



AS I LAY DYING

Shaped By Fire

Release Date: September 20, 2019

Line up:

Tim Lambesis | Vocals

Nick Hipa | Guitar

Phil Sgrosso | Guitar

Josh Gilbert | Bass, vocals

Jordan Mancino | Drums

AS I LAY DYING online:

www.asilaydying.com

www.facebook.com/asilaydying/

www.instagram.com/asilaydying/

Flames fuel rebirth. In the wake of the conflagration, future possibilities flourish out of the ashes. Reigniting a brotherhood dating back nearly two decades, **AS I LAY DYING** rise together on their seventh full-length and debut for **Nuclear Blast**, the aptly titled *Shaped By Fire*. The San Diego quintet—**Tim Lambesis** [vocals], **Jordan Mancino** [drums], **Phil Sgrosso** [guitar], **Nick Hipa** [guitar], and **Josh Gilbert** [bass]—rally together and recharge the precise and pummeling metallic assault that transformed them into a turn-of-the-century heavy music phenomenon.

These eleven tracks mark their first body of work together since 2012 and represent the dawn of a bold new era.

*“For me, this is the most meaningful **AS I LAY DYING** record,”* states **Nick**. *“Every album encapsulates who you are and what y*

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ou've gone through. At this point in time, we've gone through more than I ever imagined, but we all grew. I'm so proud of my bandmates and what we've done. We became better musicians and better people. People will hear a positive resolve to our journey so far."

*"With everything that's happened and all of the time away, there really was no other option than to be the best version of **AS I LAY DYING** we could possibly be," **Tim** declares. "We wanted to make sure we made an album that represented our best selves. Individually and collectively, a similar rebirth happened."*

The rebirth remains rooted in an impressive legacy. Since forming in 2000, the group sold over 1 million albums worldwide, garnered a 2008 GRAMMY® Award nomination in the category of "Best Metal Performance," notched two Top 10 debuts on the *Billboard* Top 200, generated hundreds of millions of streams, sold out shows around the globe, and took home "Ultimate Metal God" at MTV2's Music Awards in 2007. Following a five-year hiatus amidst personal struggles, the musicians reconnected in early 2018.

Before a note of music, they focused on where everything began: the friendship.

*"We wanted to ease into things," recalls **Phil**. "We connected as friends again first. Then, we began to discuss what we could do musically. A lot of ideas floated around, and we decided to do a show in San Diego."*

The show, which rapidly sold out in two minutes, served as the first in a series of "small goals," as **Josh** puts it. Backed by overwhelming support, they recorded and unleashed the hard-hitting 'My Own Grave', which clocked 13 million Spotify streams in a few months' time. Concurrently, the musicians wrote and recorded what would become *Shaped By Fire*, taking the reins in terms of production and engineering with a little help from long-time friend and collaborator **KILLSWITCH ENGAGE**'s **Adam D**. This time around, recording happened individually, allowing for the best possible performances. Meanwhile, communication was at an all-time high as a respectful atmosphere encouraged constructive criticism.

*"Everyone wanted to expand the sound, but keep it somewhat familiar," **Phil** says. "It had been six years since we worked together. We realized what our strengths were internally and honed in on how to perfect them as much as possible. We trimmed the fat and filler and added different textures and layers."*

*"By tracking myself, I was able to get comfortable and best represent my own ideas at the beginning," adds **Tim**. "We found a new sense of respect for each other musically and personally. We connected better than ever."*

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The first single and title track ***Shaped By Fire*** steamrolls forward on airtight riffing and bludgeoning drums before a soaring arena-size refrain.

“The chorus sums up the collective band experience over the last seven years,” **Tim** admits. *“It’s pretty direct.”*

Meanwhile, the opener **‘Blinded’** gallops forward with undeniable urgency as it poses questions for the frontman. *“I’m asking, ‘Can there be change?’”*, continues **Tim**. *“I want to show people over time it’s possible.”*

Elsewhere, **‘Torn Between’** tempers pensive lyrics and robust musicality as it discusses an internal divide. *“A lot of times, we feel like we have two options and need to choose one or the other,”* he goes. *“Sometimes, the third option is the best. I was between this blackened heart and a blue, bruised, and beaten heart. The song concludes on getting rid of them both and starting from scratch.”*

Fittingly, ***Shaped By Fire*** culminates on what might be the record’s heaviest catharsis emotionally, **‘The Toll It Takes’**. A stark admission cuts deep as they lock into what **Phil** dubs, *“a special moment.”*

In the end, **AS I LAY DYING** burn brighter than ever before.

“This is the next chapter,” affirms **Tim**. *“I’m more excited for the overall direction we’re heading in than I’ve ever been. Hopefully, our fans can sense that when they hear this record. The **AS I LAY DYING** story is in an exciting place in this moment and time, but there’s even more to come.”*

“I think that music can obviously touch people and change their lives for the better,” **Phil** concludes. *“So, for anyone who is going through a hard time, if they were to hear this record, it would do something positive for their lives, or it would help motivate them. The power of music is so strong that maybe this would help somebody who needed it.”*

“I hope people feel empowered by this,” **Nick** agrees. *“We always put so much love into what we do. There’s the optimism of being able to turn things around, heal, grow, and persevere. It really ignites a positive fire for us to share.”*

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