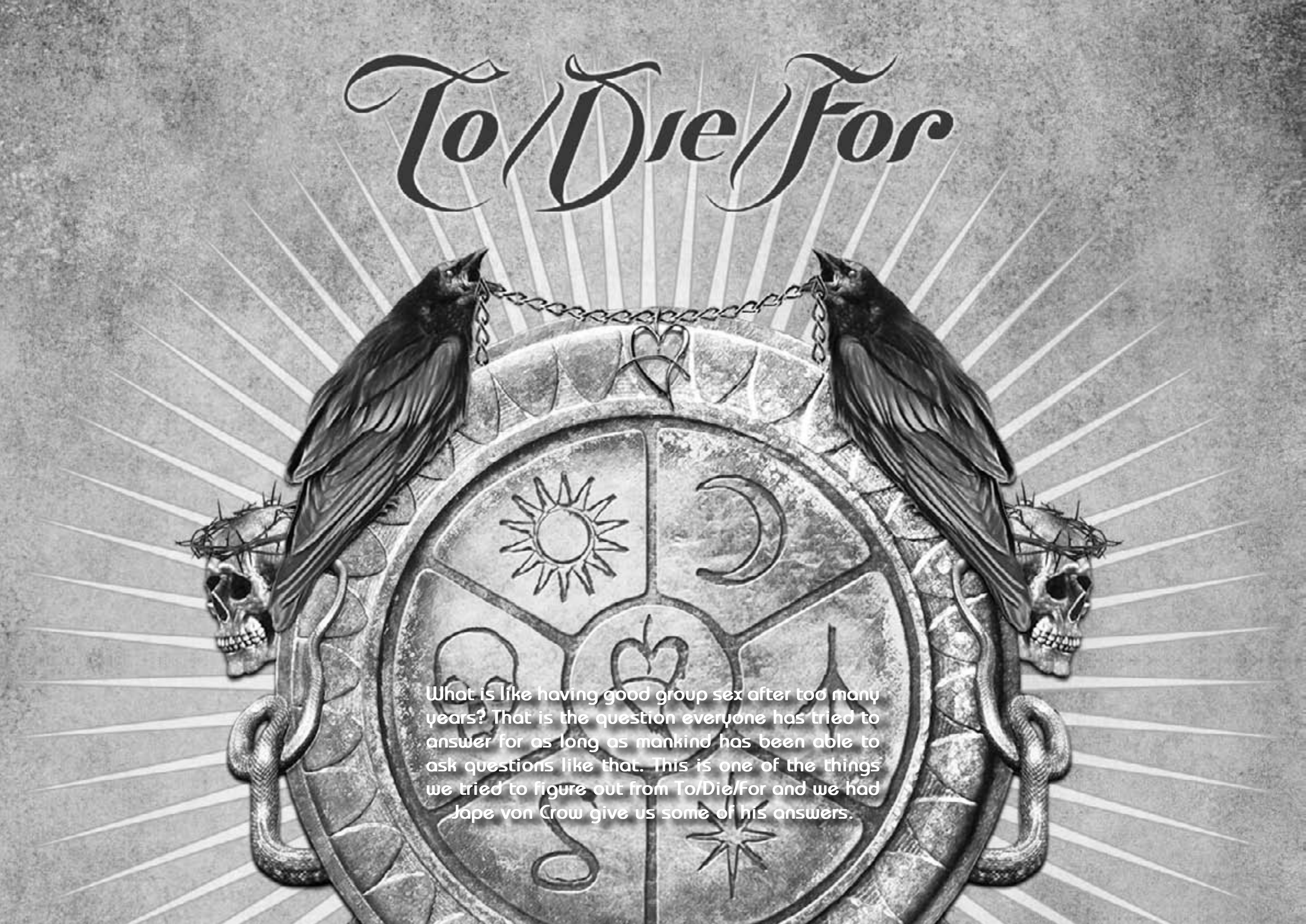


To/Die/For



What is like having good group sex after too many years? That is the question everyone has tried to answer for as long as mankind has been able to ask questions like that. This is one of the things we tried to figure out from To/Die/For and we had Jape von Crow give us some of his answers.



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Having just released their sixth album through Massacre Records *To/Die/For* (mostly shortened TDF hereafter) are back in the spotlight again after a six year absence. The question I came to think of first is how it feels to be back again after the long absence since the latest album.

- Well, this feels same like having a good group sex after too many years.

That is a reply that might make

one wonder what is actually going on at band rehearsal for those guys from Kouvola in Finland, that is also something that begs to question why they took such a long time releasing their new album.

- We kinda broke up. Personally I came to the end somehow, some kind of burn out and too deep depression. First I was thinking I NEVER do any kind of music anymore, but when a couple months went by I noticed that I am suffering without music. Mainly that break did only a good for us all. It was the time when we killed all

monsters inside of our hearts and souls, we kinda healed.

And so they did and recorded their sixth album on their own expense and released it themselves through some license deals until Massacre Records decided to give them some promotion for this album and make it available for us in Europe.

- Massacre saved us, what comes to Europe. We never worked with them before and we really hope we could continue with them, what comes to TDF's seventh album. So far everything went well with Massacre Re-

cords. Before Massacre we signed a few licence deals, but Massacre was something which made us happy, you know we had no Release for "Samsara" in Europe so.

But what about promotion? The reason for having a label is to get good distribution but also to get good promotion and to be seen, for that record labels are very good. From our perspective Massacre is very good at pushing for their artists but what about their perspective, are Massacre doing a good job Promoting *To/Die/For*?

- We signed a few licence deals here and there, and being honest,

only Massacre Records in Germany and Hydrant Music in Japan are doing well. I am sure, we'll kick some of the other labels out before seventh TDF album.

