

*Interview: Mourning Beloveth*

*Made for: [www.metal.de](http://www.metal.de)*

*Questions: Proserpine*

*Answers: Darren*

**01.) Why did you re-release Dust, although there were just 1,5 years passed since the original release-date?**

The main reason was that we had run out of the initial 1000 printed and there were still a lot of people looking for the album. We had no money for a repressing at the time and Sentinel ([www.sentinelireland.com](http://www.sentinelireland.com)) stepped in and provided the money and resources to release it again with 2 more songs and some revised artwork. This time round being released on a label a lot of more magazines gave the cd more attention, if you will, than the cd being an independent release.

**02.) It took 4 years (1992 - 1996) until you recorded your first demo. Why did it take so long?**

The usual shit with line up problems and the fact that we didn't really know what we were doing. For about 2 of those years all we had were guitar, vocals and drums and very little in the way of songs. When Brian joined on bass it gave us the impetus to get our heads out of our arses and go and record something, just to see what we could do. After some time in the band we came up with The Fruit and the Sorrow and so we had two songs to record (the other being Burden).

Do you also think you could have released more demos/CDs, because you are together as a band since 11 years, but there are 'just' 2 demos 1 Split-7" and 2 CDs. (Don't get me wrong with this one! ;)

As above we had some line-up problems at the beginning but when Adrian joined on bass and Brian switched to guitar we finally had a steady line-up (the same as is today) and we were able to develop our own sound with the full line-up. We never rush things in MB and we had the songs for our second demo Autumnal Fires for some time before recording them. I think each release for us is a step up from the previous release and this does not happen when you release an album a year, things become stale very quickly, whereas we just like to take our time, don't rush things and see what comes out naturally. I think if we released much more we would be burnt out by now. Other factors like lack of money and laziness (haha) have a peripheral part to play in this too.

**03.) Please tell me more about the Split-7" with Lunar Gate. What songs did you include there and is there any special idea behind this Split you could inform me about?**

We recorded a completely new song for the split with Lunar Gate, it is simply entitled Part 1...so there is more to come. Sentinel came to us with the idea of releasing some split 7" s with Irish bands and gave us the honour of going first. We recorded the song in December 2002 in Cosmic studios in Dublin (our first time recording on home soil since 1998) and we recorded with a French guy called Jean Claude who is a hippy. It was a very cosmic experience indeed and it gave us the freedom to explore our sound more, some new ideas were thrown in on this recording. Being limited to 7 minutes was hard but we managed in the end.

The other band on the 7" is Lunar Gate, one of my favourite Irish bands at the moment. They are a dark metal band with a lot of potential and some obscure sounds and it is an honour for us to appear on this with them.

This will be the first of 5 split 7" that Sentinel intend to do, others include Primordial/Mael Mordha, Geasa/Old Season.

Another major factor was that we are big vinyl fans and it will be exciting to hold the first MB vinyl in our hands when it is released in the coming weeks.

**04.) The band already exists since 1992 and you got some really great response to "Dust".. but do you see "The Sullen Sulcus" as your break-through?**

I don't think doom will ever be popular so as for break through, I don't know. Relatively speaking though TSS has gotten us a lot of attention, not just in the doom scene but in the metal scene as a whole. We are getting some excellent reviews from the major magazines and a lot of people know the name Mourning Beloveth. I think it also has a lot to do with the hard work we have done throughout the years and it seems to be all coming to a head just when we release TSS, we had the European tour, the American one to come and some festivals lined up for next year already so I don't think the name will be disappearing for some time yet.

**05.) Do you think it is fair that many people compare your music to My Dying Bride? Well I think there are some similarities but all in all your music is quite different...do you agree?**

I agree completely. In the early days it seemed every review mentioned the MDB thing but with each release, especially TSS, that name is being mentioned less and less in our reviews and peoples comments. I think it is just a natural thing to like the bands you are listening to, it is not a deliberate thing..but if you listen to an album every day for along time you can't help but be influenced by it. It seems as we have matured as musicians and people that our own sound is coming to the fore much more and as I said this is just a natural occurrence, as one grows older they tend to follow their own path and listen to themselves and look at themselves for improvement rather than their surroundings.

