

I will start with a tough question, read through! Where does the idea of pantera-like, metalish thrash music, which occasionally is interlanced with American hc/punk, and piquanted with a southern mood of Mod'in, come from? Why do you play American music in Israel?

Yotam: Good question! As far as I remember we had nothing to do in our hometown when we were kids, we enjoyed metal that had something strong to say, a kind of music that brings life to our boring routine and makes us move. My first influence at the age of 8 was **Slayer** (hardcore kid, sorry mom) and then came some other influences, mainly powerful metal riffs and heaviness I could find mostly in American metal bands. So why do we play American music in Israel? well, Mediterranean music isn't really our cup of tea, so our style is a combination of everything we like, Thrashy and groovy riffs with a touch of raw emotion and a shitload of "I want to break stuff" tunes.

Ashamed I must admit that the only names from Israel Metal Scene that I know are Melechesh and Orphaned Land. Your country has been a desert of metal music, hasn't it? Tell us what is Israeli music scene like; anything specyfic about Israeli style? Is Shreadhead already an abroad represtntative of Israeli Metal music?

Yotam: Actually, Israel has a really cool alternative music scene, including awesome metal, punk, hardcore and rock bands all over. The metal scene, although small, consists of lots of really cool bands and a very supportive crowd, and even if people around sometimes think otherwise, I still think that the metal crowd in Israel is one of the best, most intense and most enthusiastic crowd in the world! **Orphaned Land** and **Melechesh** are the big ones, but there are several professional bands around who toured the world with big acts and made international appearances and international success such as **BETZEFER, HAMMERCULT, THE FADING, FERIUM** and more. Nowadays more and more bands start to pop out of Israel against all odds, and make it to the international scene, performing around the world and bringing their music to others, which is really cool. As for **Shredhead**, we believe we're on the right track and we try to represent Israeli metal and introduce the Israeli metal scene to whoever we meet and even invite metal heads and bands to listen to Israeli metal and come here to perform.

Israel is, for sure, one of those places where artistic freedom, as well as heavy music, evoke cold, if not hostile, attitudes. What is the Israeli audience really like, are "heavy" musicians pushed into underground?; how significantly does your origin influence your music?

Yotam: Metal is really underground and not welcomed in most parts, you will not hear a heavy song in the radio and people will not understand why the hell you listen to noise with screams. If you listen to metal you'll probably be an outcast at school, and you'll look weird to others and people will call you a freak. Sometimes clubs won't let you play because you play that kind of music, you know, the usual. But fuck it, if you're true to what you love there's a moment that you just stop giving a shit about others, and you learn to pour all the frustration from your surroundings into writing some bad ass riffs and lyrics. And the crowd? I tell you man, sometimes it feels like a violent protest.

You come from the country which is dominated by religion. Why is death, not God, the justice for you?; why is death the hero of your album? Are you, at any rate, filled with love to the fellow man?

Yotam: Amazing question man! I think I can speak for the rest of the band as well when I say we're not religious at all. We respect religious people as long as they respect us, but god is not a part of our lives. Our last album **Death Is Righteous** speaks of a personal aspect of justice, therefore god is not the issue, but our human weaknesses are - and death is the only true law. The album is about the last few years of our lives, surviving

through lies, betrayals, violence, self confidence issues and more as a group and as individuals, and criticizing those kinds of behaviors by saying that when death comes, you did something in your life that made you deserve it, the best of men and the scum of the earth meet their end eventually no matter what.

I asked because *Death Is Righteous*, despite a lively music line, deals mostly with the topic of death. The first song , as well as the whole album, are not very positive. In the short *I Hate Myself*, you blatantly manifest your desire to die, and in *Walk with the Dead* you simply ask "am I dead yet?". Is nowadays reality so overwhelming that you have no desire to struggle any longer?

Yotam: Positive is a way you see stuff, and it all depends on what you choose to take from the lyrics and concept. The obvious thing to think is that we manifest our desire to die, but we wanted to touch the most ugly and hideous behavior and the weakness of human beings, to send a message that the first step to becoming a better person, is to understand you're a complete shit. No amount of positive thinking and disguise will bring you to that place, you have to accept what you are.

