



עֵפֶר אֶתְהָהּ וְאֵל עֵפֶר תֵּשׁוּב



WORDS BY DANIEL KÄLLMALM

PICTURES BY ARALLU

PUBLISHED ON: 2017-12-03

Hallowed does every once in a while speak with some bands that peak their interest and this time we have spoken with Israeli band Arallu and their main man who calls himself Butchered. They are from Jerusalem in Israel and Butchered describes the situation in the Middle East where they

live as quite difficult. Religious conflicts dominate their world and inspire the lyrics and music of Arallu. But Butchered doesn't think they are a political band.

- Arallu is a radical band in the music and the lyric. We do not hate anyone or anybody because of his skin colour or his religion. Our lyrics are clear! We rise against what is offensive and hurting us. Hurting us as human beings, and as individuals. The

people in Israel don't know what good life is; we are all busy with worrying about personal and national security.

- Our lyrics are straight in your face, against religions and what they represent and of course the people behind them. Our lyrics talks about all those things; from the wars of the ancient times as kings tried to rule Jerusalem to the wars of today as ISIS are trying to destroy and kill anyone

who doesn't agree with their religious views. Arallu tries to be the mirror of the human race, hypocrisy of the governments all around the world including Israel, and the unwillingness and fear to fight against the extreme religion leaders.

Arallu play and live black metal since the 1990s and the situation with terror and things around Jerusalem at the time was the spark that ignited the idea of

the band and then eventually brought it to life.

- I remember the bus exploding next to me around the streets of Jerusalem when I was on my way to school. We saw the hatred through the TV news. I was 16 years old and the extreme black metal concept around Europe comes to my life mixed with bloodshed around Jerusalem, I saw so much death and blood over my life so I'm really not

afraid of Islamic groups because of my music.

The debut album was released back in 1999 and it has been five more albums since then with demons and battles through the years. Like when they were screaming about the Islamic terror on the album "Satanic War in Jerusalem", something Butchered describes as a self-fulfilling prophecy if you look at the situation today.





### Inspirations & style

In Mesopotamian mythology Arallu is the underworld kingdom ruled by the goddess Ereshkigal and the god Nergal where the dead are judged. A fitting name for a band keeping to the darker side of the metal kingdom, and according to Butchered the band's music can be described in one sentence.

- Middle eastern black/thrash metal from the pits.

The inspirations are from the

local Middle Eastern music along with classic well-known names of the extreme metal genre.

- Slayer is my favourite band, and I'm really influenced by Mayhem, Absu, Marduk, King Diamond, old Deicide and many others from the other side. My father was listening to Middle Eastern music since I was a child.

But incorporating the Middle Eastern sounds and instruments with the international extreme metal style isn't the easiest thing

explains Butchered, and it is a time consuming exercise to make it work. You can't just incorporate instruments like Saz Drabukka or Sitar into the tracks without a lot of work and thinking.

- It takes hours to add these instruments in the right way and right place, but we will do it and works hard for that to bring a new sound to the global metal scene. Not everyone understands what we're playing. Like you can see some reviews are good and some

are not good, when you play risky music you know that can happen. We are not going with the mainstream of black metal music, and that's ok with us.

Such own thinking is usually exciting, as is bands from more uncommon locations. The holy city of Jerusalem isn't exactly the most common place for metal, we at Hallowed know only about very few bands and musicians from Israel and Butchered confirms that we have it right as

he describes the scene as a rather small one and that the fan base doesn't appear to be much larger.

- We have Salem our pioneers of death metal bands from the 80's. We have Orphaned Land that play all around the world and it's really great to see, but our metal scene is really small, not too many people comes to the shows and not really many good bands unfortunately.

**Six**

The latest album by Arallu is called "Six" and it happens to be the sixth album by the band. Like its predecessors it discusses the situation in the Middle East as well as deals with more personal things for the band and its members. It is also a showcase of Middle Eastern instruments and influences comparable to bands like Al-Namrood or Melechesh.

