

On "A Moon Shaped Pool"

Radiohead has just released their ninth studio album "A Moon Shaped Pool". Each song in the album slowly sinks the listener in to the darkest sensibility of the blissful disintegration of each grain of sand in the corners of our barren. Words are too weak to describe the supreme art that we call music.

The final song 'True Love Waits' is an old Radiohead live classic that has been waiting to be recorded for over a decade. I must say that the song never sounded better. On the surface the song is still like a thick morning fog on a plain that seldom rains. But as the song progresses piano melodies layer up just enough to touch the impression of something – two people within that very thick fog undergoing the catastrophe of confusing the impulse of love with the signification of love. Many people 'know' that love is with them but want love to give them a 'sign'. This is where love, religion, and art coincide. If one 'knows', then one must *believe* in it without any 'signs'.

If Debussy and Ravel created a certain impressionistic musical landscape in the past, Radiohead stands lost within it all while being able to see it clearly the grand relation of impressions within and of it. 'True love waits' perhaps does not mean that "there is true love somewhere to be discovered" but rather means that "true love can withstand the period of waiting" – an intrinsic part of *believing*. But it should be stopped here, for further dive into the song becomes none but an analysis – a fruitless sophistication.

For Radiohead understands the spiritual capability of music that filters the whole and entirety of their medium through the illogic of *belief*, they are true musicians – true artists – as Andrei Tarkovsky was the true artist of cinema.

Indeed all the other songs in the album are absolutely fantastic. But what really makes Radiohead superior to other musicians is that Radiohead knows how to produce albums that are clearly focused on something and manifest immovable visions while other musicians can only end up at creating a good collection of songs without realizing that theirs is just another 'greatest hits' of their own inferior craft.

"A Moon Shaped Pool" is as artfully deep as their seventh studio album "In Rainbows" and grows mystically to the listeners as their eighth studio album "The King of Limbs". The album may not 'sound like Radiohead' but I personally do not care about Radiohead. I care about the music of Radiohead, and it still remains better than that of most others. My personal favorite Radiohead song is 'Motion Picture Soundtrack' from their fourth studio album "Kid A". "A Moon Shaped Pool" is, simply put, a slow expansion of that song in the span of an hour.

In our time violated by postmodernism and artistic weakness, it is truly a gift that artists like Radiohead are still creating art – true art.

Let us not drown ourselves in sophistication, art does in fact has a clear cut definition. To repeat once more, true art is created by those who *believe*, and *belief* is *loving unconditionally*. Truth is achieved when an artist, no matter how long it takes, is determined to manifest his/her belief in the form of a vision. True love waits.

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