



Messian Dread "Messenjah Dub"

<http://www.dubflash.com>

Did you ever had the wish to run back in time? About 25 years back? To Jamaica? Well, this CD won't be able to do this but it gives you the impression that you are in 1976 in Kingston, listening to Scientist kicking some echos on a Roots Radics track. Messiah Dread was one of the first (if not the first) to be present in internet. He has his Dub Room online for ages (maybe even longer than the internet exists, hehe). There he always presents hundreds of MIDI and MP3 files of him (besides many other things). This so called D.A.M. CD is available at MP3.com. A D.A.M. CD is a CD with audio tracks, multimedia infos and MP3s together on one CD. So if you don't have a portable CD player, you can put the MP3s in your portable MP3 player. Bad is when you don't have both of it - like me for example ;-). Good that I have at least a normal CD player, although I need up to 10 tries to make it read a CD as it is so old. Well, I made the CD work and as I already wrote I thought I jumped back in time. Of course, you may know that I expect the digital dub, fast stepping, even into the techno direction. If you search for such a thing you are wrong here. I don't know if there is someone in Middle Europe whos is more into the reggae and JAH culture than Messiah Dread. It is amazing how he is able to put this spirit in his music. As I said it sounds like originally jamaican 1970s dub! With every tone you hear that he is "in it". There are so many people shouting for modern produced dub sounding like the originals. Well, take this or cry for ever. Expect some heavy roots dub at it's best. I myself was very impressed. I had some MP3s of Messiah Dread before but on a CD on a real stereo the music sounds much better. Kicking drums (the snare makes this cool "flatsch" - a German word which I can't translate into English, sorry! Listen to it and you will have the explanation for "flatsch", hehe.), deeeeep grumbling basses, offbeats from deep down somewhere and of course old school horns and a lot of echos can be found here. And I don't think there's someone who doesn't like that ;-). Then you wouldn't like dub at all. A little bit to the songs. I admit that I don't like all of the songs, some are too rootical for me but most of them are just right. It's starts right away with a lot of echos and hall effects in "Lion Dub". An "Apocalypse Dub" makes it's way directly to your head, slow, intensive and brilliant. Listen to the offbeats, they are great. "Wolves" is one of those melodic (horns!) reggae roots dubs that I usually

don't like. But still here are interesting vocals, a rolling bass and great echos. "Jah Glory" which follows is maybe Messiah Dread's biggest hit so far. It's just a fantastic dub and I guess if you would here it the first time you would bet it is mixed by Scientist! "Dubbing Is A Must" and "Dub With You" are in the same tradition while "A Handfull Of Dub" is an experiment. Rockers finest but for me to melodic. I'm not a friend of such horns and keyboard melodies. Better skip to "Dub Righteous", again a very deep and slow dub. Also with horns but here mostly faded out in echos. Very dragging. If you can't nod your head to this, then I don't know ;-) Track 9 is the 2nd experiment: "Dub Blaster". I didn't get very familiar with his experiments but that's absolutely a personal feeling, you will get here a pushing bass and a lot of keyboard offbeats fading out in long echos. "Rootsman Dub" starts with an organ (maybe the instrument that I like the least in dub/reggae). Intensive echo use and some funny choir sounds can be heard, too and of course over all a rolling bassline. The drums change from very quiet and in the back to loud and in front what gives an interesting effect. Okay, and when I just thought that I don't like Messiah Dread's experiments I already have to admit I'm wrong. The 3rd experiment "Dub Til Daylight" is the best song on the whole CD. A wild running bassline (exactly how I love them) and not less wild thrown in melody and offbeat fragments that are already echoed out before they came really in :-). I could listen to this on and on again. If you want to check one MP3 on his site before buying the CD, download or stream this one. But beware: You will be hooked! :-). The only negative thing in this song is that it is too short. The following "Trouble" has a difficult start as it comes directly after "Dub Til Daylight". Even it tries it's best it can't convince after such a powerful dub. "Throw Mi Corn Dubwize" is the 4th and last experiment and brings a different stly to daylight. The bassline is very slow, the drums are not floating like usual but have some breaks in 'em. Nice. There's also a new instrument in this song, the clavinet. This instrument is also used in the last track of the CD: "Hardcore Dub". It's the only stepping dub but it's not really hardcore like you may expect. I recommend this CD without a doubt to everyone who is into old school roots dub. Dub in the Scientist tradition at it's finest!

Artist: Messiah Dread

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