have turned out better, the performance was good, but it wasn't perfect, it is still a great album, but I have recorded this particular album several times, and by this time I was bored with it in a sense. I've heard some other complaints like "I can hear the counting on the hihat", which I agree with, but there's really nothing to do about it now, and I don't think it should be as "annoying" as it seems. If you are looking for a 100% perfect and "fresh" album, wait for the second album, which I have already recorded.

So you have already recorded your second album? That is quite fast I have to say. When did the idea and inspiration for the second album come into play and are there any other details that you give about it?

The second album is influenced by mainly the same things as the first, the forest, the stars, nordic magic, etc. Its simply more interesting in it's essence, the songs are made for ritual listening. The title is "Ancient Lights From the Stars" some may understand such a title. The album is a travel through another realm, through the stars and through a forest that never ends. I don't know many details about the release of this album yet of course, but I know along with it's release will come many other big events. Unlike the first album, I believe the lyrics for this album may be published inside..

Speaking of releases, the label that has been given the honour to release your fulllength (not sure about the second album, maybe you can shed some light over that if possible) is none other than Darker than black records. How did you get in touch with them?

Yes, DTB is very efficient and professional as far as releasing albums goes, so that, plus their philosophy, was an obvious choice for me I thought. I sent them a promotional package with an early version of the self titled album and some papers, without even knowing if they were searching for bands (which I don't suggest anyone else does because they are not searching anymore), and they then sent me an e-mail saying they would like to release it. The second album will probably be released on this label.

I'm not too sure of how many people know about this or if its "officially known"

yet, but DTB is owned by a member from the German band Absurd that is a rather "controversial" band in many peoples eyes. Do you feel that this has had any effect on how people look at you and Galdr?

I'm sure it would make it harder for me to get a job in Germany? Or perhaps a review in a big-time metal zine. But I support what Absurd did and does today. They are elders of German black metal, and I, being German, respect that. If any bands are deemed "wrong" by association then that's the price they pay for being on Darker Than Black, a price I have no problem with.

Now, before we end this interview I thought that I might as well ask a question that most people would find "cliché", but who cares really? As everyone knows, Varg Vikernes released his long-awaited album "Belus" not long ago. I for one can hear hints of Burzum when listening to Galdr, but what I wanted to ask you is, have you had the chance to listen to the Belus album and what is your thoughts about it?

Hah! yes of course, it's the big news in black metal for the last few months. I have heard Belus, I think it's a good album, not as good as most other thing's from Burzum, but it was a good album to be the first "metal" album in what, over a decade? I liked it, and was very interested in track 4. The rest of the tracks are good too, like I said. I'm a bit confused as to why the proceeds will go to hatian earthquake victims? If they can't help themselves get back on their feet, then they can never help themselves, they will end up just like Africa, In my opinion. Who knows? Maybe it was just a rumor? I'm really not updated on that.

That was all that I had. Thank you for taking your time with this interview, is there anything that you would like to add, any last words etc.?

Thanks for the interview, always a pleasure! Odin med oss, Följ ljus i skogen!

Interview by Ulf, 5th of April 2010