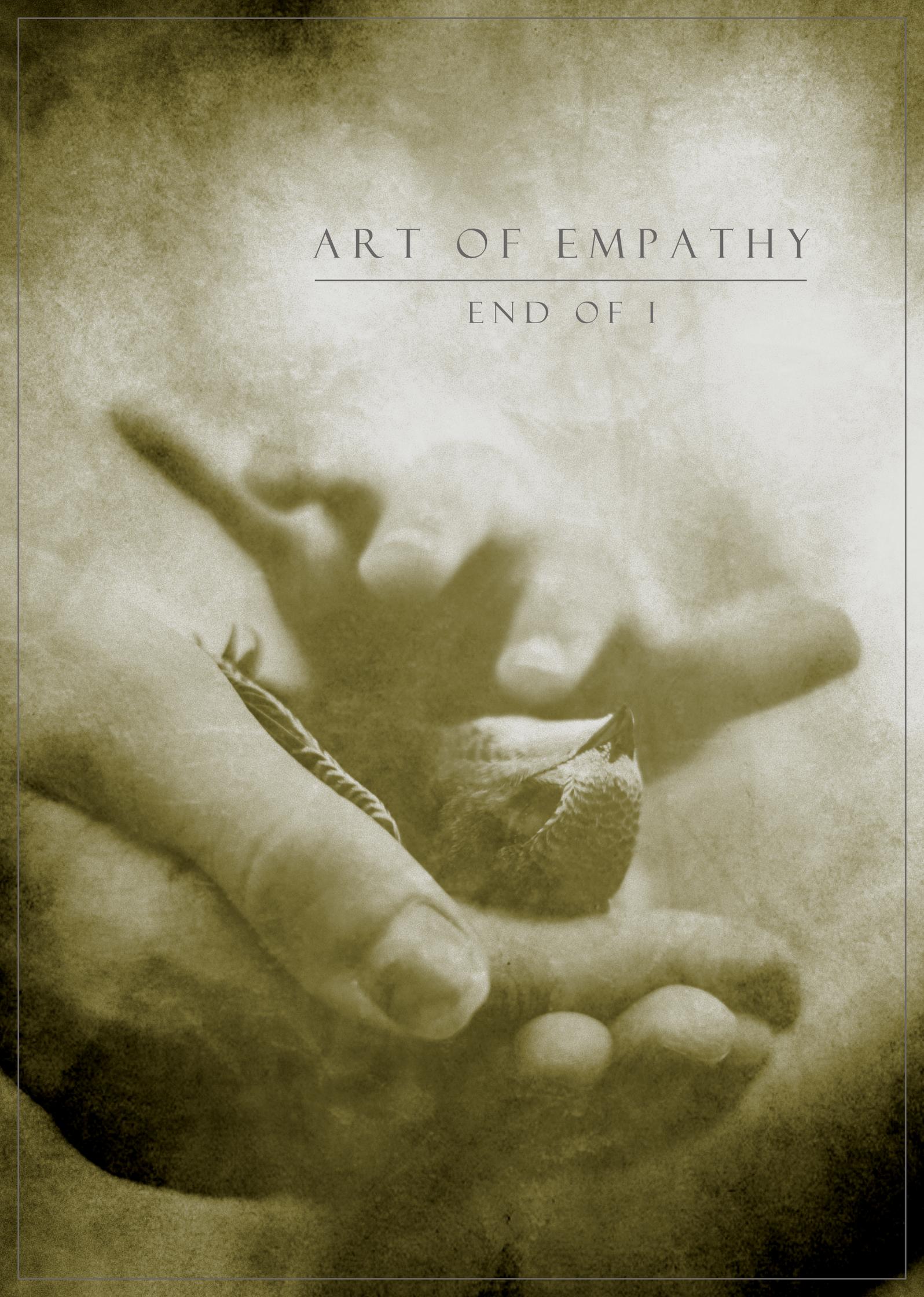
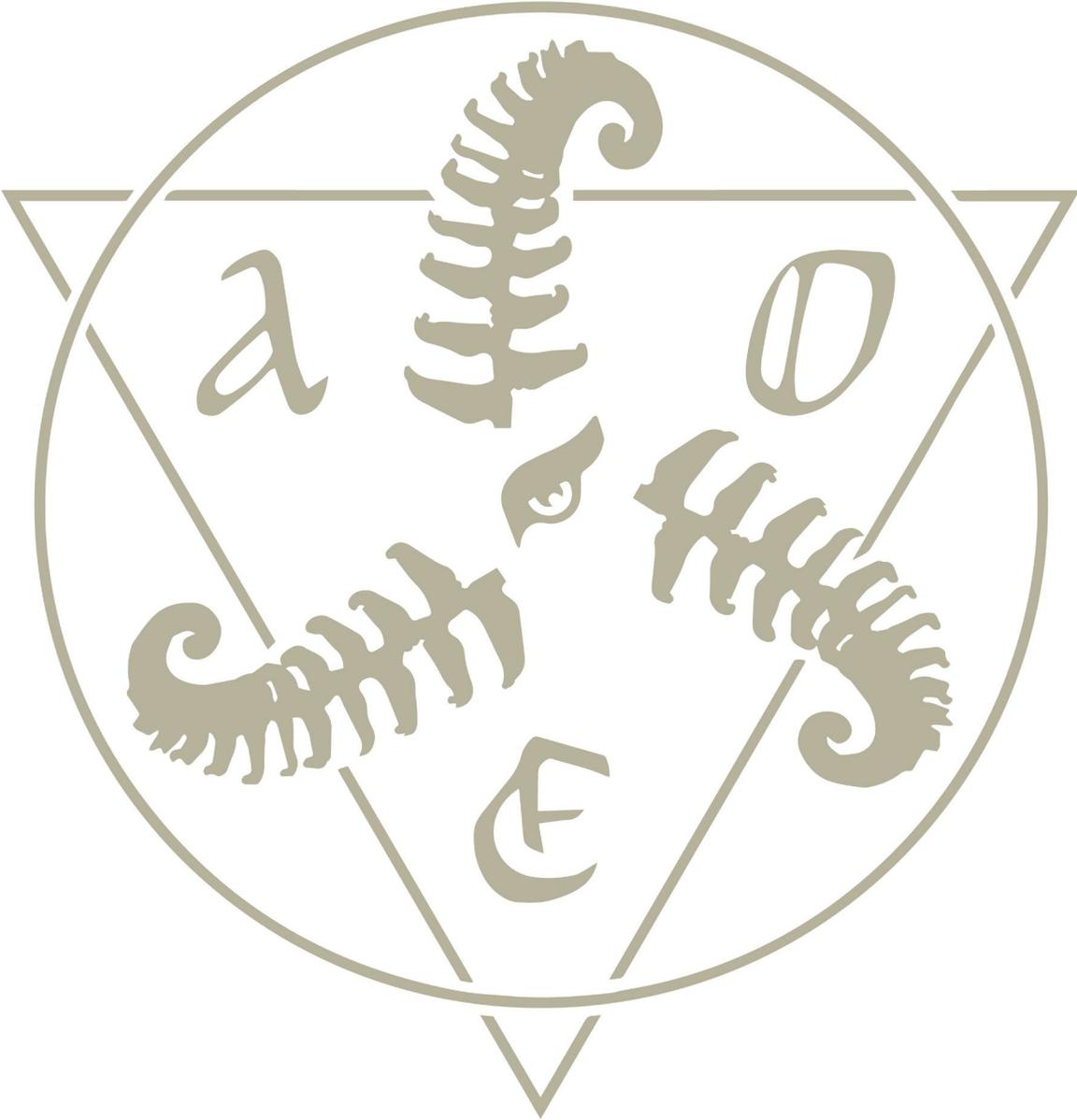


# ART OF EMPATHY

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END OF I





Man is a beast, the kings said.  
A sinner, the priests said.  
A selfish person, the bookkeepers said.

