

# Atoma



What happens when creativity is allowed to flow freely? And what happens when a dying race is marching towards its end? These are both questions that are awakened by Atoma and their musical thoughts. Hallowed had the pleasure to speak with Ehsan Kalantarpour to try and learn something about what happens in the music of Atoma and what adventures that happens in it.



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**A**toma's Ehsan and Siavosh (Bigonah) who has been friends since they were about five founded *Atoma* in 2011, but before that the comrades have played role playing games and they also started playing music together. During the musical journey towards *Atoma* several skilled musicians came and went and they also made an album under the *Slumber* moniker during this time before life took them in different directions which led to the end of slumber and the birth of *Atoma* in a sense.

The name *Atoma* has an unknown, or rather ambivalent origin. It is a name that is for you as a listener to give meaning explains Ehsan.

- If I was to tell you what it me-

ans it would all of a sudden become a brand and that is not what I want. I want that it should have its personal meaning for the one listening and the one who listens to the album will know what it means or at least make an own impression of what it means.

Ehsan explains that *Atoma* creates an atmosphere and a story while the listener is to give it all a meaning. The target is to accomplish a liberation from the music that we are mostly surrounded by, and from the limitations that this music often shows. It is to create music without limits and by that creating a galaxy alternatively a world where they can test ideas without keeping within a certain format, and where the creativity can flow freely.

- *Atoma* became to create this kingdom or galaxy or whatever you want to call it, where we set the limits, somewhere where we are free in difference from this so-

ciety where... I don't even know where to begin as I am so alienated from it and its mentality. *Atoma* has become our home, or at least the search for that home.

It is an escape from a reality that is not exactly to the liking of Ehsan, it is an escape from a society with so much wrong that Ehsan cannot hold in the negativity towards the same.

- It has its foundation in a big displeasure towards where we are going, about the whole of humanity, the civilisation, and I feel very small on the planet to change things and change those doomsday machineries that right now harvests the planet.

It also became for Ehsan to create a world he wanted to live in, a world he wanted to see, without limits, where we have a world without contradiction where we can meet out end with a proud posture as a proud people rather than beggars, merchants, and

thieves which is mostly how people of our world of today looks.

Ehsan tells me that he dislikes the world he lives in, in a fundamental way and if you have taken the time to look at the video for *Bermuda Riviera* you will see a little of what happens in this world in form of horrible things that has passed during the years. And the pain that we see or or believe we know of is a pain that Ehsan takes on himself, he just cannot turn his back and ignore all the injustice and madness we see in our world. And at the same time as people in this world suffers the lack of clean water or food, rich people waste money changing their appearance which is something disturbing Ehsan quite a bit it would seem,

- While a billion people starve the other billion wants to look like cheap copies of TV celebrities, I just can't understand.

But who does? the copies?

**A**toma seeks to make music that is more of an experience than just a simple form of entertainment, music controlled by emotion and is a journey through different emotions. Their music adheres to no formats since Ehsan sees that as wrong to seek to make music that is to fit within a certain format like for instance rock or a similar genre thinking. For *Atoma* it is not about the music is coherent through a stylistic genre coherence but rather is about the story and atmosphere as common denominator on the debut album "*Skylight*". The music on the other hand can be said to fit within several different genres and Ehsan explains that just one song can span maybe ten genres.

- It is because we have put this genre thinking aside and just taken to the melody, the atmosphere, then everything else becomes a bit secondary, a little more mea-

ningless.

But they do not make it completely without limitations, Ehsan explains that there is a fundamental feel that is conjoining for the album "*Skylight*" and also well be that for the upcoming music that *Atoma* will put out in the future.

The album has a space theme as the cover art bear witness to and it is about a pair of astronauts in their search for a new home. It is a story based on their own experiences and how *Atoma* becomes like a home for them, it is that story the astronauts' story is built upon. It is no linear story but rather one characterised by the astronauts' emotions rather than told in events and because of that it becomes something of your imagination being told to build the events and the story from the atmosphere and emotions that *Atoma* gives to you through the album.



