

Review : Azure Halo – Buddha Bomb



1. 10000 gently kicks off the EP with some lovely interweaving guitars, and the lyrics, “10000 lights of compassion, they shine down around me”. A precise, delicate drum beat brings focus to a repeating instrumental groove which underpinned by uplifting vocals.
2. Forgotten is overall brighter sounding and has a faster tempo than 10000. Although all the instrumental parts stay tightly together throughout, there is a feeling of the tempo speeding up and slightly gathering momentum in parts, giving it a free-wheeling feeling. The subject matter almost goes against the up-beat music, the lyrics suggesting the story of a break up between friends or lovers.

3. Their cover of Train For Tomorrow- by the Electric Prunes, has some lovely harmonica parts. It's the most energetic of the four tracks, with a more rock'n'roll vibe than the original version. This song's theme of travelling towards the future is emphasised by a steady bass riff and solid drum groove. The words "Will our children have the chance to breathe, before tomorrow becomes today", raises the issue of a world which is currently on a route to ecological disaster, unless we change our direction.

4. Head In, is my favourite track of Buddha Bomb. Pensive, bittersweet vocals and quiet, darker instrumentals which are brightened with carefully-spaced splashing cymbals like stars in the sky. Peaceful bass and a repeating electric guitar melody near the end which put me in mind of some haunting flute lines I've heard in Scottish Traditional songs.

Buddha Bomb is music probably ideal for relaxing to, meditating or doing something creative. I put the album on a loop with the intention of getting this review done. A few hours later I was no closer to completing the review, but I *had* started and completed a painting of a glowing dragon in the night sky..... As my first review for NHC this wasn't my fastest completed piece of writing ever, but my unexpected new wall art proves that this is an EP I could enjoy listening to over and over again.

If you can, go check out Azure Halo's next gig at The Record Factory on the 12th February, which is also their bassist, Neil's birthday. A party not to be missed!

Buddha Bomb is available for sale in the NHC shop, where it's album cover is brightening up the shelf.