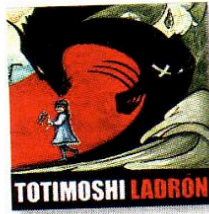


TOTIMOSHI⁹

LADRÓN

CRUCIAL BLAST

Wizard people, dear reader



Antonio Aguilar should not look like a regular dude. With his nasally rasp, he should resemble

some gnarled hybrid of Devin Townsend and the Dungeon Master from the old *Dungeons & Dragons* cartoon. But according to the photo on the back of *Ladrón*, the frontman for Totimoshi is one of two very regular-looking dudes. How does he manage to sound like a 100-year-old wizard? Through the magical powers of METAL, of course.

You can hear the magic kick in on *Ladrón*'s opener and title track right around the 3:30 mark, after some deceptively standard stoner rock, when the band—Aguilar plus bassist Meg Castellanos and new drummer Luke Herbst—shifts into traditional metal. Like seriously stomping and galloping heavy fuckin' metal. "In Virgo" and "The Dance of Snakes" stay in full-on metal mode, with "Snakes" getting righteously political—Aguilar laments "In spite of treachery, the masses stake their confidence in them" before howling "THEIR DAY WILL COME!" Awesome.

Like a true classic metal LP, this thing sounds like it's sequenced with two sides of vinyl in mind. The virtual b-side lets up a little for stuff like Aguilar and Castellanos doing some husband-and-wife harmonizing on "Viva Zapata," moody viola on "The Drunken Sun Forever Watching," and the solo guitar-and-vocal "These Meanings." Page Hamilton produced, and if it was his idea to keep Aguilar's guitar so