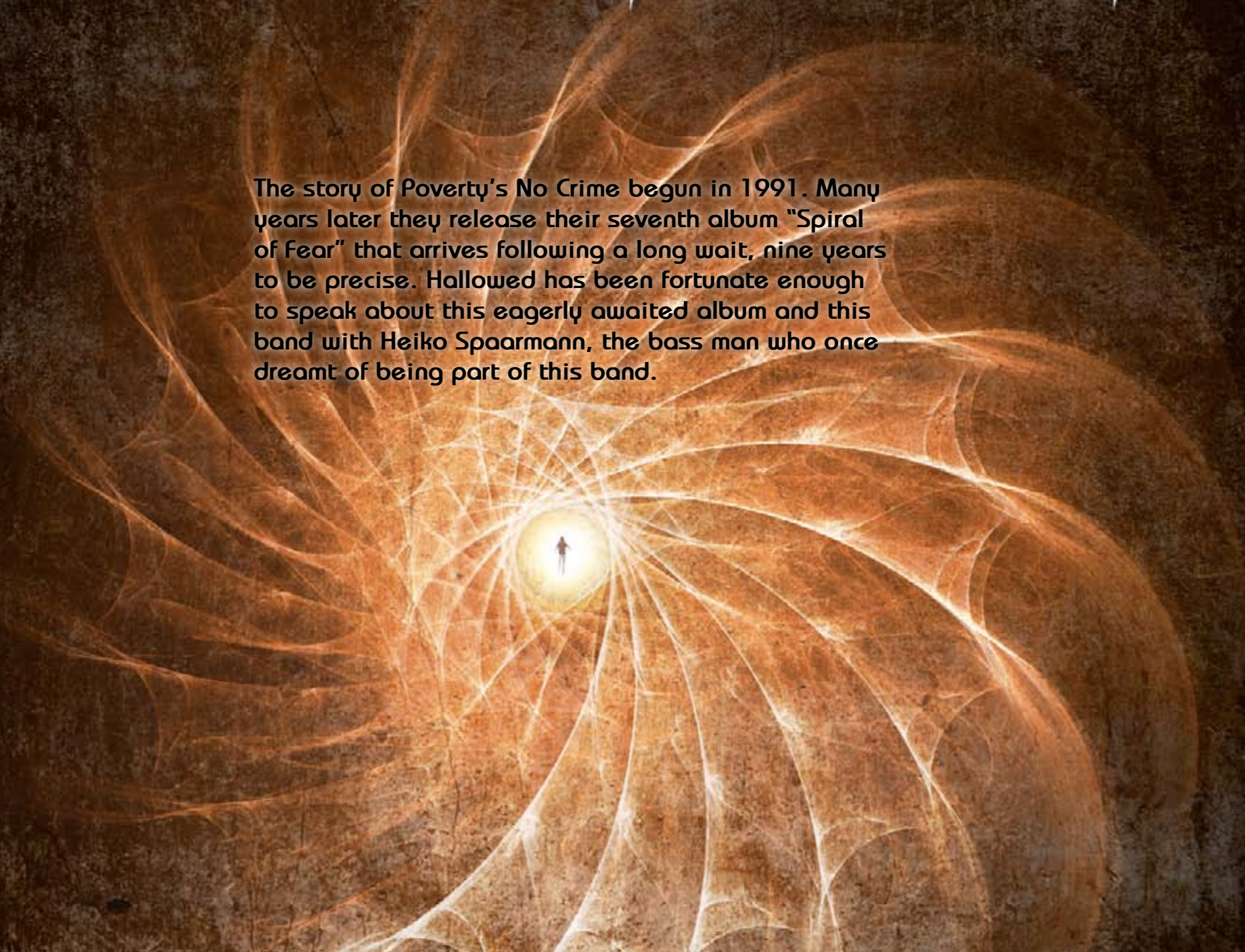


POVERTY'S NO CRIME

The story of Poverty's No Crime begun in 1991. Many years later they release their seventh album "Spiral of Fear" that arrives following a long wait, nine years to be precise. Hallowed has been fortunate enough to speak about this eagerly awaited album and this band with Heiko Spaarmann, the bass man who once dreamt of being part of this band.



