

## Exmortem - Nihilistic Contentment Wicked World, 2005

7/10



Exmortem has always been Blasting Death Metal, and that hasn't changed with this album. Former Dimmu Borgir drummer Reno keeps it solid with the double-kicks greatly put to use here, but they're definitely not a band that needs to rely on constant blast beats to keep it heavy. "Nihilistic Contentment" is fairly typical of what you'd expect from Exmortem, which isn't a bad thing. While there isn't really anything exceptionally outstanding or new going on here there are a few change ups and technical riffs and flares thrown in along with some slower paced sections on some tracks. The drumming is pretty varied so that it's not always the

same thing repeated, but I can't really say the same for the song arrangements overall. The riffs are well crafted and everything flows as brutally as it should, but a lot of the songs sound so similar. Despite that though, they manage to keep me interested and stimulated enough to want to listen to it again, and their familiar brutality is inviting.

The album begins with the hostile opener "Flesh Havoc" and continues through to the final savagery of "Parasite Paradise", with the exception of track five "Swamp of Decadence", which is a sludgy little intro. I almost forgot I was listening to Exmortem for that 55 second intro, but was quickly reminded when it burst into "Symbols of Inhumanity". "Nihilistic Contentment" is a great Death Metal album, but I'd say if you're looking for something intensely amazing and unrepeated to be delivered you might want to look elsewhere. Don't get me wrong though; it's brutal, it's awesome, and it's fucking death metal. In no way do I find it to be a disappointment, it just doesn't strike me as being exceptionally inspired. I actually haven't been too familiar with Exmortem until recently. I've only heard a few tracks here and there over the past few years until I got this album, and I think "Nihilistic Contentment" fits better sometime before their 2002 release "Pestilence Empire"(which from what I remember, has that exceptional inspired brutality I'm talking about, rather than brutality for the sake of brutality. Ya know?)

So yeah, in conclusion; it's not exceptional or anything new from Exmortem or the genre of brutal death metal really, but if you're a fan of these guys and/or bands such as Deeds of Flesh you should find that "Nihilistic Contentment" is a worthy release. Ah, and I really like the way the CD is made to look like mini vinyl. Standout tracks: "Bitter Discipline", "Symbols Of Inhumanity".

**Sherrie Zemla**