**06.) You are about to leave Europe for the American-tour. What expectations do you have before the tour starts? Do you look forward to visit the States and do you think the package (Morgion, The Prophecy and Unearthly Trance) is a good one? Apart from that...what obstacles have there been with the tour? (I read it on the Aftermath website :)**

We are travelling out to America on August 4<sup>th</sup>, play 24 dates drink some beer and return on Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, under the banner The Domination of America and it is a continuation of our European tour. It is like a dream come through for us and we are all on a high since this dream became a reality. 24 dates from coast to coast will be amazing and we are three dates from being fully booked. It is great to see an independent tour across this country and gives us all great pride. We will be the first Irish Metal band to travel to America for a tour like this. I have no expectations whatsoever of the tour, it will be like living in a dream 24/7 for a whole month. When I was younger I dreamt of travelling America and now it will happen and to make things better it will be with the band I cherish more than life itself. This tour will help spread the names of all our bands throughout the world and so it will be good for all involved. Unearthly Trance have pulled out, replaced by Orodruin, and I think for the doom fan it will be great. It is only recently that doom bands have returned to the live front and this should keep the flame of doom burning bright. Each band has a distinctive style of doom and, despite what some people think, it is a very diverse lineup. I think it would be good for the metal fan in general too; this is music played with heart, no poser shit here and that is all we offer people.

Obstacles....so many...gladly Rhett, Justin and the rest of the Morgion guys are dealing with most of the shit like apathy, changing line-ups etc. Shit we had was flight prices going from 450euro to 900 euro in one month, our criminal records (haha) but nothing like those poor Morgion fuckers (thanks Morgion).

**07.) Can you tell me more about the European Tour you played earlier this year? How was it for you to play live outside of Ireland/England for the first time? Have there been some really good shows or things which are worth mentioning?**

We ,together with, Morgion, The Prophecy played 11 shows in 14 days in February in Ireland, UK, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Holland and the response was amazing. It was our first time playing so many shows together and so many countries ever so it was an amazing experience. We met so many people on the road and made many new friends. We played to 80 people in Paris with an amazing atmosphere, 400 people in Portugal the same, Spain was quiet, Belgium and Holland were great also. Bill Steer was at our gig in Paris, MDB in Bradford where Fred from Ataraxie bought some champagne and we all shared in the celebrations. In Portugal we met Fernando of Moonspell. We travelled constantly for 2 weeks and at times it was tough going but so many people were willing to share their homes and food with us it made it a lot easier and we are so hungry to go out again next year, maybe extend it by a week and hit some more countries. I won't bore you with the usual drink and debauchery stories but there were a few, hellish drives, drunken nights and great gigs...that is how we remember it. The 3 bands got on so well together and we had some good times

**08.) Can you tell me more about the DVD? What does it contain?**

We had been toying with the idea for a time. When the Doomination European tour was confirmed Haavard/Aftermath asked us to record as much as possible and release it on dvd. We recorded 40 hours of footage and pieced it together with the help of Gary of Morgion. It contains four songs live and a photo compilation of the tour at the end. It was supposed to be released this month but we have decided instead of rushing it we would leave it until October and add some extra footage from America, some bios and old photos etc so it will be a more complete package when it does see the light of day in October through Aftermath.

**09.) How did you get in contact with the Norwegians of Aftermath Music. Pretty interesting constellation in connection to your music I think, since Norway is more famous for Black Metal and now they signed you as an Irish Doom Band.**

I had been writing to Haavard since our Dust days and when we recorded a promo cdr of some new songs we sent him a copy, he liked the songs but that was all. We recorded the songs ourselves in Academy again with Magz at the helm and sent Haavard a copy. He loved it, we signed and recouped some costs and all were happy. I think Aftermath are gaining a reputation at the moment for releasing some dark and obscure stuff..not your run of the mill black metal and bands like Poema Arcanus and Runemagic have their own unique sound with some doom elements. Also he has just signed the Funeral Orchestra (doom) and is going to release a 7" by doom masters Reverend Bizarre so it is not as if we are on our own on the label as regards music. Haavard is an honest hardworking guy and we are very happy to be with Aftermath at the moment. Anyway who can resist Irish Doom??