To be honest, I think you've taken a firm step to change your overall image since *Human Nature*. Don't get me wrong, but having listened to you latest album, I do know that it is not the young trashers in sneakers, but a band of infuriated men who I am dealing with. Is the change due to something specific thatt has happened during the four years of your absence? Anyway, why didn't you record for so long?

Yotam: *Human Nature* definitely has its place in our hearts, but it's exactly what you said, a bunch of young thrashers making a CD with full force. We we're 17-18 when we recorded *Human Nature* and that's why this album is so special for us, a raw and aggressive immature album that sounds like a few kids trying to destroy the world. *Death Is Righteous* came a few years later, we matured and became more confident in the shape and style we want for our music. This album grew with us and reeks of all we've been through the last few years, but it still transfers our energy and anger just in a lot of ways and different styles. We took our time between albums because we wanted to make sure we have a way to get it out to the world, and also to come up with the best music we could think of. We moved to Berlin, we signed with a label and a booking agency and only then released the album, and right after the release we went to tour Europe with **Vader** and **Hate**. Good things happen to those who wait I guess.

Are the two creatures a reflection of rat race (I meant money chase) contestants (*Devil Race*)? How should we interpret the cover?

Yotam: When we thought about the cover, we tried to imagine what happens if a man pours out all his problems and fears on to a canvas. We tried to draw a picture of how those shapeless demons called weaknesses look like. We gave this concept to two amazing artists, **Klone** and **Zero Cents** who are amazing Israeli graffiti artists and they took the concept to a whole new level, while spinning our album over and over and listening to the lyrics.

***Death Is Righteous* enabled you to spread your music wide; you gave concerts with Ektomorf, Vader, and Hate, which confirms your gained fame. Were both of those tours unforgettable?; what was the audience reaction?**

Yotam: Each tour we do is unforgettable, We get to travel places we've never been to, and get our music out of our country's borders. You meet crazy people, gain life experience and stories to tell for a lifetime. I really like the idea of giving people a good time and maybe make them forget about their lives for 40 minutes of pure energy. The reaction so far is really good and heart warming, people come to us after the shows and talk with us about how much fun they had and that is all I care about. We don't take it for granted,

when we started this band this is all we wanted to do - make music for people to enjoy it and travel worldwide and bring chaos to the stage, and we're very thankful that we get to do that.

You will soon visit Poland in companion of Overkill and Crowbar, and it is Shredhead and Desecrator who will be warming the crowd during the tournee. What does it take to join such a great trip?

Yotam: Dedication and hard work. If you were to ask the younger me I would have never believed my band will support these bands, but nothing comes easy, you have to work hard and prepare one hell of a show to somehow stand out next to these amazing performers.

Staying on the field of concerts, you absolutely have to reveal some details concerning your gigs in the fall. What you have prepared for Polish audience?

Yotam: After all the crazy stories we heard from the guys in **Vader** and **Hate** about the Polish crowd and all the awesome Polish people we met when we toured with them we can't wait to finally get there. When we go on stage it's not just playing our instruments, but we also bring out all of our energies in the best way we know how and going into a frenzy. We're going to bring all of our demons to the stage and give you one hell of a show with songs from our two albums and maybe even some new songs!

Finishing up, I must ask: what are the plans for the near future of Shreadhead team? Are there any plans or ideas for the new album yet?

Yotam: In the near future we're planning to tour as much as we can. We are also in the middle of writing a new album! we already wrote 8 songs and we have a lot of ideas for song structures, which I'm really stoked about. Its nothing like we did before, its not **Human Nature** and not **Death is Righteous**; it's something heavier, groovier, faster and more melodic than anything we've done before. It's the natural evolution of our anger management program.

Thanks for the interview! Whatever you wish to tell KvlT readers, please do.

Yotam: First of all thank you man for the support! I had a lot of fun answering this interview and I want to thank each and every one of you who will read the interview and invite you all to come to the shows, grab a beer with us, and check out our music