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2007 Sluggo's Goon Music

Axeman Glenn Snelwar (Gordian Knot) is a phenomenal virtuoso to say the least; on his last record with **At War With Self** (*Torn Between Dimensions*) he led a power trio of himself, Michael Manning & Mark Zonder through experimental passages of Attention Deficit/King Crimson-esque pandemonium; but on his the latest, *Acts of God* he takes that approach further, with a more brutal and grinding approach, where the headroom for melodic and instrumental abilities to expound upon a whole new production aspect.

With this new record intact, Snelwar has incorporated a whole new set of musicians, including a vocalist, setting upon a musical direction with a sound that links Voivod with A Triggering Myth, adding a little Canvas Solaris & F-O-E, with of course the Snelwar/AWWS sound. Opening up with the layered acoustic guitar/mandolin dominated title track, the album leads in to the explosive "911" where the dark, crunched guitars are in full force in front of the systematic rhythm section. Following up with droning cuts such as the noise laden "Refugee," the haunting "End in Blue," and the soundscape known as "Ursa Minor," the beauty is found within the skin deep compositions that Snelwar has provided. However, tracks like the post rock of "Threads," the trip-hop infused "Martyr" and the multi-faceted jam session of "Choke Loud" expose the belligerent six string slinging and arrangements.

Even with all of the guitars, synths, samples, complexity, reverb, and layering you won't be blindsided with all that is involved, *Acts of God* is an album where there is a lot going on, but the melodic bearing remains interesting throughout the record. *Acts of God* is a representation of art and aggression, where the musical worlds of both collide into mass of technical extremities.

[CLICK HERE](#) to Read a Review of 'Torn Between Dimensions.'

[CLICK HERE](#) to Read an Interview with Glenn Snelwar.

Added: May 2nd 2007

Reviewer: [Tommy Hash](#)

Score: ★★★★★

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