

ARMORED DAWN

"Power Of Warrior"

An album that is titled "Power of Warrior" must be, of course, powerful. The album of São Paulo-based heavy metal band Armored Dawn is not only powerful, it's fierce, with songs that seem to be calls to battle. The title of the work sounds flawless.

Formed in 2011 by musician and vocalist Eduardo Parras, last year the band launched the album "Viking Soul" that clearly featured his concern for showing an accurate sound. Guitars, bass and drums followed the finest patterns of metal, however, keyboards and other sonorities not always associated with the genre, gave the album a captivating singularity.

The pursuit for sound refinement took the band to one of the most important recording studios in Europe this year, the Jailhouse Studios in Horsens, Denmark. Tommy Hansen is the one in charge of it. The mention of his name may give Helloween fans the chills. Hansen produced the main albums of the German band, including "Keeper of the Seven Keys" Parts I and II (1987-88), seen as benchmarks in the world of power metal.

Armored Dawn wanted to re-record the tracks of "Viking Soul" with Hansen, using all the producer's experience and his studio technology. The outcome was "Power of Warrior", the result of a mix of cutting-edge digital equipment, hard-disk recordings using Pro Tools HD3 Accel 96, the good old reel-to-reel tape recorder and 24 channels, equipment that was widely acclaimed decades ago by bands that are now called classic rock.

The release of the album celebrates today's line-up of the band. Along with Parras there are four guys: drummer Rodrigo Oliveira, bass player Fernando Giovannetti, keyboardist Rafael Agostino and guitar players Tiago de Moura and Timo Kaarkoski, the latter being Finnish, but living in Brazil for quite some time.

What you hear is a journey through combat scenes, warrior pride and medieval atmosphere in Parras's lyrics. Parras's deep voice is surrounded by instrumental pieces that join both faster and more peaceful tracks all through the 10 lyrics of the album.

Even when the band is engaged in recording a ballad, such as "My heart", Parras doesn't let go of his faith in the heroic figure. The lyric is about a warrior

that finds himself alone bringing back the taste of his lover's lips who is far away. For sure, this song will always be one of the big moments in Armored Dawn shows.

The song which is the title of the album was conceived with classic features. A delicate melodic line follows martial drums for some moments, as if it were a call to war, followed by a sumptuous choir. Then the furious guitars kick in and Parras proclaims: "Nights are nights to war/If you believe in me/My soul is screaming for you/I'm here."

The epic tone is always there, in songs with introductions that attract metal fans right from the very first notes. "Prison" starts little by little, with each instrument joining in as a new sound level, until they form a solid metal anthem. "Far Away" starts with the killer bass of Giovanetti, paving the way for the others to kick in with full power. And Guga Bento's drums in "Too Blind to See" sounds like a mad galloping horse.

Armored Dawn is different from so many other metal bands that use keyboards just to introduce softer moments in the middle of heavy sounds. Rafael Agostino really knows how to link his keyboards to the fast and furious riffs of Tiago and Kaarkoski. Jon Lord would like to listen to this album.

"Power of Warrior" is more than just a sample of a great heavy band. It's a statement from a group that is there to conquer followers. As sung by Eduardo Parras in "Viking Soul": "We'll fight all the time, don't ask me why."

THALES DE MENEZES