

HAÏVE

„MIELI MAASSA“
(Northern Silence)

Thought about a vacation in Finland lately? Here's your personal invitation! Presented by Varjosielu, head, heart and soul of Haïve, a "band" that at first sight seems to be easy to categorize amongst the many one-man-projects in the post Burzum era. But in contrast to most of them, Haïve transports quite positive moods with its powerful songs that are mainly held in low to mid tempo. And this difference is what makes the project without doubt stick out of the seemingly endless flood of releases of "depressive" / "suicidal" black metal: it is much lighter and somehow encouraging, maybe comparable to the early morning sun which invites you to go outside (instead of keeping yourself hidden from the outside while listening to frustrating dark metal all the time). Thus "Mieli Maassa" creates an atmosphere of its own which is rather uncommon within this music style, but very welcome by me. The ingredients are well-known, but the soup of this possessed musician, who plays each and every instrument, tastes differently fresh and empowers you to let your imagination play and maybe even to plan a trip through the outback - who knows? Not knowing what the Finnish lyrics are about, I think we can

conclude from the photos and the whole artwork that the music praises nature in its primeval forms, and the various approaches



on this album fit that idea, be it the beautifully arranged acoustic passages, the proud and clean vocals in the fourth track "Yömyrsky" or the uplifting character of many apparently folk-influenced melodies. The design of the record reflects the unusual focus of Haïve well since it features some crystal-clear and bright photos of Finnish sceneries

which we might as well find in (tasteful!) holiday prospects and which motivate you to leave hectic civilization behind and to wander



through more inviting landscapes. The fierce vocals remind me a bit of Ajattara, but this may be due to the Finnish language and its pronunciation. In other respects this first full length album convinces with its individual charm which has little to do with the conventional kitsch of the contemporary black metal milieu. So, for what do you wait?

Catch your disc man and this album, go outside and find that not all is lost but that there are still some inviting places - not only in Finland...!

www.haive.tk