For centuries Western culture has been  
permeated with the belief in the depravity  
of man.

But what if we were wrong all the time?

(Rutger Bregman)



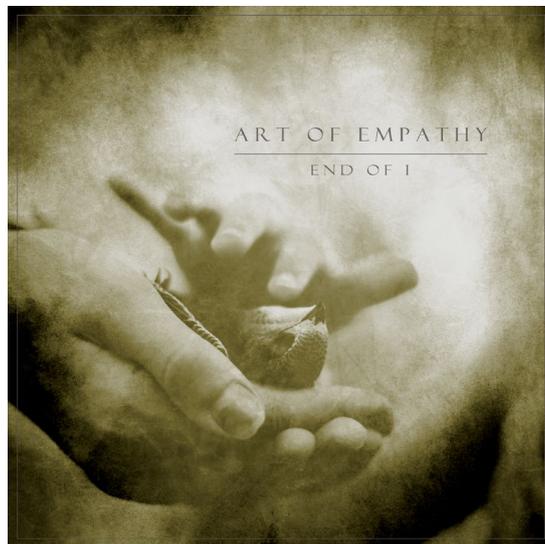
Image front cover: [Nine Köpfer](#)  
Image: [Andrea Boldisar](#)

# ART OF EMPATHY

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## END OF I

- 01 - WHERE SOULS SHINE BRIGHTEST
- 02 - END OF I
- 03 - HERE COMES EVERYBODY
- 04 - THEIR PLAYGROUND
- 05 - LEGION
- 06 - MIND / MATTER
- 07 - KARMA'S LITTLE HELPERS
- 08 - EVERYWHERE
- 09 - NINETY-SIX PERCENT
- 10 - CYNICISM LEFT FOR DEAD
- 11 - REVELATION OF IGNORANCE
- 12 - HUGGING STRANGERS



# 01 - WHERE SOULS SHINE BRIGHTEST

First there was darkness  
And the earth was formless and void  
And the lord of darkness saw it was good

Within the deep waters  
The pulse of the moon, bringer of life  
And the lord of darkness saw it was good

Lies or truth  
It matters what you do  
Truth or lies  
Choose the ones you despise

So many words and so little meaning  
I move upon the surface of water  
“Don’t fly too close to the sun” was the advise

The unnamable is the eternally real  
So I dive into this pristine womb  
To find but nothingness, to embrace the cold

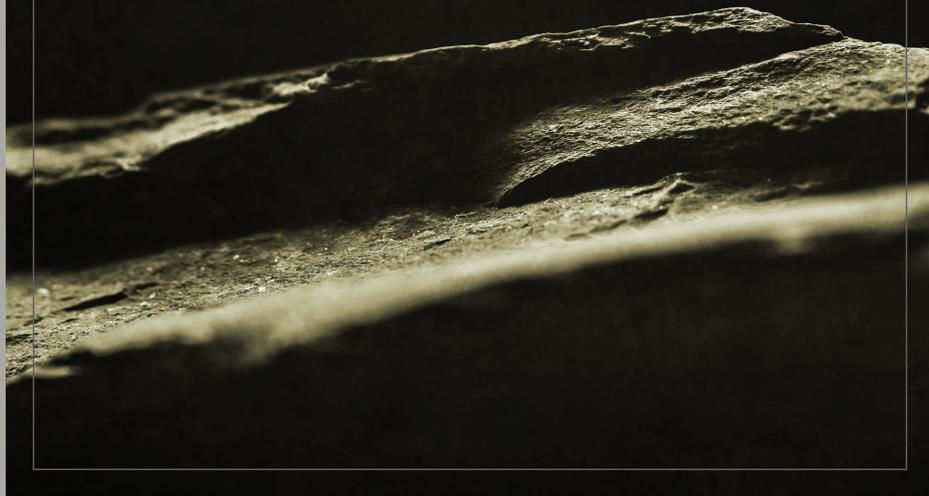
Enjoy the ritual exorcism  
Of your human fear  
No longer paralyzed, forever amazed

Get enchanted by darkness  
Let your soul shine bright  
Be authentic and passionate  
Be alright  
Be a lord of darkness to see it is good

Be a lord of darkness



can you find happiness  
or can you shine  
by embracing  
the dark side of life?



Get enchanted by darkness  
Let your soul shine bright

Be authentic and passionate  
Be alright



Music: Jef Janssen  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: Fabian Kozdon

## 02 - END OF I

While we prepare ourselves again  
For the unknown, the unforeseeable  
Seasons of history repeat  
Perversion of power, denial, a friend

No more believe in apathy  
Their source is drying, leave it that way  
Time will no longer have to tell  
The things we knew the day we were born

End of pleasing  
End of treason  
End of flying high  
End of vanity  
End of I

End of old forces  
Of human resources  
The end of nations  
Of tired generations