Samsara

"Samsara" represent the continuous circle of life and death, rebirth or something in that repeating circle of life. It is a hindu or buddhist thing that can also be found in other religions. That is what the word Samsara means to some but "Samsara" the album, what is it about? According to Jape it is a thing of purity, something where

they didn't bother about the radio shit mentality of today and all of these things. They even improvised an entire track in the ninth one called *Oblivion Vision* which is said to have been done under the influence of stuff which makes it pure. There is also purity because there is no fantasy shit in it this time according to Jape.

- Every word I sing is from our true life in 2010. It goes through every feelings we had in 2010 from joy to death, you see, my little brother died in march 2010 and I wrote two tracks for him (*Death Comes in March* and *Some-*

day, somewhere, somehow) and so on, true stories.

We here on Hallowed of course convey our condolences to Jape for losing his little brother, losing a family member is always a sad thing no matter how cool or heavy metal you are. But besides that, what is the difference between "Samsara" and the earlier albums?

- Hard to say. Well, even if our songs would be created from totally different kinds of elements, somehow people will still recognise that it is TDF. One reason is my singing style and voice, and one reason is our style to write these songs.

I guess that means different but still recognisable as TDF, and this new album is something they are satisfied with. It is a reflection of life and it is an album where Jape explains that he thinks that nothing on it needs to be changed, it is a picture of these days and feeling as he explains it.

- Like if I would see some old family picture, where I am with all sisters and brothers, would I say: "I would like to change that brother to other one, and more that kinda sisters?"

I think most of us like our family portraits as authentic as possible, it would not really be a document of the time and place otherwise. And that is what he just said that "Samsara" is but it is seen in a bigger picture than the family portrait.

- You know, we respect and accept everything on "Samsara" because it is part of our lives. Samsara means everyone's "earthly life" and it includes all good and all shit! Suffering and all pains etc. belongs in our lives. Pain never goes away from our planet and when you accept it, your life is more easy!

Most people have a favourite song on an album and I am sure most artists like some of there

songs better than others even if some of them don't want to admit that. Jape counted a few and it seems we agree of a few songs at least like *Kissing the Flames* and *Folie à Deux*. *Hail of Bullets* and *Someday, Somewhere, Somehow* was the other two songs Jape mentioned as his favourites of this album.

Reception & Touring

Some albums are well received, others are not of course but what about "Samsara" which got a decent reception here at Hallowed albeit we described it as a bit up and down with some highs and some lows which were more or less equal in magnitude. But what about other medias, how did they receive "Samsara"?

- It's been good, of course there's been some shitty reviews too but those are from totally wrong kind of magazines. Magazines where TDF should not be anyways. Why some Black Metal magazine does TDF reviews? it does not make any sense (Jape says with a smile), that's stupid. I do not have anything against Black Metal, but personally I wouldn't do any reviews of a music style I do not understand and which I'm "SURE" would be total shit in my opinion. Saying this differently: Why send a naked Christina Aguilera to big and ugly homosexual man's bedroom? He wouldn't like it anyway.

He probably would not, the question there would however be: why would someone send Christina Aguilera to some guys bedroom in the first place, and would she go along with it but maybe that is something that follows the special edition of her new (or next) album. Jape also adds that "Samsara" has been overall better received than any of their previous albums and that he is okay with it, also that he would be okay with reviews that

were total shit as well. Which would be considered wise, one should never really let the medias dictate one's mood or appreciation of something you are pleased with.

"Samsara" has a rather interesting cover art, it is inspired by the wheel of life symbol that represents the Samsara concept but there are some influences of TDF there as well with the logo and everything. Jape explains that these are important things to him and TDF.

- Every logo has its meaning and it is our circle from having fun to the final end. I planned these logos first and then our Mexican friend Raziell Kainen (Darkprince graphics) did graphic things and we think he did a great job for us.

And with such a distinct look on the album one might be inclined to think that this can be a fitting backdrop for a stage show and they have been on the road a little and some shows are planned but of course they are looking for more.

- We've done shows now mostly in Finland only, and one tour in China. Now in September we tour more in Finland, then we play in Russia and in October we play in Mexico. Our German bookers (Heavyspace booking) are trying to get a tour for us in Europe, that is something we're waiting for a LOT! We want to do tours as many as possible. It is our salt of our lives.

The Future & Ending

Other than said stage shows and with the album out on a bigger scale, what will happen next? how does the future for To/Die/For look? According to Jape there are no grand plans for the near future other than the fact that they will keep making music.

- At the moment we're just



happy that we have possibility to write music and get it released! We're not waiting anything big, of course some BIG things are welcome but we have our legs down the earth. We're doing this from the bottom of our hearts so... The future is good as long as tomorrow comes! you never know...

Says Jape with a smile, and sure enough you can never know if there will be a tomorrow for you, or for me.

But if there is going to be a tomorrow, what do Jape and TDF think that we shall do with that future? Well, his last quote says this:

- Stay on TDF tune, and buy "Samsara" album! Hope to see you somewhere on the road as soon as possible, rock on!

And with that we say thanks to Jape for his time, we also want to remind you that you can buy the "Samsara" album today as it is already released. You can both hear it and buy it from our review of the album if you want to, be sure to check out the review anyway if you want to know more about this new album.

To/Die/For are:

Jape Von Crow - Vocals
Antti-Matti Talala - Guitar
Juppe Sutela - Guitar
Eza Viren - Bass
Juska Salminen - Keyboards
Matti Huopainen - Drums

To/Die/For discography

All Eternity (1999)
Epilogue (2001)
Jaded (2003)
IV (2005)
Wounds Wide Open (2006)

Useful TDF-stuff on the web

Our review
<http://www.todieforband.net>
To/Die/For on myspace
Massacre Records