<http://www.hallowed.se/english/music/reviews/2012/atoma-skylight.html>  
<http://www.atomaweb.com/>  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/AtomaWeb>  
<http://www.reverbnation.com/atoma>  
<http://www.lastfm.se/music/+noredirect/Atoma>

- I do not want to serve anything on a platter. It becomes more and more like that and if I am not allowed to take part in it be it music, movies or whatever, it doesn't work for me. Our imagination is powerful as well, when we can't use it it just becomes this passive reception of anything.

And imagination is something we have to use to get the maximum from the story told in this album. It is about the symbol we see on the cover of the album along with the astronauts and in the future Ehsan even hopes to tone back Atoma a but to mostly play on the symbol that we can see on the cover. Now this symbol might be unknown but the coming years will according to Ehsan be used to define this symbol.

- I want to know what it is and what this symbol stands for, it will be on my grave, I know deep inside what it stands for but to be able to really explain it it will take a while and much learning to define it through philosophy, music, thoughts, everything. It is this symbol that is the thing, that these astronauts find on the

cover. This symbol becomes something powerful.

This active part for the listener in the story is not completely usual when creating a conceptual album and Ehsan believes that it might be a bit hard to understand for some but at the same time it is the story he wants and that what he has done. So it is for you to use the atmosphere and musical journey through the emotional life through two astronauts that Atoma create to make a story that has a meaning for you.

**F**or Ehsan there is no favourite song on the album since it to him is just one long song that is cut into ten smaller parts but it all belongs together like a fifty minute long song.

- That is how we thought when writing the album, with the dynamics of it, it is the thinking of the bigger picture and the dynamics, not just for each songs but the entire album, that going up and down. It starts for instance as an explosion but more dark and raw before it slowly transforms into something lighter and calmer. This production of emotions that



happens from the beginning to the end is something very sought after by us.

And this is something they are taking on tour, something that Ehsan explains they are working on but there is nothing confirmed yet so he does not want to say anything before it is all confirmed. He also explains that there is often things that fall away which is why he doesn't want to say anything yet. But there are some shows before the autumn when the tour is thought to begin.

Then what happens? Following the tour, how does the future for Ehsan and Atoma look?


- Well, it can go in any direction, it mostly depends to the world around us, what it does as we suck up whatever happens and wants to recreate it, I am speaking of the suffering in the world, and that one as a musician take it upon oneself.

So, Atoma's future walks hand in hand with our world's and humanity's future and maybe it is better for Ehsan's health that it becomes a bit more positive as he says that he isn't feeling too good about taking upon himself

so many problems that humanity shows for. However, he also says that he cannot be that happy in his ignorance that so many people are, since he feels that he has to take these problems of the world and turn them into something beautiful.

- Because if I don't I will expire as a human being. So I have to take this, everything from a clip on youtube where people have lost their families to... it is so sick things one see that only depends on some fucking chasing of profits. And one takes this pain and it is the fundamental reason for me being a musician, and makes this pain into something beautiful which also explains this progression of the album from something dark because if it is doable in the music, then it will be doable in the reality, that is what I have to convince myself of.

Because if Ehsan cannot make anything beautiful of it he sees no hope for humanity, then we are a dying race and then he thinks that it is better to stand straight before the end and welcome it as proud beings rather than beggars or something equally bad, like



bankers or politicians. But even if it is negative as a whole and we are fed disinformation by the medias, Ehsan thinks that there are some positive signs and lifts the "Occupy Wall Street" thing as such an example. Even the struggles of the bank sector the latest years has also gotten many more to wake up and see that the banks are not so good as they might seem and according to Ehsan there are signs of something positive that might be coming.

- One sees that things are about to happen, a slow awakening but it is just that it happens so slow that one loses hope on the way all the time but I want to believe that something happens, that there is an awakening dawning.

**I**n the longer run when humanity perhaps stands straight in the face of extinction Ehsan and Siavosh will head for space in the hunt for a new home, maybe they will somewhere meet this mysterious burning symbol for instance in orbit of Saturn or maybe even further out. Anyway, a great adventure is awaiting these guys who goes by the name of *Atoma*, an adventure that can take them in any direction possible and with that I believe you have gotten to know a little about what goes on in the head of a guy called Ehsan who sings and plays the keyboards in *Atoma*. To get the latest information on everything *Atoma* you will have to check their website where you might

learn more about the coming tour and a lot more on *Atoma*. And with that Hallowed says thanks to Ehsan for taking his time to speak with us.