End of pleasing  
End of treason  
End of flying high  
End of vanity  
End of I

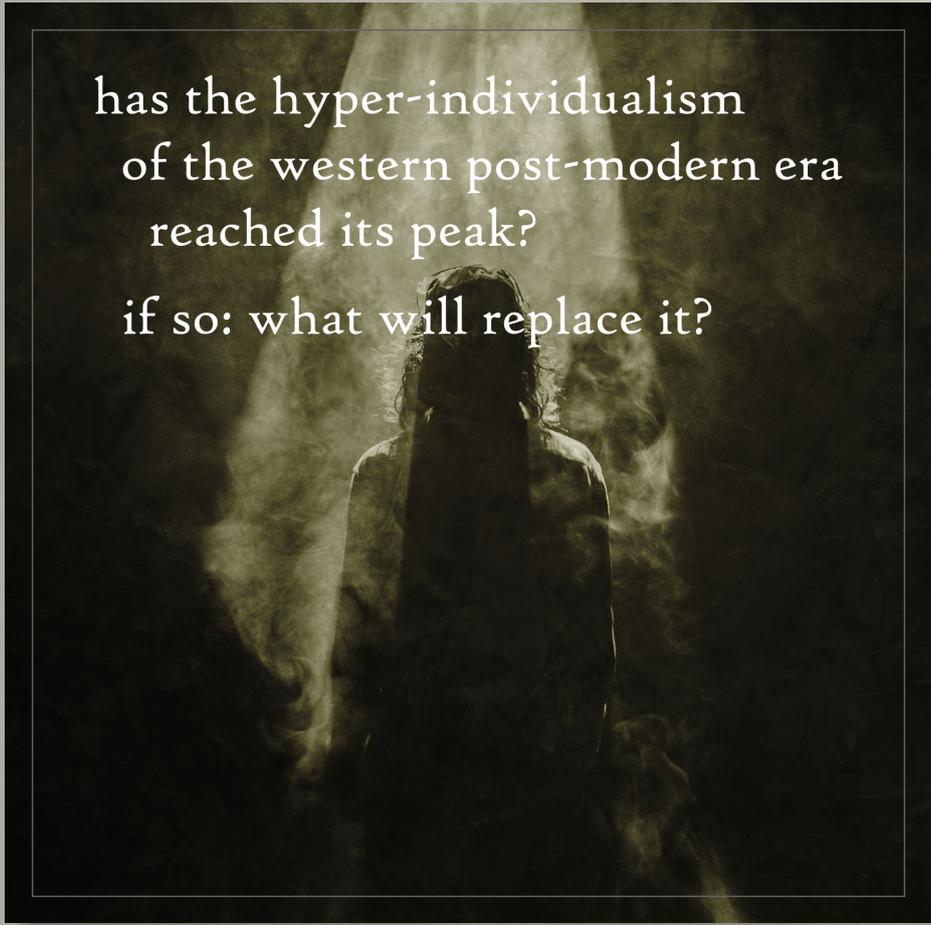
The higher you soar  
The smaller you appear  
To all of those  
With their feet on the ground

We are many  
You are but one

Many  
As One

We are many  
You are but one  
We are many  
You are but one





has the hyper-individualism  
of the western post-modern era  
reached its peak?  
if so: what will replace it?



The higher you soar  
The smaller you appear

To all of those  
With their feet on the ground



Music: Jef Janssen  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: [Mads Schmidt Rasmussen](#)

## 03 - HERE COMES EVERYBODY

Freed ourselves from the chains of great stories  
We push aside the illusions and advice  
Moving around in any direction the wind blows  
Moving around, embracing all the new lies

Watch us  
Here we come  
Hear us  
Here we come

All work and no play, will it make me a dull boy in the end?  
When the bullshit leaves, it's the wonderful money that talks  
The market will guide me on my arousing quest for happiness  
The market will guide me on these ever enthralling walks

Watch me  
Here I come  
Hear me  
Here I come

Welcome to the anthropocene

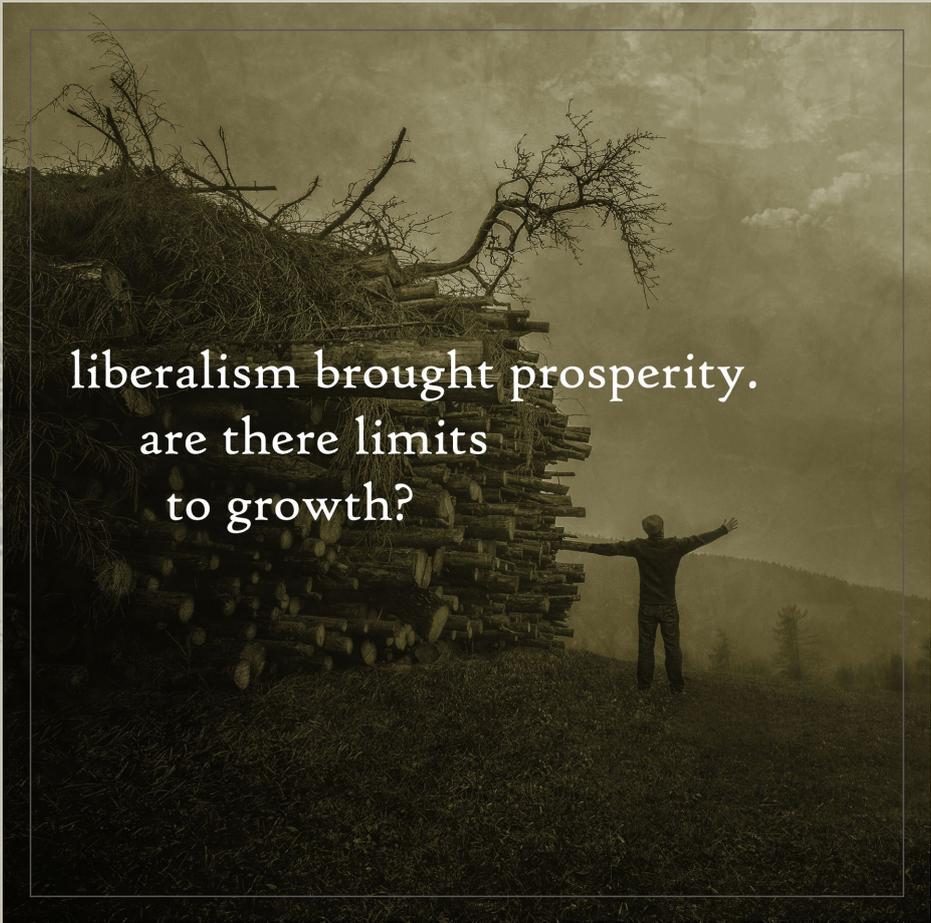
And now we have all sunk to a depth  
At which the restatement of the obvious  
Is the first duty of intelligent men

There's an antidote to our selfish genes  
There's a joy of being conscious  
There is a way to rise above our origins  
Rise above

All those who proudly try to play it sole alone  
Beholden to no one, no eye for any relief  
Will surely regret ignoring the face of the other  
Will never expect the certain coming of grief

I'll watch you  
There you go  
I'll hear you  
There you go





liberalism brought prosperity.  
are there limits  
to growth?



And now we have all sunk to a depth

At which the restatement of the obvious

Is the first duty of intelligent men



Music: Jef Janssen  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: [Simon Matzinger](#)

## 04 - THEIR PLAYGROUND

Here they come  
Brace yourself, 'cause no one will do it for you  
Here they come  
Watch your back, 'cause no one will stop them for you

Here they come  
Ranting and preaching, practicing is not part of it  
Here they come  
Minding their own business, loyalty is not part of that

Nearer and nearer  
Don't stand in their way  
And mind the herd of ignorant , collective fear is feeding them

Nearer and nearer  
Don't be led astray  
And try to stand the awful stench of social desirability

Let go  
What goes around, doesn't always come around  
So say the new kings  
So say the new kings

Beware the vicious games they play  
Beware the false words of pray  
Don't look for morals, or scruples, nor conscience

Kiss butt or kick it

Never confronted with honesty  
Truth will never reveal itself to you  
Don't know the taste of purity  
Keep chewing on your own lies

