

Album review – No more shall we party by Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds

'No more shall we part' came after a 4-year gap of recording and the lead singer Nick Cave's personal affairs, and was eventually released on 2 April 2001. It marks a special change of music style of Nick Cave and as a comeback during those years.

The album starts with 'I sat sadly by her side' which basically seems like a story between a man and his wife. His wife wanted him to stay away from others and that God doesn't care for his benevolence like he cares for the lack in others. And yet, the man turned and smiled to his wife, maybe simpering or displaying real acceptance, in either way, we'll never know. However, somehow the other song in this album 'The Sorrowful Wife' kind of echoes this between themselves. "Our friends awarded her courage with gifts" and "counting days on her fingers", show that they aren't having a quite relationship which might also be or not be the reflection of Nick's personal life since he seldom talks about his wife. But on the purpose of review, these songs surely provide a lot of chances for listeners to imagine or just simply think. As a singer, Nick Cave certainly is one of the few people who can turn song writing to his own literature. (But he does as he has written two novels in real life.)

Among all the fascinating songs, 'Love letter' and 'No more shall we part' are my ultimate preferences. Both of them are connected with the same plot in which Nick tried to chase a woman who he once loved with his love letters and deadly love, but she still left him. After 20 years of punk and blues, they finally came up with these two ballad tones. These two songs are rather expressive and soft. Instead of playing the screaming guitars and making them hardcore like other rock bands, the heartbreak music is composed with piano, fiddle and still a bit of guitar. The toned-up intensity and the silent, overflowing emotion are impressively conveyed in the two songs giving a ghostly psycho-ballad vibe. Tears, broken heart, love and God are the main elements of this man's relationship, depressingly beautiful.

Overall, the whole album still holds the funeral punk feel to it, which is always a must for the 'Prince of Darkness', Nick himself. What's more, is the simplicity and unplugged intensity in it. For a not-so-consistent listener like me, this album surely brought quite a bit of a surprise to me. And imagine what it is like for the fans from around 2001 – they might also get the same reaction as myself. It's always nice to listen to some new styles and feeling in alternative rock/gothic rock, even though I'm not a fan of rock. Seeing others bringing new elements into an old type of music, is both an inspiration and pleasure for listeners. The band's lyrical obsessions with death, religion and love are never a problem for me, just consider them as some features for the gothic-rock band and that they aren't basic fools who use these things for fun or 'playing cool', then I hope people will enjoy these types of music since there aren't many talented musicians like Nick Cave left in the music industry.