

AAS - BALANCING RITUAL (cassette by Holectics Research Recordings)  
Review by Frans de Waard

There is no website mentioned on the cover, but googling 'Holectics' brought me to a website, and I read: "All Everywhere All The Time, AAS creates itself through chance. AAS are sage ash and copper fire, bringers of the drone, extra-human changelings, scourge of the future" and there is also a bunch of curious photographs and events being listed, plus video documentations thereof. Lots to explore really, so why no website is mentioned on the cover I don't know. I believe both sides have the same piece of music, which is very much in the world of guitars, effects and drones. The sort of drones that rock loud, if you get my drift (and not those to lull the listener into deep sleep), certainly when, somewhere half way through the piece they drums kick in and it all starts to rock even harder. Aas, maybe a duo then, play this in a very minimal way, erecting a wall of sound with a loud guitar drone and a drummer hammering the bass drum and toms, no cymbals. This is one of those things that may lose a bit when reproduced on a cassette I think, and which perhaps could gain a bit with a better recordings, especially on the drum sounds, which now sound a bit distant. But that's all critique on details. I quite enjoyed this wall of sound drone approach. Not perhaps the most innovative things to do, drone metal is household stuff these days, I should think, but it cleanses ears and thoughts, which is great on a misty Wednesday.

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