The supergroup Sinsaenum has returned in 2017 to follow up their debut full-length album *Echoes of the Tortured* with a fiery and intensely dark EP, simply titled *Ashes*. Comprised of ex-Slipknot and current Vimic drummer Joey Jordison, Attila Csihar of Mayhem and Sean Zatorsky of Dååth on vocals, Frédéric Leclercq of DragonForce and Stéphane Buriez of Loudblast on guitars, and Heimoth of Seth on bass, the band is in no way short of talent and experience and it absolutely shows through in their music.

This EP is noticeably darker than 2016's *Echoes of the Tortured*, as the black metal influences are much more prominent here. The first three tracks especially show the black metal qualities that Mayhem and Seth are so well-known for, such as the muffled and heavy growls, the intense speeds, and the dark themes. Even so, the influences of the four other musicians in the band are also very noticeable in the new tracks, such as the iconic guitar solos coming from DragonForce, and the technically magnificent chord progressions from death metal acts such as Loudblast and Dååth. Combined by the incredibly versatile drumming of Joey Jordison, the band manages to create a truly unique sound within genres that are often so easily lumped together as sounding largely homogeneous.

The last three tracks are bonus tracks - two that were only released in Japan as well as an alternative mix of “Dead Souls” from *Echoes of the Tortured*. All of these tracks fit well together with the three newer tracks previously mentioned, maintaining that intensely dark and chaotic vibe that the EP establishes.

I personally love this EP, because it truly managed to surprise me. As a person who listens to all of the major genres expressed in this EP, hearing American heavy and death, European black, and European death metal all merge together really asserts the nuances of each regional genre individually while also creating a wholly unique sound. The mastery of metal that the members of Sinsaenum possess is truly marvelous. I can’t wait to see what they release in the future.

**Sounds Like:**
- If Slayer played death metal
- If Goatwhore was from Oslo in the 90s
- If Dimmu Borgir and Marduk had a baby who also happened to be a guitar virtuoso
- If Pantera played black metal and Phil Anselmo wasn’t a nazi

**Recommended Tracks:**
1. Ashes - title track - dark, fast, thrashy, awesome guitar work - 4:14
2. Monarch of Death - groovy black metal, like a black metal Pantera almost, dark - 3:33
3. 2099 (Heretics) - easily the most insane track on the album, black metal with Dragonforce guitar solos - 6:17

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**Date Reviewed:**
11/29/2017