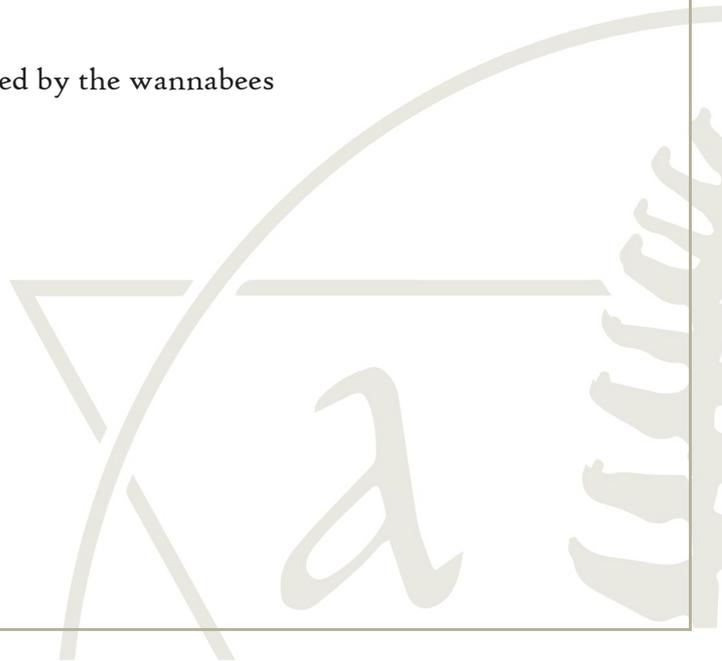
Here they come  
Blinded by a narrow mind, rotten to the bone  
Here they come  
Their will to power, will cause you harm

Nearer and nearer  
I did not stand in the way  
Of the queen bees and the kings of queens, surrounded by the wannabees

Nearer and nearer  
I wasn't led astray  
And now not able anymore to hide my disgust

Let go  
What goes around, doesn't always come around  
So say the new kings  
So say the new kings

Beware the vicious games they play  
Beware the false words of pray  
Don't look for morals, or scruples, nor conscience





must a society show respect  
for those  
who don't have any?



Never confronted with honesty  
Truth will never reveal itself to you

Don't know the taste of purity  
Keep chewing on your own lies



Music: Jef Janssen  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: Razvan Chisu

## 05 - LEGION

We're not conceited, we're unobtrusive  
Don't look edgy, not impressed by brag  
We are lone wolves, hunting for beauty  
Wearing Cain's mark deeply burned in our skin

We are not screaming, we bathe in silence  
Against the current, our destiny  
We do not share the relentless ego  
That suits the feeling being atop of the chain

Might be one hundred forty four thousand  
Might be more or might be less  
The legion of the willing  
Bonded in darkness

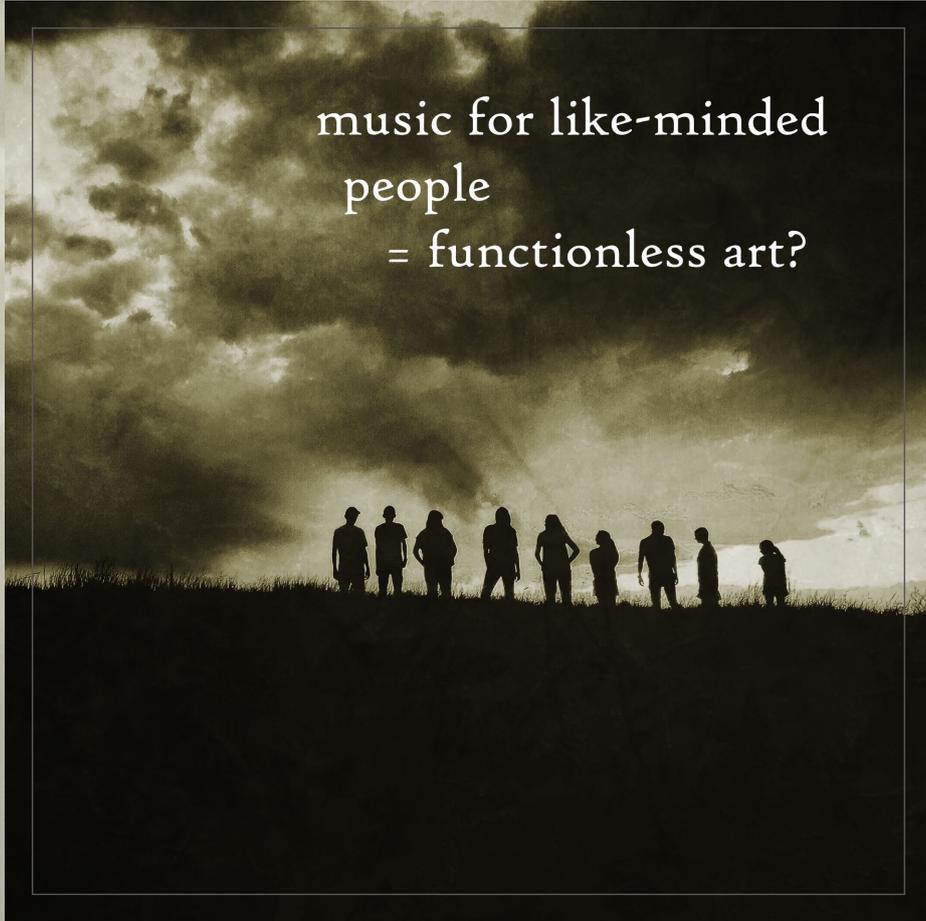
Here's to the ones pure at heart  
Here's to the ones who won't let go  
In search of honor, you are not  
Yet be revered for all times you fought

Might be one hundred forty four thousand  
Might be more or might be less  
The legion of the willing  
Bonded in darkness

No remorse, still looking forward  
Unaffected by distress  
The legion of the willing  
Bonded in darkness



music for like-minded  
people  
= functionless art?



Here's to the ones pure at heart  
Here's to the ones who won't let go

In search of honor, you are not  
Yet be revered for all times you fought



Music: Jef Janssen + Nina Van der Auwera on vocals  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: Hudson Hintze

## 06 - MIND / MATTER

The awareness  
Of the cold ground  
Lied up in chains  
In pain

I am grounded deep again  
Thoroughly covered in mud

No, not entirely  
Unexpected  
Long before the stabbing  
Heard the sharpening of knives  
Saw deceit in the eyes

The stabs won't end my breathing  
The scars will show me the way all over

The stabs won't end my breathing  
The scars will show me the way all over  
This soil will stop the bleeding  
I will bend. I will not break  
Sure will bend. I will not break

I'm learning kindness  
From the unkind  
Amor fati forever  
Sometimes you shine sometimes you burn  
Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn

