

*Interview: Forest Stream*  
*Made for: [www.metal.de](http://www.metal.de)*  
*Questions: Proserpine*  
*Answers: Sonm and Omin*

**1.) First of all congratulations to your great new album. It is really the highlight of the year up to now... How come we never heard of you so far? ;)**

Thank you a lot for saying that, but we are reeeeeeally modest guys, so we disagree that it is something one can call the highlight of the year. It is just an average creation of an ordinary band and only in several years one is able to say whether it was the right place and the right time to show up:) Anyway, thank you very very much. (Omin)

How come you have never heard of us? Well, that's not very surprising to hear though. First of all we are from Russia, second of all we are too young band to be known worldwide and third of all, that's our first album! We didn't play much live up to now and actually haven't been promoted at all. You know in our country it is rather difficult to get famous or at least known nowadays coz people are not interested in promoting metal bands. That's not profitable if you would compare that to pop-acts. Who cares about some underground band if it's not gonna feed its promoter? Let us assume it is promising and people are interested in listening to it but for those who's pupils look like \$ \$ it is nothing. But we don't care. Let them show fat morons and naked girls in their movie-clips and so on. That's what they use to call "the art". Yeah! "The art of making money" sounds too long. So everyone is happy about just "the art". Who cares about what kind of art it is?:) Omin and me have thrown our TVs off the window, and we feel great without them, the only pity is that we don't know what's going on in the world, so we have to ask people from the street below my balcony like: "Hey, fellow, whazzup?" LOL, sometimes they answer "fuck you" and we interpret that as "The whole world is fucked up!" Well, sounds reasonable! LOL. (Sonm)

**2.) Now as "Tears Of Mortal Solitude" is out...are you satisfied with it regarding sound etc.? Are there things you would like to change now?**

Naah, if we would be satisfied with what we have so far then there would be no need for making the next CD. Of course we aren't. The whole album was recorded at home studio. The staff was: Me, Omin and his hungry dog, well, I should include Omin's angry neighbors but they didn't get paid so let us skip them. But changing things... No I don't think so. The CD is some kind of a child for us...(Omin is the daddy I am the Opa, and who the hell is the Mum? Where the hell is Omin's dog? Sonm is ROFL\*). Now, to be serious, we love what we've done. That was a brilliant time. When you are putting all the tracks together, when you are chanting incantations for you song to become a living thing... That's something! So I don't think that any parents would pick at their child's brain with a screwdriver in order to improve something. It was born so it is worth living no matter how ugly it is. That's our point of view though.

**3.) What importance does the internet have for you...due to the great success with downloads at mp3.com?**

Well it is quite important. The Internet saves you a lot of time when you deal with your tax statement, buy online or just talk to people, hehe! And downloads. May be that's a good way to get known a bit. I duuno! To me the Internet is a kind of entertainment. I hardly can find anything I need in there. So it is fifty-fifty. I'd be really happy having just ICQ, MSN messenger and a couple of sites with news. That would be enough. My experience is that all ways in the Internet lead to porno recourses, LOL! It is like all the roads lead to Rome! LOL! Whatever you find, you finally get into different abcdxxxxxx sites. That's pretty annoying you know. So the answer to your question is a bit confusing, right? To make it even more bizarre I'd like to mention that I HATE MICROSOFT PRODUCTS!!! LOL! Linux forever! LOL!!

**4.) What is your opinion to MP3s in general in the internet... are you pro or contra downloading songs/ full albums?**

Some things are like air. You can't be pro or contra. There's no way to stop people making illegal CDs unless you change their brains. Of course it is not the way it should be. When you work on your songs both for enjoying but also for living and then you get nothing for what you've done... Looks like something from our communistic past. It is sharing something, which actually belongs to others. I don't think anyone would be happy to find that his results are stolen, somebody uses his car without asking him, and his house is filled with smiling partying people he has never seen before. Making illegal CDs is in fact the same. But people don't care. What can we do about that? That's rather slippery ground I'd say.