**10.) All songs are pretty long. Isn't it a bit difficult to find new and fitting riffs and melodies for such long songs? Who writes the songs/lyrics in general and is there any special 'recipe' how a MB-song evolves?**

It is just easier for us to write long songs and develop our ideas slowly. We wrote the song for the 7" and it was very difficult haha. We have no set pattern to follow when writing songs, they come so many different ways, through jamming or someone brings in a riff to rehearsals. We just play what comes through our mouth and fingers. The only precursor for an MB song is emotion, and as long as that is there it is ok. We all contribute to the songs, it is very much a group effort

**11.) Could you compare your first releases with your current stuff? In what way does the material differ?**

Comparing Dust to The Sullen Sulcus, I hate bands saying this or that is better and shit like that. Dust was some old songs and some new songs written over a period of a few years and the guitars and vocals are very spacious, while remaining heavy. The Sullen Sulcus is like a full on aural assault and suffocates the listener with the intensity of each part. TSS was written completely in one year and I think this comes across in the atmosphere of the album, the listener doesn't get a chance to sit back and take things in until the album is over. I think with each release we are finding our identity more, helped by the fact that we can listen back to what we have done with proper production and we can see what works and what doesn't work. It is all a learning experience, but all we ever do is write what we feel and we hope it comes through in the music.

**12.) I think your artwork is pretty fascinating, but also kinda strange...can you give me more information about that artwork in comparison with the album title "The Sullen Sulcus" as well as the lyrics?**

Created by Paul McCarroll ([www.unhinged-art.co.uk](http://www.unhinged-art.co.uk)) from N.Ireland. Paul and myself spent many weeks conversing about the inlay card. Each person has their own interpretation of the images on the cd so I will speak about the title and the lyrics. Sulcus is a deep furrow in the brain and each song is about a certain emotion that eats away at the brain almost driving the person insane and into his or her own little world. The albums lyrics each deal with this broad topic and it was only after recording the album and thinking of a title that we realised that each song lyrically was inexorably linked, and in turn the music, feelings of isolation, misery and melancholia are touched upon and the art concept with its deep reds and vacuous atmosphere, for me anyhow, brings this home. Sorry for being so short here but, not to sound pretentious, it is up to each person to get what he or she wants from it. We are lucky in MB that we have known each other for a long time and we know what we all go through and there is a unifying theme always to music, lyrics and artworks. It is a full package not individual pieces of a jigsaw that cannot be finished.

**13.) What are your future plans (apart from touring)? Are there already ideas for your next album or are you just preparing for the tour now?**

It is strange but our original drummer, Tim, cannot come to America due to personal reasons. He is still in the band but we have a stand in for the US tour, he is a long time friend of our so it is easy personally to fit and he is an excellent drummer. So on weekends we rehearse with Tim, some new stuff and during the week with our other drummer for the set in the US. We haven't had a different drummer, ever and it is still a bit strange but we are beginning to find the chemistry just at the right time. We are finding it very difficult to write new songs, plenty of ideas but our heads seem full of dreams of the US at the moment so when we come back we plan to lock ourselves away for 6

months and write some new songs with an old drummer (hehe). We also have some festivals lined up for next year so keep an eye to the webpage [www.mourningbeloveth.com](http://www.mourningbeloveth.com) for more news.

**14.) I thank you really much for your answers and wish you all the best with Mourning Beloveth. Also good luck for the American tour! But now it is up to you to end the interview. Any last words or things you´d like to mention?**

Thanks for the interview

Check out some Irish bands such as Geasa and Primordial

And [www.mp3.com/mourningbeloveth](http://www.mp3.com/mourningbeloveth)  
[www.metalworksmagazine.com](http://www.metalworksmagazine.com)