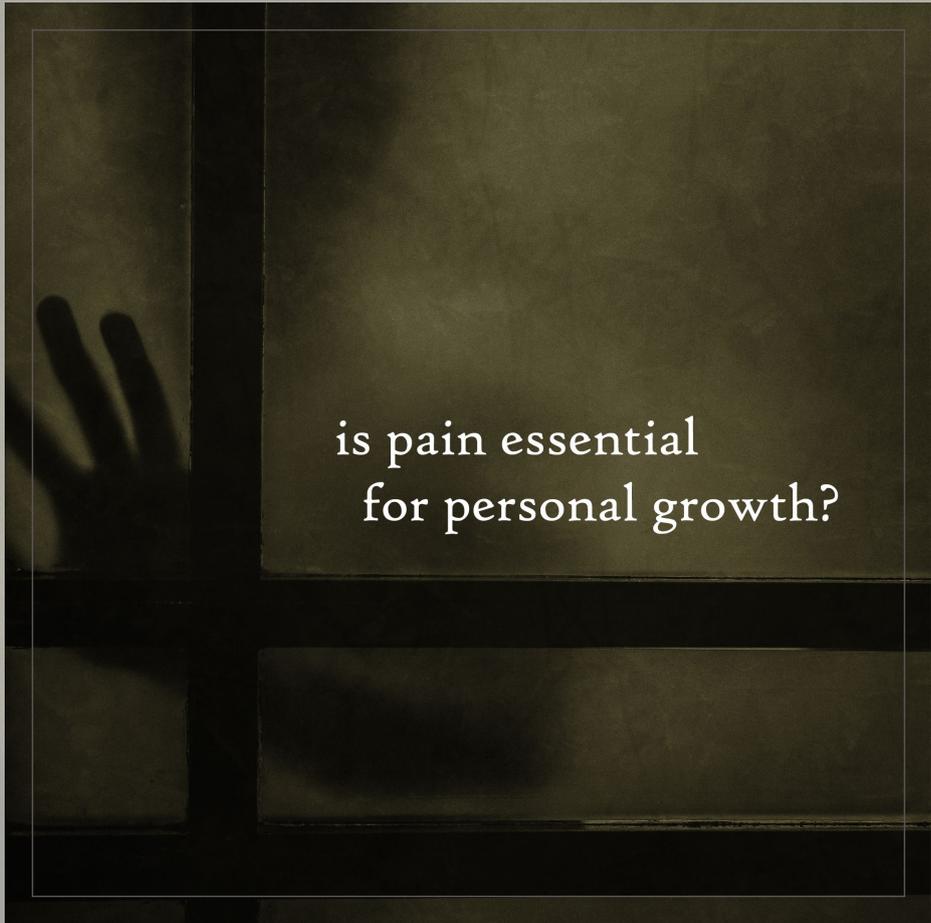
The stabs won't end my breathing  
The scars will show me the way all over  
The soil will stop the bleeding  
I will bend. I will not break  
Sure will bend. I will not break

Get up, cease the straying  
Leave all the ones that are betraying

The stabs won't end my breathing  
The scars will show me the way all over  
This soil will stop the bleeding  
I will bend. I will not break

The stabs won't end my breathing  
The scars will show me the way all over  
This soil will stop the bleeding  
I will bend. I will not break  
Sure will bend. I will not break





is pain essential  
for personal growth?



I'm learning kindness  
From the unkind

Amor fati forever

Sometimes you shine sometimes you burn  
Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn



Music: Jef Janssen  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: Clem Onojeghuo

## 07 - KARMA 'S LITTLE HELPERS

From a growing worship of justice they'll rise  
For the lovely art of retribution they'll fight  
Forget the good luck or the bad luck this time  
All sense of grace or sympathy declined

For a greater...  
A greater...

From a growing worship of justice they'll rise  
For the lovely art of retribution they'll fight  
Forget the good luck or the bad luck this time  
All sense of grace or sympathy declined

For a greater good  
For a greater...  
For a greater goodo  
For a greater...

For a greater...  
A greater...  
Good

For a greater good  
They will follow through

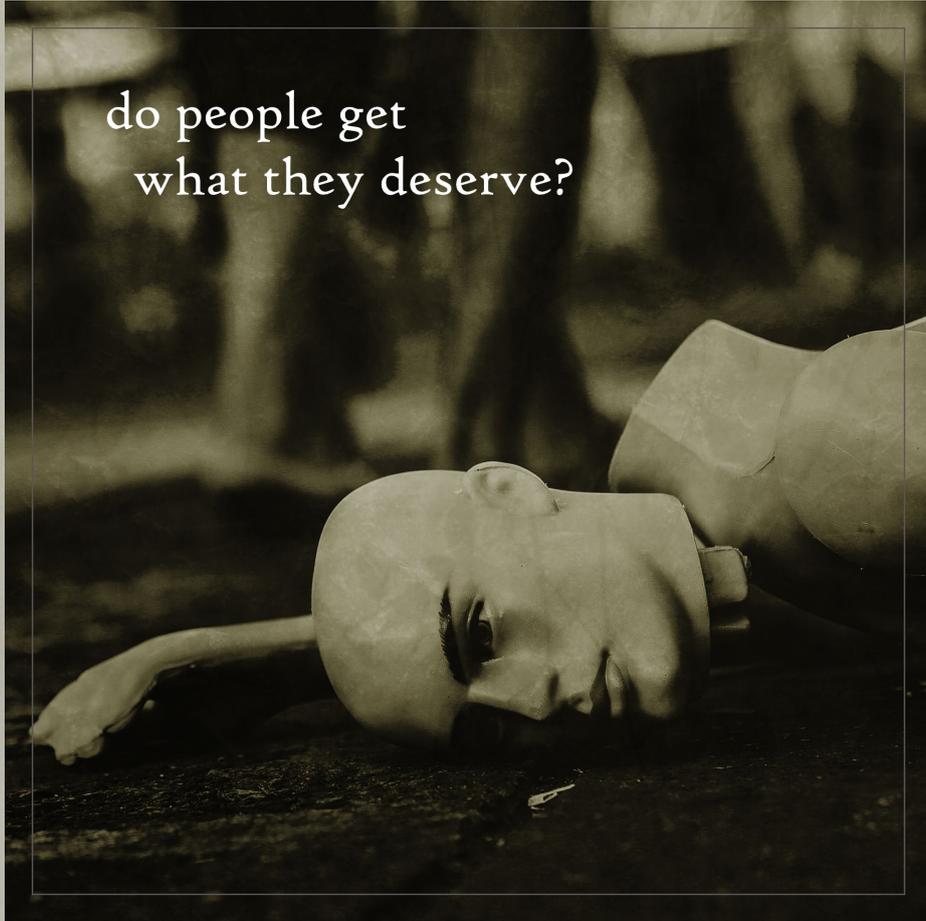
In name of the fathers  
In name of the sons  
The mothers and daughters  
In name of the ones

Who suffer in silence  
Dignity lost  
Consistently hold on  
At any cost

For a greater good  
For a greater...  
From a growing worship of justice they'll rise



do people get  
what they deserve?



From a growing worship of justice they'll rise  
For the lovely art of retribution they'll fight

Forget the good luck or the bad luck this time  
All sense of grace or sympathy declined



Music: Jef Janssen  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: Edu Lauton

## 08 - EVERYWHERE

Don't have to be joyful  
Don't have to be  
Of good cheer

Keep bowing your head  
And kneel as you please  
I've never been where you have been

Tell me all about  
Your fear and despair  
I've never seen what you have seen

Though I see...

