

LEGION OF THE DAMNED

The Poison Chalice

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Blackened thrash veterans LEGION OF THE DAMNED slay on new studio album *The Poison Chalice*

The **LEGION** slays again! Dutch thrash veterans **LEGION OF THE DAMNED** have once again entered into an alliance with the devouring depths of black and death metal and unleash another angry beast, ***The Poison Chalice***, on May 26, 2023 via Napalm Records. The shredding monster delivers the most delicious pitch-black brew and tortures dark souls into demonic underworlds.

Founded in 1990 as Occult, the thrash machine around founding members Maurice Swinkels and Erik Fleuren was reborn as **LEGION OF THE DAMNED** in 2005. On ***The Poison Chalice***, the band unites with Fabian Verweij as second guitarist besides Twan van Geel and hails together with bassist Harold Gielen performing as a five piece for the first time ever on a studio album. Conquering the European charts for decades, the **LEGION** crowned itself at #17 in the Official German Album Charts with predecessor ***Slaves Of The Shadow Realms*** (2019). For almost 35 years, they have formed their aggressive signature sound from the most horrific ingredients of thrash and death metal, combined with brutal blackened influences, resulting in one of the most defined and unique sounds in the scene.

The Poison Chalice comes to life by spreading its eerily beautiful wings within the first few seconds, then dives headfirst into a hellishly furious storm before the second song "*Contamination*" absolutely kills. In classic **LEGION OF THE DAMNED** manner, there is no escape as the track relentlessly drives into the abyss. The album spreads brutal and ice cold thrash soundscapes through relentless attacking drums and incredible guitar harmonies from both lead guitarists, underlined by angry bass lines. Infectious thrash treasures such as "*Progressive Destructor*", and the almost seven-minute berserk "*Behold The Beyond*" break necks with hammering guitar riffs and bloody double bass infernos. "*Beheading of The Godhead*" delivers what the song title promises, before the past 48 minutes of hate closes with a final deep gulp from "*The Poison Chalice*" - leaving no one behind.

Together with producer Erwin Hermsen, the band has closed the gates of the underworld in Toneshed Studio and demonstrates that they remain the unchallenged masters of brute and unrelenting death-thrash metal in 2023.