**5.) Did Elitist recognize you due to the downloads at mp3.com..or how did you get in contact with them?**

No! No! No! Lee Barrett was browsing the Internet and before getting in Rome (see above LOL) he has found our site at mp3.com. While downloading reproduction of Rome's monuments and different architectural pieces of art (which took a while) he got bored so why not to listen to something?! We were just lucky to be discovered by him on his way to Rome, LOL. He liked what he heard so far and sent us a message. Shortly afterwards we got all the contract papers from Earache. That's the story! So I don't know what is the best place to upload your mp3s to... mp3.com or maybe some different site. LOL!

**6.) What feelings do you like to include to your songs? Is there kinda recipe for a typical Forest Stream-song...?**

Feelings? Honestly we don't do anything on purpose. And we don't write music. Everything was already written billions years ago. All we have to do is just to listen carefully. Music is everywhere. It is in trees, creeks, air, sunrays, dawns and sunsets. The most beautiful melodies can grant you the Darkness and the Night. I hardly can explain that but actually a lot of things don't require any explanation. It is the Magic. No spells, no symbols. It is in your mind... the point where your consciousness touches the physical world. So music is the base of the creation, yet it is not very often when you manage to hear music in people today. So for sure there is certain

recipe for our songs, yet there is no TYPICAL one. All you have to do is to become either Sonm or Omin! That's it!:)

**7.) Was it easy for you to find a suitable studio to record your album? And can you tell me more about the studio-situation itself... How were the recordings...etc.**

A studio? What studio?! What is a studio?! We have never heard of anything like a studio! We played and rehearsed at a scrappy-yard, among the hills of rotten garbage. I swear! I can send you some pictures. Studio... haha... the album was recorded at Omin's place. As it was mentioned above we have no typical songs but we have typical equipment we used for recording the CD.

Here we go!

Guitar – Vantage, Bass – Flight (5 strings), guitar proc. BOSS-GT3, keyboard – Roland XP-30, PC – Pentium 600 MHz/64MbRam + soundcard – Tascam, 24bit 96KHz - AD/DA converter. Guitar combo – Randall 100W. There ya go! No mixer, no monitors... We were sitting and swearing all the days. That was a small but very well organized mental house. Studio... We'd love to record everything in studio and I hope that will be the case with the second CD. We had enough of barking dogs, crying children, cars, buses, and chisel hammers right in front of our windows pecking your brains always exactly out of a song's rhythm!(Omin)

**8.) "Tears Of Mortal Solitude" is a part of a trilogy... can you tell me more about the other parts...about concepts etc. Are there already new songs or lyrics?**

No! No! Otherwise it won't be interesting! Better keep this tiny secret about these parts. But we can shift the curtain a bit:) There are already about 5 new songs for the next CD. We have sent several pieces to Lee and he said – that's gonna be a winner, yet it is not entirely clear what it is going to win! Hehee! But we'll try to do our best. Okay? Well, just one more prompt, a very small one: we'll try to bring back what was forgotten about our national musical history:) No folk or pagan... just from 19-20<sup>th</sup> centuries! SHHHHHH!!!!

**9.) Can you describe your music and texts regarding the phrase: "All The sorrow, all the majesty and all the hate"**

No yet though! Coz there is just only the first part! – Sorrow. I guess it fits the concept just good. The music of the first part is really sad. It is filled with grief directly related to what was happening in our souls. That's our point of view about the world structure: the general structure with its social and physical constituents. This horrifying competition of life and death. Acceleration towards the total madness. When one tries to fight the nature he's doomed to fail. You cannot defeat it, because you are the part of it. And reaching the certain limit within the fragile balance between mental and technological evolutions we risk to provoke a process, which unavoidably will recreate this balance... namely the power of weapons are growing much faster than powers of a human brain. That is scaring. People have already forgotten the horrors of the last century, despite the whole Europe stands on human bones... Somehow it is in my genes. All those mistakes made by my ancestors. And that would be quite stupid to make them again, wouldn't it? It is very sad watching the opposite things. So ... the Sorrow... is one of the dominating parts in

our Weltanschauung... Sonm often says: elves are good to sing about, yet we don't know anything even about ourselves... (Omin)