Beauty in what's given  
I saw beauty, when at ease  
I hear beauty in dawn's chorus  
In the poetry of trees

How silly our brain  
To lead us astray  
Now go your way  
And let go

How silly our brain  
There's really no gain  
Aim for restraint  
And look for

Beauty in what's given  
Look for beauty, be at ease  
And find beauty in dawn's chorus  
In the poetry of trees

How silly our brain  
To lead us astray  
Now go your way  
And let go

How silly our brain  
There's really no gain  
Aim for restraint  
And let go  
Let it flow

I'll tell you all about  
Wovon man nicht sprechen kann  
We'll find the essence of all unintended meaning



is there essence  
in the unintended?



How silly our brain  
To lead us astray

Now go your way  
And let go



Music: Jef Janssen  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: [Jerry Kieseewetter](#)

## 09 - NINETY-SIX PERCENT

We are  
Spirits in heaven  
They are  
L'enfer

We are  
The almighty subject  
They are  
Objects

Existence precedes essence

We are  
Outrunning the nothing  
They are  
Observing

We are  
Seeking approval  
They are  
Judging

You're looking worn out  
You're walking cramped  
Your thoughts distorted  
Feel discontent

Why fighting the wrong ones  
It is not them  
That kill your values  
And more to come  
Much more to come

It's not about cheating  
Your loneliness  
For silence will still be  
Forever a bless  
It's not about friendship  
Although we share  
A common foe  
A common despair

Now cease the worship of conceit  
Cease the worship of pride  
To those lacking virtue  
Your destiny is not tied

Cease the worship of conceit  
Drop those lacking virtue

Essence precedes existence

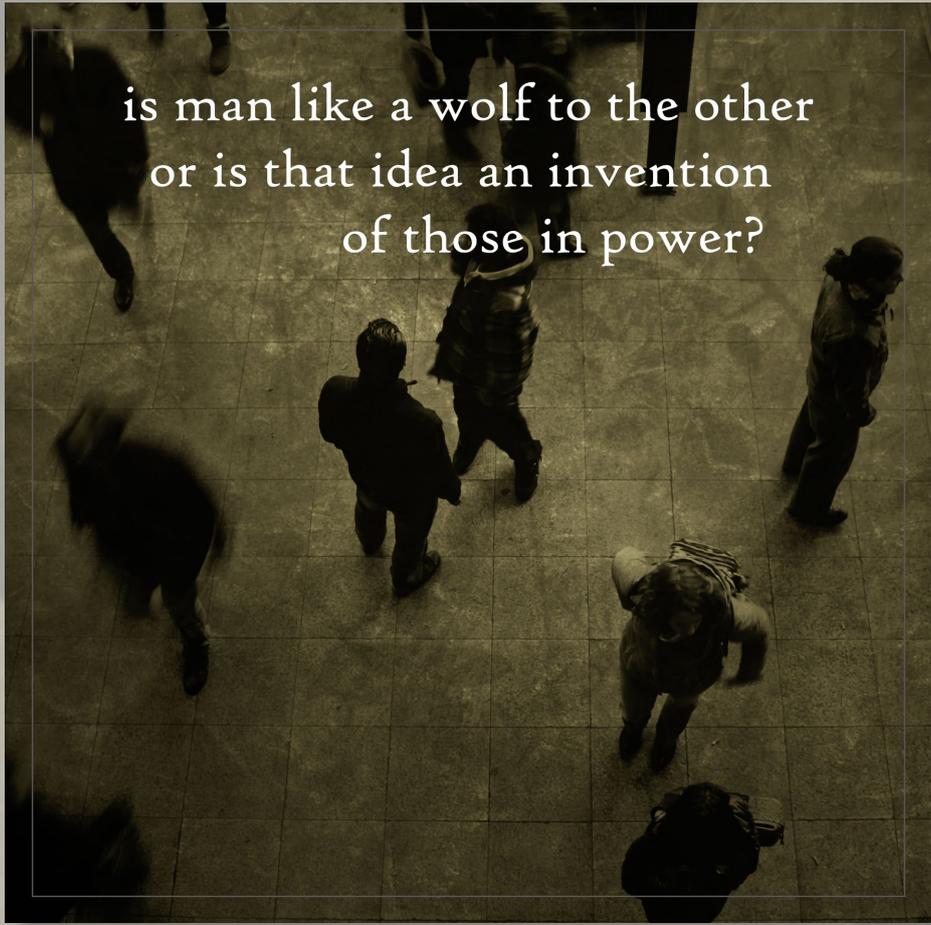
We are  
All marching forward  
They are  
Walking along

We are  
Standing and fighting  
They are  
Brothers in arms

We will strike harder  
We'll break the chains  
Reclaim our freedom  
Or what still remains

Now fighting the right ones  
We know them by name  
The bliss you crave for  
We can attain





is man like a wolf to the other  
or is that idea an invention  
of those in power?



Cease the worship of conceit  
Cease the worship of pride

To those lacking virtue  
Your destiny is not tied



Music: Jef Janssen  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: [Timon Studler](#)

# 10 - CYNICISM LEFT FOR DEAD

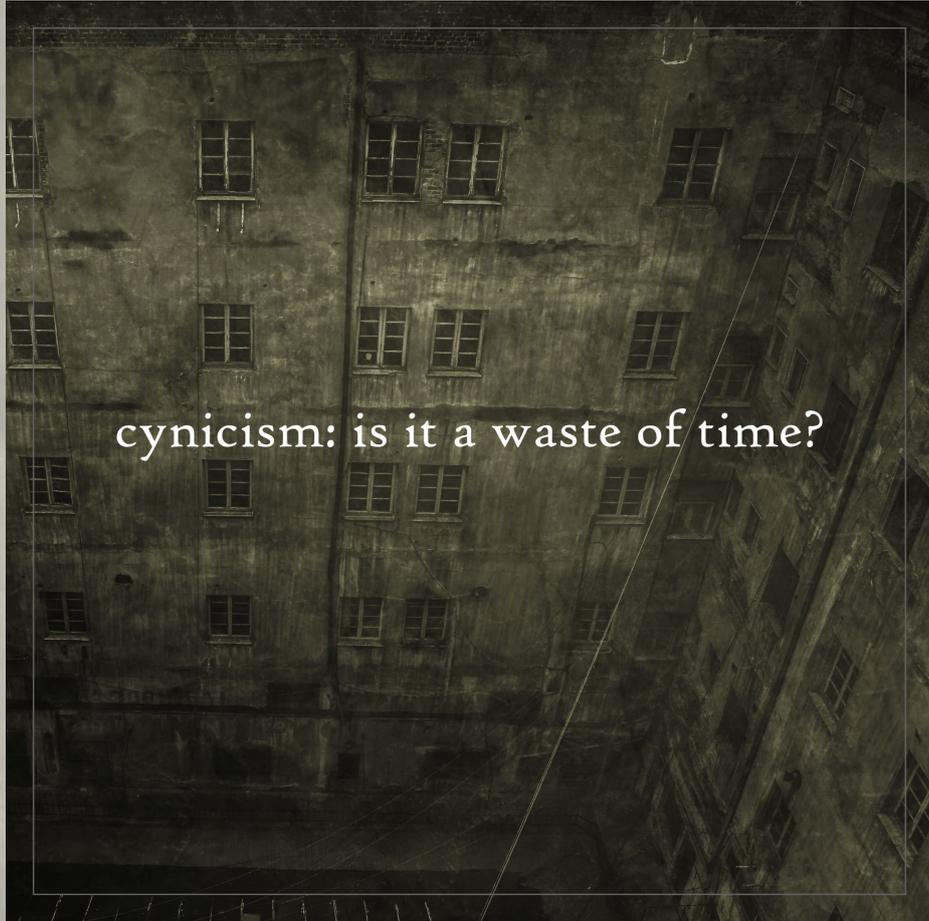
(instrumental)



Music:  
Words:  
Image:

Jef Janssen  
Jef Janssen  
Nguyen Thành Đông





cynicism: is it a waste of time?

