

Attached you can find the interview between Markus for Soundmagnet.eu and Sammy Urwin for Employed To Serve in English.

**Markus (Soundmagnet): Hello and thank you for the interview. Your latest album is called Conquering, in the lyrics you focus on self-worth, individual growth and generally display a more positive worldview than before. What is the core message behind this and what influenced you when writing the lyrics?**

Hey, thanks for taking the time to talk to me!

The main influence for the way the lyrics have developed, without trying to sound too cliché, is just from living and growing. We were talking amongst ourselves the other day, and you can see a clear development from the lyrics on our first album to the fourth. Our first album 'Greyer Than You Remember' was very much mirroring our frustrations with the traditional lifestyle of grow up, get a job you don't care about, become bitter and suppress all of the things that made life worth living in the first place. Our second album was an extension of this theme, with more emphasis on 'all good things must come to an end'.

By the time we started writing for our third album, I had become frustrated with the over emphasis on the negative aspects of life, without any sense of hope or gratefulness to at least tie in with it. That's where the title 'Eternal Forward Motion' came from, and was named as such to give a sense of no good without the bad. I feel 'Conquering' is again an extension of the previous record, however more focused with the message this time. Due to certain circumstances, I wasn't happy in some areas of my life during the writing and release of Eternal Forward Motion, and I feel I was able to practise what I preach a fair bit more by the time we started writing this current LP. Hence the title, 'Conquering', which is a statement of enjoying the here and now.

**If you could change something for the better in the world overnight: What would it be and why?**

Woahh where to begin. I suppose it has to be the climate crisis, because ultimately if that's not rectified, all of the other problems would become irrelevant anyway.

**At the moment, it's trendy to give your two cents on everything in the social media. Most of the time, you can read a lot of very negative or insulting comments, no matter what it's about. What do you think is the reason for that? Do you think this could be changed somehow?**

Unfortunately I'm not so certain this can ultimately be changed. For whatever reason it's some people's nature to be mean, and I think it isn't worth losing sleep over trying to find out why. Of course there are situations where someone will cross a line and they need to be told that that sort of behaviour is not tolerated, but if people for some reason feel inclined to tell us they think our music is rubbish, then go for it! I feel fortunate that we have a lot of people who are into what the band does and that's the part that's worth caring about.

**You have said that the album „Conquering“ is influenced by the music of your youth. What are the biggest influences? Which bands and musicians did you listen to or do you still listen to, which music influenced you and made you the band you are today?**

That's right, and I think that's why this record feels extra special to me. I feel like you can hear the influence from the early Machine Head records, as well as bands like Sepultura, Pantera, Lamb of God and Slipknot on this album. Of course we don't want to rip anyone off, or go the route of writing a metal by numbers record. It was important to bring in some new ideas to the mixing pot but keep a tight hold on what the core of ETS sounds like.

**Your music is energetic and always pushing forward. Where do you get this energy that can be heard in your songs?**

The energy comes from the pure excitement of writing and playing music that we love. It would be hard to mimic the same level of enthusiasm for music we were uncertain about. What other people think about the album is one thing, but to us it's the greatest record ever and we'll perform it like we mean it.

**The previous album and the new one feature gears on the artwork, and Conquering features them as the contents of an exploding head. Whats that about?**

It's a continuation from the last album, where the cover featured people trapped within a factory of cogs and moving parts. This was a metaphor for the mindset people create for themselves. With 'Conquering' we wanted a visual that insinuated transcending from this way of thinking, and we had an idea of a head exploding with cogs flying out of it. With that very basic brief, Luke Preece created the incredible cover you see today.

**Nobody knows what's going to happen with Covid-19 in the near future. Nevertheless, if it is possible, can european fans expect a tour?**

They can indeed! We're out on tour with Gojira across Europe at the start of 2022. We cannot wait to be back and playing songs from the new album. All the dates can be found on our social platforms.

**Thank you for the interview. The last words in this interview are yours.**

Thank you for taking the time to speak to me about the new record, it's greatly appreciated!  
See you at a show soon \m/