**10.) How was your gig with Cradle Of Filth? Was it easy for you to warm up the crowd?**

It went surprisingly well. We enjoyed that a lot. I'd say that was the best show in our career. And that was also an incredibly useful experience, coz that was our first performance in front of several thousands of people. Excellent light and not that bad sound comparing to what we experienced before. We were the first band that evening. That's a big challenge though – you have to warm up the whole audience waiting for their stars and crying out something like “fuck off – we want Cradle of Filth, get out the stage you faggots”. But after the first sounds of keyboards everyone got very silent, they were shocked coz that melody we decided to start with was really beautiful. That was a melody from our next CD. The song is called “Feral Magic”. So the crowd was really silent and then we started “Last Season Purity”... I entered the stage and after a deep breath exploded with “Hey Moscow!” Damn... and they answered! I was almost blown away by the roar of the crowd in front of me. That was so charging!! I guess Dani was satisfied with the supporting acts. I think Flying did everything just excellent too. So that show went just perfect. Actually Dani liked our music and asked me to present him our CD. For a young band like FS that's a good sign!(Omin, Sonm)

**11.) Do you like to play live...and do you think that Doom Metal is suitable for a stage? I mean is it possible to transfer that great sad feelings to a drunk crowd... :)**

Yeeees, we love playing live. That's much better than sitting in a studio and playing for microphones. The energy flow between you and people in front of you makes you feel so damn great! It is indescribable! The charge you get from every show is equal to something very very special in your everyday life. Something like a good shopping day for girls, lol! I am joking:) And we do not play doom metal. That's our goal! Changing slow parts into fast ones produces an incredible effect. I'd call it feel-surfing. Up and down, up and down you slide among the waves of emotions, that's what is the origin for that charging I mentioned above. And people who come to our concerts are not drunk! We always force everyone who enters the concert hall to blow into a special pipe, which detects whether he is high or not. Omin got this stuff when attending to a special course for drivers. He learned how to fuel a car with vodka and also got this alcohol-detector as a bonus. LOL.(Sonm)

**12.) Are you able to play live just with the three members or are there any sessionmembers? If yes, what instruments do they play?**

No... we need to have at least four hands each in order to be able to play live with three of us. Apart from band members Sonm, Omin and Anth we have three session players. Anathe is doing keys, Berserk is playing the second guitar and Elhella is responsible for our kitchen. All of them are very good and friendly people and I hope they will join the band soon if they would like to do so. We never force anyone to do anything. So it is up to them. If not then the band is open for anybody to try his/her skills with us. (Sonm, Omin)

**13.) Do you consider yourselves more as a doom or a black metal band? Or can't you differ there?**

We are not a doom or black metal band. We are a music band. That's the best description. Of course it is completely up to people how to call our style. We do not need it. What do you prefer: Opel or Ford? I bet you prefer a good car whatever brand it would be. Same here. Imprisoning yourself into the jail of a style you automatically limit your horizons of musical experiments and evolution in general.

**14.) How can you manage to rehearse, to record songs or to play concerts, if Sonm is still in Holland? I can imagine, that this situation isn't satisfying...please tell me more about it!**

Am I still in Holland? Let's have a look... It's windy and raining, rain and wind. Yes, now I am sure I am in Holland, still. Well, actually it is not as bad as it may seem, since I am busy only with vocals. The guys are playing together and we need just two or three rehearsals with me to be able to play live. When you listen to your own music million times inside your brain, everything goes just by itself. You know how to sing and how to rock the crowd in front of you with respect to your stage experience of course. But that's a bit funny. While the others are playing in studio I am screaming in my laboratory. Sure it would be suicidal during the working day, so I have to stay here overtime. And when people ask: "When did you leave yesterday?" I answer with a sincere heart: "I got back home at 5 a.m." And they think I work overtime. Yeah, quite often I work, indeed. But while writing something with an Electron Beam Microscope I am doing my growlings and vocals in general. Dunno what one would think if he would hear me in the huge building at night! It stands still and dark like an ancient tower. And everyone thinks: "That is the place where scientists are working on our future! Respe..." and his peaceful thoughts are interrupted with a horrifying screaming from that building "SATAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAN!!!!" Doesn't everybody say that scientists created a nuclear bomb?!:) That indeed is the case. But I am working on my vocals and also some new-principle low energy consuming electronics. Quite useful for the environment. Not as good as a nuke but still! LOL (Sonm)

