



It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that **Sepultura** put Brazil on the map in the metal scene. Such status of the band is already a recommendation of side projects created by its members (both present and past artists alike). In the case of **The Troops of Doom**, though, led by **Jairo "Tormentor" Guedz**, **Sepultura's** former guitarist, it's not just a mere hype. The music's strength lies in its power and heaviness balancing between death and thrash metal.

The longplay **Antichrist Reborn** is preceded by two EPs which give a good idea of what the listeners can expect from the full-length debut of **The Troops of Doom**. Just like their previous releases,

the Brazilian horde's newest material is phenomenal not just from the technical point of view, but at the same time filled with skilfully composed and still sinister melodies. To put it more simply – this album slays just as powerfully as it should.

Already the first track, **Dethroned Messiah**, is a perfect example of that – the band proves that they take no prisoners and their music is capable of taking a whole stadium by storm during a concert. The track begins with a short instrumental intro, but the following one, **Far From Your God**, already resembles a merciless strike with the noisy and almost cacophonous musical madness which it brings forth.

In addition, the release features shorter instrumental tracks which are interludes, such as **Grief**, and allow the album to slow down. Thanks to such variety, there's no place for monotony or repetitiveness. One of the best compositions of the whole release, **Pray Into the Abyss**, only confirms that. The march-like rhythm combined with partially spoken intro works perfectly and builds up an otherworldly, sinister atmosphere.

The album doesn't lose its signature punchy and aggressive sound even for a moment. It's something that adds genuine, almost raw power to their music and makes the whole soundscape so intriguing that it forces the listeners to go through the album once again.

One of such captivating parts is the first single, **Altar of Delusion** – it's both difficult to get out of your head and masterfully combining thrashy energy with death metal heaviness. Rushing guitars, devilishly fast and just as impressive drums and bass adding an energetic vibe to the whole song – an exceptionally great work.

The vocals are filled with rage, but at the same time comprehensible – the lyrics growled out by the frontman **Alex Kafer** (supported by guests vocalists on some of the tracks) can be understood in all their sinister splendour. **A Queda** ("The Fall"), sung entirely in Portuguese, is no exception here. Riffs in that track, looped to the point of being nearly hypnotic, made me listen to the song countless times, in addition making it very clear why it has been chosen as the second single from the album.

In addition to the thrashy **A Queda**, which mercilessly rushes forward, the album has much more to offer. **Antichrist Reborn** is synonymous with catchy and at the same time incredibly heavy **Far From Your God**, furiously marching rhythm of **Pray Into the Abyss**, energetic **Deserters from Paradise** – no fillers or mediocre tracks here.

The album is consistent and works perfectly as a whole. What is even more important, the artists contributing to **The Troops of Doom** prove that they approach their music professionally and with hell of an attitude to present both the fury of death metal and awe-inspiring mastery alike.

Such combination of technically outstanding death/thrash metal makes a truly striking impression and arouses curiosity about the future plans of **The Troops of Doom**. May the Antichrist be reborn again...

Rating: 9/10