

GENUS ORDINIS DEI INTERVIEW – TNT RADIO

By José A. Marroqui “Brujo”

Italian band Genus Ordinis Dei, formed in 2009 and with four albums released, has just unveiled a new video for their single *Eternal Cycle* (2024), featuring Ambre Vourvahis from Xandria. Let’s talk about this new video and catch up on everything surrounding the band. Welcome to TNT Radio.

R: Greetings to TNT Radio!

The lyrics of *Eternal Cycle* are deeply infused with symbolism, mythology, and duality. The song plays with the idea of duality, exploring concepts such as life and death, light and shadow, good and evil. What inspired you to write this song?

R: You’ve hit the nail on the head! The myth of Persephone and Hades was our inspiration—a musical representation of this tale, highlighting the dualism between life and death.

Why did you specifically choose Ambre Vourvahis to collaborate on this song?

R: We’ve known Ambre for a few years and have been in contact with her through social media. She has been a big fan of ours for a long time, and we have always admired and praised her artistry and her voice. When we started discussing a potential tour collaboration in Europe, the idea of a musical collaboration immediately came to mind as well.

Regarding the musical structure, did you experiment with any new elements or sounds on *Eternal Cycle* compared to your previous works?

R: *Eternal Cycle* was written and arranged specifically to highlight and enhance Ambre’s incredible voice. We carefully worked on the arrangement and key of the song to complement her vocal style. We also focused on vocal harmonization and reintroduced more epic and symphonic tones, which we had set aside for a while.

Speaking of sound, Genus Ordinis Dei is known for its fusion of death metal and symphonic elements. How would you describe the evolution of your sound over the years? Do you think there is a defined *Genus Ordinis Dei sound*, or do you prefer to evolve from album to album?

R: We are always searching for different characteristics and evolving sounds. The GOD sound changes with each album while maintaining a consistent thread of growth. We started with a rawer, guitar-driven sound, then moved towards polyrhythmic grooves, exploring pure symphony before returning to emphasize rhythm and incorporating ethnic and electronic elements.

What is the biggest challenge in combining death metal with symphonic elements without losing the genre’s aggressive essence?

R: There is nothing more aggressive than an orchestra playing in unison at full *forte*—Wagner taught us that! So, we’d say it’s not difficult to merge the two!

The Beginning, your fourth and latest album, was accompanied by a series of music videos and had a significant impact. How would you define this album within the band's career? What makes it different from your previous works?

R: *The Beginning* is not just an album—it's a metal opera and our second metal music series. Our vision always includes an important visual aspect that extends beyond music and enhances the storytelling. We want to tell stories using every possible medium. What sets this album apart is the presence of tribal and primitive vocal arrangements, incorporating ancient techniques and languages like throat singing.

How do you feel about the transition Genus Ordinis Dei has undergone from its beginnings to *The Beginning*? Has there been any change in your composition process?

R: We have always been in constant evolution; when we listen back to our first demos, we are still amazed at how far we have come.

A little over a year later, how was *The Beginning* received by fans and critics? Did you anticipate this level of impact? The European tour with Xandria and Sirenia last year seemed like a great opportunity for the band. How was the experience of sharing the stage with these two iconic bands? Do you think this tour marked a turning point in Genus Ordinis Dei's career?

R: We have always been loved and praised by our fans and critics. We have a great relationship with those who support and listen to us. After all, everyone wants to be appreciated, and we are proud and grateful for the admiration and good vibes we receive. The European tour with Xandria and Sirenia was an amazing experience and our long-awaited return to the stages of the old continent. It was a journey marked by excellent team dynamics between all the bands and outstanding performances.

How was the audience's response during the shows, especially considering they were playing alongside such well-established bands?

R: We must admit that Xandria and Sirenia's audience is not exactly our target audience or musical genre. Their fans tend to lean towards melodic vocals and softer sounds, but thanks to our mix of styles and consistently high-energy performances, we managed to touch many hearts. At the end of the day, people seek emotion—musical subgenres don't matter as much.

Was there a particular lesson or experience from this tour that was transformative for the band?

R: Yes: communication and relationships are always the most important things, even in the business side of music.

With the release of *The Beginning* and the recent singles *Three Kings* and *Eternal Cycle*, it seems like the band is in a great creative phase. What can fans expect in the future? Are there any new projects on the horizon, or plans to explore new sounds?

R: We have big ambitions and new projects coming up, one in particular this spring—our first *live album*! After that, we are, of course, working on a new musical work, but we can't reveal much yet... except that it will be majestic!

What are your short- and long-term goals? Are there any dreams or aspirations you have yet to achieve? For those unfamiliar with Genus Ordinis Dei's work, which of your four albums would you recommend as the best introduction to your musical world?

R: Our goal for 2025 is to develop collaborations, evolve our booking and touring strategies, renew our live show, and complete production on our upcoming projects. For those who don't know us, we recommend listening to *Glare of Deliverance* and *The Beginning*. And if you only have time for one song, we'd say: *Fire*.

Finally, what would you say to those who are just discovering Genus Ordinis Dei through this interview? What do you hope fans and new listeners take away from the experience of listening to your music?

R: When people listen to our music, they immerse themselves in a story that initially seems like someone else's but eventually turns out to be their own. We hope you never lose your desire for adventure and to live out the most unique and precious thing we have—your own story.

Thank you very much for your time.

R: Hail to TNT Radio!

Outside of the interview, for our *Radio El Sotano* program and its *Under Influence* section, I'd like you to tell me which band has been the most influential for you and choose a song, explaining why or what meaning it holds for you.

R: Manowar: Hail and Kill

Cause other bands play, Manowar Kill! Hahaha!