Let's be realistic

Let's find a way out

Music: Jef Janssen  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: [Toa Heftiba](#)

## 11 - REVELATION OF IGNORANCE

I came to earth, gazing upwards  
Found some answers tripping down  
Learned to read words of wisdom  
Heard the chatter when no one around  
I was advised by Apollo  
Learned to look in my own eyes  
What remains seems so hollow  
All that I know...

Is I don't really know  
No I don't really know  
Is it bliss?

I walk around, keep observing  
People searching, making a name  
Self-centred forces are creaking  
Old imperiums forced to shame  
I see desire, difficult trials  
Witness the stutter without success  
Carrying meaning for many miles  
And then I know...

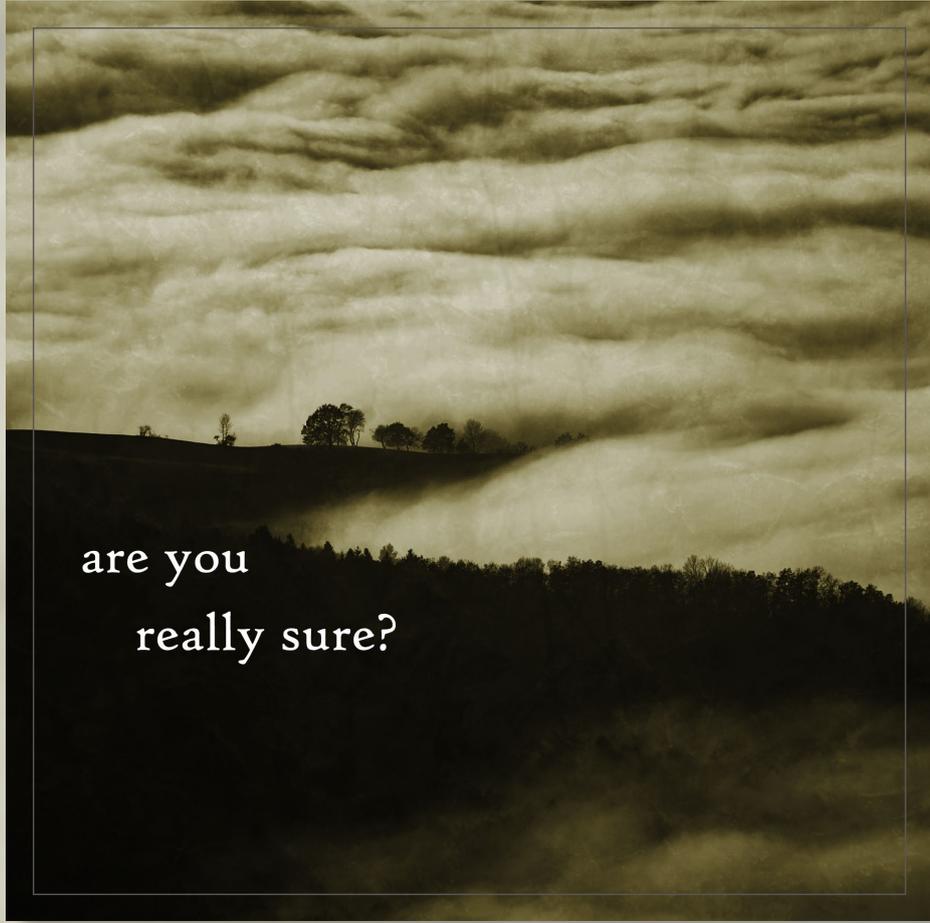
That I don't really know  
No I don't really know  
Why the hell would I know?  
Why the hell should I know?

For as long I see the moon dance around the earth  
The craving for answers remain, so does my mirth  
I'll embrace the admission that life doesn't fall  
In a well-designed logic. So I will recall...

That I don't really know  
No I don't really know  
Why the hell would I know?  
Why the hell should I know?  
It is bliss

Will we be us again  
Because you still know?





are you  
really sure?

I see desire, difficult trials

Witness the stutter without success

Carrying meaning for many miles



Music: Jef Janssen  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: Olivier Miche

## 12 - HUGGING STRANGERS

I say  
Ooh  
Ooh

I say  
Ooh  
Ooh

Come on

There is a village out there we call the earth  
In which inhabitants are trying not to drown  
They share the universal language of absurd  
A little sweet to make the sour go down

I say  
Ooh  
Ooh

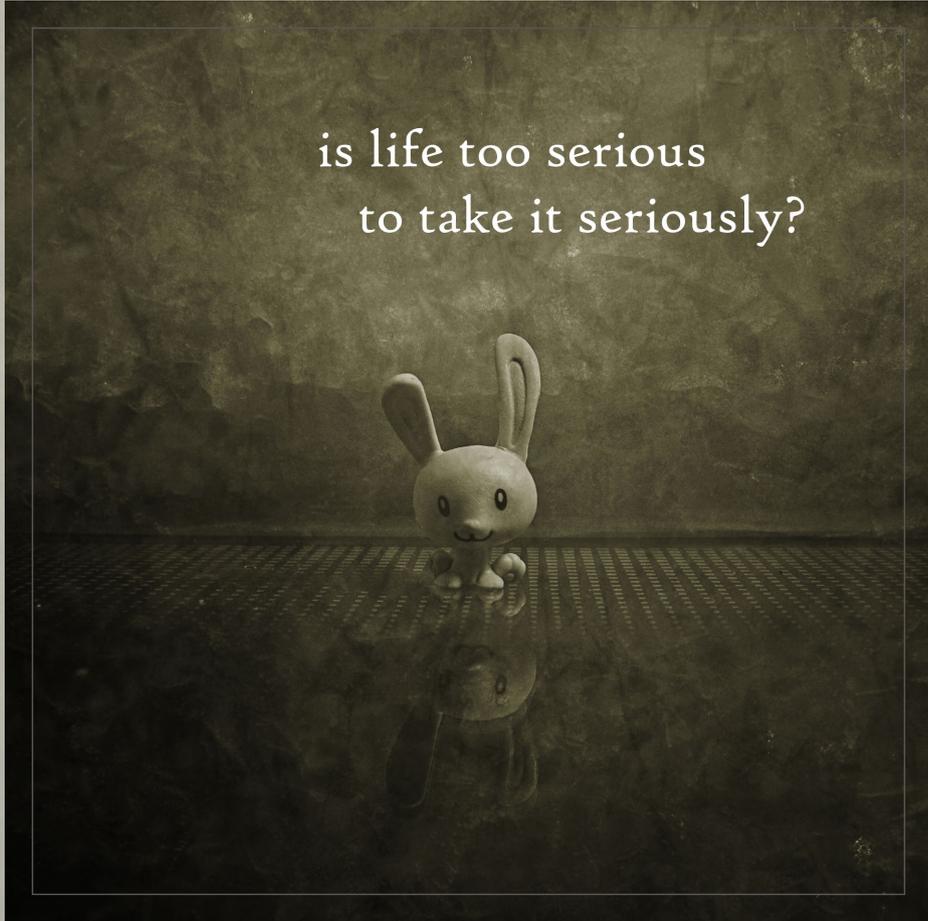
As land is slowly turning into a wild sea  
All secure grounds are making way for the unknown  
The end of counseling by fear will set them free  
They get in touch for they will never be alone