**15.) Why do you use a drumcomputer, although you started with a real drummer originally?**

Yes, in the beginning I used to play drums. But then we bumped into the problem of a good singer. It is rather complicated to explain to somebody how to sing when the music and the lyrics are written by you. So I decided to switch for singing. We were not aware that time about impossibility to find a drummer in Russia so I just quit drumming and started singing. It took almost 3 years to find a drummer. So we have a real drummer by now, she is improving her skills day by day and I hope that everything will go fine. Unfortunately she joined the band by the time we were busy with "Tears". So 50% was recorded with sequencer and that would have been a huge pain in different parts of our bodies to reshape everything for a real drummer. Moreover, one can hardly find an appropriate studio in Russia to record drums. But we promise to record real drums on the next CD.(Sonm)

**16.) How is the metal-scene in Russia? Is it easy for you to play gigs or to sell your albums there?**

There is no metal-scene in Russia. As always the situation is quite unique and shitty. Comparing it to what happens for instance in Norway or Sweden one probably would find a huge difference. While in Sweden bands are helping each other, trying to collaborate (at least that's my impression) like in case of Opeth and Katatonia, in Russia it is a pure bizarre and mess. If you are doing slightly better than others you have a great chance to become an outcast. I am not saying that even well-known bands hardly get paid for their concerts, not saying that the quality of sound in clubs is awful, not saying that those who you play for hardly care about what they hear because of being deathly drunk and so on. I am just saying that the metal –scene in Russia (if it does exist) is an ugly dwarf, which is, presumably, doomed to fail in developing further on. A lot of things have to be changed before one can speak about metal scene in Russia. I am really sorry about that. We are trying to do something but one band is negligibly small for being able to move things away from the Dead Point. I can tell you a short story. That actually happened to us in the very beginning of 1996. That was a pretty tough time. Our attempts to earn some money for buying guitars and drums were just desperate but we managed to do that. Meanwhile the local authorities were supposed to contribute a part of their budget to cultural formations in our town, clubs, studios etc. And what you think? Everyone got his piece of pie except us. All those “We look for talents!” or “New life to local bands” were just another soap-bubble. And that after we did a lot for the local rock-actions, bringing people to our shows in order to make an impression for sponsors of how important it is for a band to have a possibility to rehearse. Fine, they just threw us away and gave everything to morons praising ideas of nazism, racism and etc. Fuck them!(Sonm, Omin) They still owe me something for my drum pedal! They borrowed that from me and when I asked them (in 2 years filled with reminders) to bring it back I was offered to fuck myself and also was promised to have this pedal in my ass!! We'll see in who's ass one finds this pedal when I am back. I am really furious. (Sonm)

**17.) Will there also be merchandise for your new album like T-Shirts etc.?**

Yes, I think so. We are about to send a bunch of exclusive (they were made for our concert with Cradle of Filth) T-shirt to ELITIST. So it will be available on [www.elitistrecords.co.uk](http://www.elitistrecords.co.uk) :) Just help yourself! We'll see how it goes. Perhaps we'll make something in excess of the plan. Well, cups, pens, postcards, small children's air-balloons, tissues (LOL). Honestly, we are not very good in selling things. Buying is simpler. LOL:) (Sonm, Omin)

**18.) I thank you really much for your answers. Do you have any last words or things you'd like to mention?**

Well, we'd like to thank you very much for your time. That had a great time while answering your questions. Cool! And we'd like to greet all our friends and labelmates. Special greetings to Lee Barrett (we love you our uncle!), Farmakon and Thales guys (Lasse, stop behaving like a gay!!!LOL!) and all, who support us wherever they are. Cheers all! Good Luck with your zine and best wishes for the future. Stay human, whatever happens!