- On each album we used different Middle Eastern Instruments except the Drabukka





that we have on every album because it's a basic instrument of Arallu's music. I believe in the next album we will be looking for other instruments. We don't want our listeners to feel like every album of Arallu is the same.

**So staying fresh is important?**

- We're trying our best to not repeat ourselves, so every album we're using different Middle Eastern instruments. Even in the lyrics. The song *Adonay* is talking about a simple man from

Jerusalem killed by terrorist attack and left behind him a huge world of people who loved him, but actually this song was talking about the last days of my grandfather who really suffered before he died a few months ago. He was my role model and I really admired him. The song *Possessed by Sleep* is about the murder of a little girl named Hillel Yaffe Ariel who was killed in her bed by a terrorist while she was sleeping. When you live around Jerusalem

and you have three children all you're thinking about is how to keep them safe in this horrible world.

- When I'm writing my music and my lyrics I'm not looking for some victories. I mean I'm looking for something fresh, something that no one touched before. Because our music is a mix with extreme black metal music and Arabian/Middle Eastern music it's very hard to understand it in the first listening.

Usually people who like extreme black metal don't like the Middle Eastern parts and vice versa, when we wrote this album we knew it's risky and we know it from the debut album from 1999, but Arallu always looks to bring something different to the global metal scene and we're doing it in small steps.

When Comparing "Six" with earlier album *Butchered* describes the atmosphere as similar and the lyrics as straight in the face like

the previous albums. But in the earlier albums there were more themes about ancient wars and such things, about battles where kings tried to rule Jerusalem while "Six" is more about the wars of today. The struggles against ISIS and that sort of thing that takes up the minds of the community in the Middle Eastern region today.

- ISIS is trying to destroy and kill anyone who doesn't agree with their religious views. Like

in the song *Only One Truth*. Arallu concept is mirroring the human race, hypocrisy of the governments all around the world including Israel and the unwillingness and fear to fight against the extreme religious leaders.

**More on Six and Arallu Live**

So what about the songs? The Hallowed reviewer didn't find a favourite song when reviewing the album and the same thing can



be said for Butchered who didn't pick a favourite either.

- The songs I didn't like were left out of the album. I really like *Adonay* and *Only one Truth* but I really think all songs inside this album are great.

So with all the great songs through the album, so what is it that he likes best about the album "Six"?

- The reviews. I read every review of the album and its

great to see that all understand exactly what we try to submit the listeners. It's really perfect and give the spirit to move on for the next album.

But until this next album arrive they work hard promoting "Six", they are currently playing around Israel and have been looking to play outside Israel as well but nothing has materialised for them yet. Which Butchered and perhaps even the audience must

look upon as a big loss because according to their own testimony they are a great live band, well worth watching.

- I think Arallu has the best lineup, including Gal "Pixel" and Omri Yagen on the guitars, Assaf Kassimov our great drummer and Eylon Bart who plays the Darbukka and Saz for our new album. People who seeing us live really like it, we play a lot and we are really tight and with our

special instrument bring a perfect and interesting show.

No shows outside Israel may be planned at the moment but if the band could dream wildly, what would be the greatest and coolest venue to play at?

- I like to think for the future and to dream on, and I hope to play someday in Brutal Assault metal fest, Hellfest and Inferno Festival.

So if anyone of you know

anyone working with bookings that can bring Arulla to your part of the world or those mentioned festivals, give them the tip about Arallu and perhaps they will come to your place and play. Butchered promises that you will not be disappointed as they are a great live band, which hopes to play for us from a stage nearby.

- We hope to see you someday from the main stage.

#### **Arallu are:**

Butchered - Vocals, Bass  
Gal Pixel - Guitar & Bg Vocals  
Omri Yagen - Guitar & Bg Vocals  
Assaf Kassimov - Drums  
Eylon Bart - Saz, Darbuka and Backing Vocals

#### **Links:**

Our review  
Arallu on bandcamp  
Arallu on youtube