



7.2/10 Mladen

## LIGHTNING SWORDS OF DEATH - The Golden Plague - CD - Blackmetal.com - 2007

review by: [Mladen Škot](#)

Being a pure, orthodox black metal band, LA-based Lightning Swords of Death bring no surprises. They could be from just about anywhere, and the music from their debut could have been done by any group of devoted, skillful musicians. But, that doesn't mean that *The Golden Plague* can't be an interesting listen, through and through.

First thing separating Lightning Swords of Death from the rest of their peers is the sound. True and raw — we're talking mono here — yet everything is clear enough, so much that even listening through the headphones doesn't detract in the least. As a bonus, the sound job makes the atmosphere a bit forbidding, as if the seven tracks were recorded live, in the dark. It's almost like listening to a high quality bootleg recording, recorded at a show performed just for the band themselves, however illogical it might sound. In other words, there's a certain intimate feeling in listening to something you almost shouldn't be allowed to listen to.

Although the simple riffs aren't highly innovative, they serve their purpose and the way they are arranged is very tasteful. Very often there will be a short thrash moment where Lightning Swords of Death seem to be warming up before another round of double kick with constant guitar. Even the simple chord sequences — normally a resort for the less talented — sound fresh when Roskva, the guitarist, does them. Then there'll be a stubborn, repetitive guitar part where the drums do all the work in shifting the tempos.

Though classic black metal, with steady snare patterns and unpredictable cymbal work, Thrudvang's drumming holds even more surprises — not many could do those on-off machine gun blasts so suddenly and seemingly without effort. And Autarch's vocals? Distorted, sharp, vicious. Most of the time predictable, and most of the time... who cares? There's blood in those screams.

Lightning Swords of Death probably won't win anyone over by being original. Right. But, as I'm writing this review *The Golden Plague* is playing for the fourth time in a row. Why? Draw conclusions. (7.2/10)

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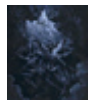
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