Let us begin by returning to the beginnings, this because it was 25 years since the band first saw the light of day and a quarter of a century is quite an occasion. The story begins as it often does with a band finding their way and making demos, demos that made people take notice. After a pair of these demos they signed with Noise records and released their debut "Symbiosis" in 1995, an album receiving high praise from press and fans alike. The following year they released their second album called "The Autumn Years" and it too received good reviews, but the band was

still dropped by Noise. However, they soon found a new home at InsideOut, the place to be for a progressive band.

They released the next album "Slave to the Mind" in 1999. Following that album they underwent their first line up changes, Marcello Maniscalco on keyboards and bass player Christian Scheele left the band for other projects. This is where Heiko came into the band, as did keyboardist Jörg Springub. Keyboardist Jörg came in before the album "One in a Million" and Heiko just after it. That album was released in 2001 and following that came "The Chemical Chaos" in 2003, an album that was well received as well, but following it came some health issues for vocalist Volker

Walsemann.

- Before "Save My Soul" (a name Heiko has difficulty to remember) we had some problems with Volker's Health, which is why it took some time for that to come out. Explains Heiko who sits outside enjoying the spring-time sun this day, the day before their release show in Bremen.

- Then after "Save my Soul" we again had some problems with health in the band, and all the other guys in the band have family and that took a lot of time as well. Then the deal with InsideOut ran out so we didn't really have a deal, we still wrote songs and met for rehearsal but there wasn't really anything driving us.

The lack of timeframes was one

component in the long wait for the new album but also the recording process that was new to the band now that they were recording it themselves rather than going into the studio and record as they have done with the previous albums. But as the band didn't have a record deal they didn't have the money to spend on recording in a studio, as that is quite expensive. Instead they experimented with recording equipment and home recordings.

- We booked a studio for the drums as you need good equipment and microphones for that but everybody recorded the rest at home. We experimented with recording equipment and it took months to find the right way and as music is a hobby for us we had

work to deal with as well.

And of course they had to spend a whole lot of money out of their own pocket now that they didn't have a label to back them. But Heiko states with certainty that the wait for the next album will be much shorter, as they have learnt much from this album that will shorten the time required to create the next album for which they have already written some songs.

- That's a promise, we now have experience with recording and know how it works, I think that is the most important thing, that we can record with our own equipment and we know how it works now.

However, the most important thing they learnt during their

prolonged recess was probably not how to use the equipment and all of those useful things but rather setting deadlines to have something to work towards.

- You have to set certain dates to build up a pressure for yourself, it is not like you start recording unless you have a goal - you have to have a schedule. And I think this is the biggest reason to why it took so long as we always discussed and never really got anywhere. It didn't really start until Andreas said he had booked a studio to record in five months and we had to be ready then.

But Heiko also points out that the songs were mostly ready five years ago bar some small details and things like that. Now one song is almost done for the next



Poverty's No Crime are:

Volker Walsemann - Vocals & guitar
Marco Ahrens - Guitar
Heiko Spaarmann - Bass
Jörg Springub - Keyboards
Andreas Tegeler - Drums

Poverty's No Crime Discography:

Symbiosis (1995)
The Autumn Years (1996)
Slave to the Mind (1999)
One in a Million (2001)
The Chemical Chaos (2003)
Save My Soul (2007)
Spiral of Fear (2016)



album already so maybe they decide quicker that time so we get to see the follow up in two years instead of nine.

Spiral of Fear

"Spiral of Fear" is the title of the new album, the one we had to wait nine years for. It comes out on Metalville, a label Heiko explains that they are very pleased with and he thinks they do a good job with the album. An album for which the webpage claims that the band has never sounded this good, while Hallowed thinks it is an impressive production that avoids falling to the complexity trap that so many progressive bands do, and Heiko describes it as a pure album.

- We had a lot of time perfecting the songs, change little things, discussing the sound and how to produce and mix it. It has grown for a long time and I think that this is a very mature album.

In the Hallowed review it was alluded to the fact that the album is recognisable as something by Poverty's No Crime and Heiko seems to agree with this albeit exclaims that he isn't the best of judges on that question.

- I have played and listened to the songs so many times so I don't have enough distance to the songs, but I think that it doesn't differ so much from the other albums. I think it is a great Poverty's No Crime album; it has everything you can expect from us with metal riffs, melodies, etc.