Get in touch, you fool

You fool  
You fool...  
Still chasing magic, though can't find a key?  
Get out your bed of roses, follow me  
You fool...



is life too serious  
to take it seriously?



There is a village out there we call the earth  
In which inhabitants are trying not to drown

They share the universal language of absurd  
A little sweet to make the sour go down



Music: Jef Janssen + Liv and Finne Janssen on vocals  
Words: Jef Janssen  
Image: [Hans Eiskonen](#)



Image:

[Artem Kovalev](#)



# CREDITS

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## JEF JANSSEN

- songwriting & arranging
- recording & editing
- mixing & mastering
- concept & artwork

[www.artofempathymusic.com](http://www.artofempathymusic.com)



## NINA VAN DER AUWERA

- female vocals on “Legion”
- making the world a happier place with her beautiful projects “t Pure vrouwtje” & “Twee werelden”

[www.tpurevrouwtje.be](http://www.tpurevrouwtje.be)  
[www.tweewerelden.be](http://www.tweewerelden.be)



## LIV JANSSEN + FINNE JANSSEN

- female vocals on “Hugging Strangers”
- performers in clip “Where Souls Shine Brightest”
- total support and love during harsh homestudio hours

## ANN CESPEDES

- total support, patience and unconditional love during harsh homestudio hours and wacky evening sessions



## YOU, MEMBER OF THE AOE LEGION

- for keeping the AOE flame burning
- for your patience and support
- for getting in touch
- for spreading the AOE music
- for being a wonderful, conscious being in a world where inconsciousness seems to be the new standard



Image: [Phoebe Strafford](#)



## MORE CREDITS

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- **ROEL REUBENS:**  
for making some great pictures during the End Of I - photoshoot
- **PHOTOGRAPHERS:**  
for putting up those marvellous, freely usable images on the www
- **VERSE OORTJES GROEP (DRIES JASPERS, NINA VD AUWERA, PETER MAASEN, TOM SWENNEN, TOON SCHREURS):**  
for giving feedback on the raw End Of I tracks
- **PETER MAASEN:**  
for his support with the setup of [www.artofempathymusic.com](http://www.artofempathymusic.com)
- **DIMI BRANDS, DANNY QUETIN AND THE DARK ENTRIES CREW:**  
for supporting the dark music scene in Belgium  
[www.darkentries.be](http://www.darkentries.be) + [DJ Der Verfluchte Engel](#) + [De Dag Des Oordeels](#) podcast
- **FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**  
for their support, believe, patience and enthousiasm
- **REAPER:**  
for providing me with affordable, powerful and stable software + free online support  
[www.reaper.fm](http://www.reaper.fm)
- **GRAHAM COCHRANE, JOE GILDER, JASON MOSS, ROB MAYZES:**  
for freely teaching me so many cool stuff about music production  
[www.grahamcochrane.com](http://www.grahamcochrane.com)      [www.homestudiocorner.com](http://www.homestudiocorner.com)  
[www.behindthespeakers.com](http://www.behindthespeakers.com)      [www.musicianonamission.com](http://www.musicianonamission.com)
- **MOTHER NATURE**  
you know why



## SHARING = CARING

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### DO YOU CARE ABOUT THE AOE MUSIC? SHARE IT!

The music of AOE is created from the passion of music. It took a lot of time and effort to produce these tracks. The goal is getting connected with other listeners who share the same frame of mind and might like these dark tunes.

If you want to help achieve this goal:

- share it on the internet, share the MP3 files, share it with the press, ...
- play it for your friends, play it on your radio station, ...
- write about it (review, interview, ...)
- use the music in a clip/movie (check the www for wonderful video's from the past)

**ALL MUSIC IS AVAILABLE FOR FREE** and can be used for non-commercial purposes.



Image: Janko Ferlic  
Image back cover: Michal Galezewski



# CURRENCY



AOE's music is released for free under a Creative Commons' licence:  
[Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International](#)

## FREE MUSIC = WORTHLESS MUSIC?

In a coke driven world where egocentric narcissists are kings and money is god, this might be the case. Though, that's not the world AOE is part of.

## DONATIONS



Donations are possible on: [paypal.me/jefjanssen](https://paypal.me/jefjanssen)  
All gifts will be used for promotion purposes and expenses.



# GET IN TOUCH



Getting in touch worldwide was never this easy, thanks to the internet. "End Of I" is all about unity, about fighting together for a greater good. Feel free to pass by, leave a word, or get in touch with other members of the AOE legion. You are welcome:



## [WWW.ARTOFEMPATHYMUSIC.COM](http://WWW.ARTOFEMPATHYMUSIC.COM)

- for an overview on the project + high quality downloads

✉ send mail to: [artofempathymusic@gmail.com](mailto:artofempathymusic@gmail.com)

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- as long as it's still alive: for news and updates



[WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/ARTOFEMPATHYMUSIC](http://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/ARTOFEMPATHYMUSIC)

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[WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/ARTOFEMPATHYMUSIC](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/ARTOFEMPATHYMUSIC)

- for discography and music-clips

 bandcamp

[WWW.ARTOFEMPATHY.BANDCAMP.COM](http://WWW.ARTOFEMPATHY.BANDCAMP.COM)

- for discography and online streaming



[SOUNDCLOUD.COM/ARTOFEMPATHYMUSIC](http://SOUNDCLOUD.COM/ARTOFEMPATHYMUSIC)

- for discography and online streaming

- ...

There are no strangers here. Only friends you haven't yet met.

(William Butler Yeats)



## END OF I

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WHERE SOULS SHINE BRIGHTEST ♦ END OF I ♦  
HERE COMES EVERYBODY ♦ THEIR PLAYGROUND ♦  
LEGION ♦ MIND / MATTER ♦ KARMA'S LITTLE HELPERS ♦  
EVERYWHERE ♦ NINETY-SIX PERCENT ♦  
CYNICISM LEFT FOR DEAD ♦  
REVELATION OF IGNORANCE ♦ HUGGING STRANGERS