The songs have a good flow and the whole of the picture is more important than the individual parts according to Heiko. No one in the band has the need for ego boosting with elaborate solos and that sort of thing; it is the song that is the important part of the equation.

- The song has to flow and it is not about how good we are on the instruments, it is always the

question: does it make the song better? Do we have more fun hearing the song when you add or change parts? We keep it easy and hope that people like it.

Their goal is not to cater to any particular interest or write songs that everyone likes, if they like it it's good enough. Heiko then also points out that some reviews state that they are not progressive enough and such things and says that being progressive is not the reason why they make music, they have no plans to be a progressive band it just happens to be the result of their song writing. And to this article writer progressive music is more about making something that isn't predictable than making something pointlessly complicated and Heiko agrees with me.

- Of course I can come up with something complicated and strange that no one has done before, but does it make the song better? I don't think so.

Still on the subject of reviews and reception, Heiko says that the album has been extremely well received.

- We are overwhelmed by the press reaction that has been really good, we only have two or three reviews that are not a hundred per cent positive, but generally I think people like it. My friends that I have presented the album to thinks that it sounds great and that it sounds like a Poverty's No Crime album. I think that the reviews are quite good.

The Hallowed one certainly was. But it is not only the reviewers and fans that are pleased with the new album, the band are as well. Heiko says that the other guys also confirms that they are happy with it.

- We are very happy with this album, the sound is very good and we really like what Simone Mularoni (DGM) did with the sound and he did it in only two

days, it was a very quick process. It was love at first sound I would say, and I think it was a very good decision to let him mix and master it.

Touring

The day after this interview with Heiko was conducted, Poverty's No Crime did a release show in Bremen, so there was one show planned and Heiko explained that they were planning to do more shows than that.

- We are planning to do some shows in autumn but nothing is booked yet. We haven't released anything new for a long time so it is a little bit like a new beginning as not everyone is aware that we are still around but I think that will be better when the CD has been out for a while.

The band doesn't have a booking agency (yet) and take care of these matters themselves, something that isn't easy as they have will have to try and find the opportunities themselves. But Heiko is optimistic that they will get some dates, maybe some festivals or something and he also says to you who read this article that if you have a venue or are a band that wants a partner to tour with, you can contact them and perhaps arrange something with them.

If none of the shows materialise in autumn, at least they have the release show - something Heiko was very excited about.

- We're playing some new songs but also some old stuff, we are playing some songs from the first album, before I was part of the band. That makes it very exciting.

Before Heiko joined the band he was a big fan of Poverty's No Crime that makes it fun and exciting for him to play song he was listening to as a fan 15-20 years ago. Fact is that Heiko's story of joining the band is somewhat



connected with my home country Sweden where he studied for some time. He took some 20 CDs along with him when he went to Sweden, and amongst them were several by Poverty's No Crime and he of course listened much to them. During his time in Sweden a studio man from the studio where Poverty's No Crime recorded at that time Contacted Heiko and he said that the bass player would leave the band and he thought that Heiko was the best candidate and asked if we wanted to meet the band. Something Heiko describes as similar to the

experience of the character in the movie Rock Star.

- It was like a dream for me maybe becoming the new base player of a band I love, so when I was back in Germany a couple of weeks later I met up with Volker and we got to know each other and then I got the chance to rehearse with them. And that really worked out, they tried some other base players but I think that on a personal level, the chemistry between us was very good from the beginning so I joined the band.

He is both a member of the band and a fan of the band and he

is still very happy being with the band, even after 15 years. And he will enjoy playing the new songs on the release show the day after he was interviewed.

- It is always great to present new songs to the people and check their reactions.

And as Heiko loves playing live, being on stage, getting feedback from the crowd, it is probably fair to guess that he and the band did well on their release show. And if he were to decide they would be playing several shows a week.

-I wish we could play a lot more shows as I really love to play live,

that is probably the biggest reason why I make music.

And with that we thank Heiko for taking the time to talk to us and making it possible to write this article, and he thanks you for your time and interest in the band. Be sure to look at the band's websites for information on tours and other news about the band, "Spiral of Fear" is out now and if our review is any guide it is well worth checking out.

Links:

Hallowed's review of Spiral of Fear
Poverty's No Crime official website
Poverty's No Crime on youtube
Spiral of Fear album preview video
The Longest Day - official video clip
Metalville

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