

= Jihad (song) =

" Jihad " is a song by the American thrash metal band Slayer which appears on their 2006 album Christ Illusion . The song portrays the imagined viewpoint of a terrorist who has participated in the September 11 , 2001 attacks , concluding with spoken lyrics taken from words left behind by Mohamed Atta ; Atta was named by the FBI as the " head suicide terrorist " of the first plane to crash into the World Trade Center . " Jihad " was primarily written by guitarist Jeff Hanneman ; the lyrics were co-authored with vocalist Tom Araya .

" Jihad " received a mixed reception in the music press , and reviews generally focused on the lyrics ' controversial subject matter . The song drew comparisons to Slayer 's 1986 track " Angel of Death " ? also penned by Hanneman ? which similarly caused outrage at the time of its release .

Joseph Dias of the Mumbai Christian group " Catholic Secular Forum " expressed concern over " Jihad " ' s lyrics , and contributed to Christ Illusion 's recall by EMI India , who to date have no plans for a reissue in that country . ABC @-@ TV 's Broadcast Standards and Practices Department censored the song during Slayer 's first US network television appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! Only the opening minute was broadcast over the show 's credits , thus omitting 40 % of the lyrics .

= = Origins = =

Primarily written by guitarist Jeff Hanneman , " Jihad " features lyrical contributions by vocalist Tom Araya . Both Hanneman and Araya had previously written about controversial lyrical matter in past Slayer tracks ; while Hanneman had written songs like " Angel of Death " and " SS @-@ 3 " which explored the atrocities committed by Nazi figures such as Auschwitz concentration camp physician Josef Mengele and Third Reich henchman Reinhard Heydrich , Araya had delved into the lives of serial killers such as Jeffrey Dahmer and Ed Gein in the tracks " 213 " and " Dead Skin Mask " respectively . " Jihad " is written from the perspective of a 9 / 11 terrorist , and imagines the thoughts that " the enemy " might have . The climax of the song features spoken text taken from a motivational letter left behind by Mohamed Atta , who was named by the FBI as the head suicide terrorist of American Airlines Flight 11 , the first plane to crash into the World Trade Center in the September 11 , 2001 attacks .

Guitarist Kerry King has been outspoken in his defense of " Jihad " , and has claimed that the song has the " coolest angle " on Christ Illusion . " These new songs aren 't political at all , " King states , " ' Jihad ' , ' Eyes of the Insane ' ? it 's what 's spewing out at us from the TV . " He further clarified that the band was not attempting to promote the terrorists ' perspective of the war , nor their ideological beliefs , although he expected others to assume that Slayer was doing so . They did not wish to dwell on the topic " because every band on the planet already has " and " came from a certain perspective " , so felt they had to present an alternative viewpoint . " We 're Slayer , we have to be different " was King 's assertion .

American singer / songwriter Steve Earle attempted a similar concept in penning " John Walker 's Blues " (from the 2002 album Jerusalem) , written from the perspective of the Washington @-@ born John Walker Lindh , a Taliban member captured during the 2001 US @-@ led invasion of Afghanistan . Earle was criticised for this track ; King anticipated a comparable reaction to " Jihad " : " People make an assumption before they (read) the lyrics . It 's definitely not only human nature , it 's very American @-@ natured . "

= = Musical structure = =

" Jihad " is 3 minutes 31 seconds long . A skittering vamp leads into the track , during which Lombardo shimmers his hi @-@ hat . Smoothly mixing up tempos , the band build the song with a fast , " wonky , catchy and angular " guitar riff reminiscent of the breakdown in 1986 's " Angel of Death " . This guitar riff decelerates before bursting forward again in two @-@ bar stretches underpinned by Lombardo 's pounding , fifth @-@ gear drumming .

IGN reviewer Andy Patrizio was dismissive of the song 's musical structure in comparison to other

tracks on Christ Illusion : " ' Jihad , ' ' Flesh Storm , ' ' Skeleton Christ , ' ' Supremist , ' and felt there was too much similarity in the riffs , tuning , tempos , and arrangements . " MusicOMH.com 's Ian Robinson was also negative , remarking that the song " concludes with the ' now getting slightly old hat ' Slayer trick (but still atmospheric) of over sampling voices over the solo . "

= = Reception and criticism = =

" Jihad " ? alongside fellow Christ Illusion album tracks " Eyes of the Insane " and " Cult " ? was made available for streaming on June 26 , 2006 , via the Spanish website Rafabasa.com. The album was Slayer 's ninth studio recording , and was released on August 8 , 2006 . During reviews " Jihad " received a mixed reception .

Blabbermouth 's Don Kaye gave the opinion that " a handful of songs " on Christ Illusion " are either too generic or the arrangements are too clumsy to work well " , and specifically singled out the track : " I 'm looking at you , ' Jihad ' and ' Skeleton Christ ' . " Ben Ratliff of New York Times remarked that the song is " predictably tough stuff , but let 's put it on a scale . It is tougher , and less reasoned , than Martin Amis 's recent short story ' The Last Days of Muhammad Atta . ' It is no tougher than a taped message from Al Qaeda . " Peter Atkinson of KNAC.com was equally unimpressed , describing the group 's choice of song climax as :

Not all reviews were so negative . Thom Jurek of Allmusic observed that " the band begins to enter and twist and turn looking for a place to create a new rhythmic thrash that 's the most insane deconstruction of four / four time on tape . " The Austin Chronicle 's Marc Savlov asked readers to " listen to the eerie , stop @-@ start cadence of lunacy in ' Jihad , ' with Araya playing the role of a suicide bomber almost too convincingly . "

King would have appointed " Jihad " as the group 's nomination in the " Best Metal Performance " award category at the 49th Grammy Awards , deeming the chosen track " Eyes of the Insane " " the poorest representations " of the group on ninth studio album Christ Illusion . Despite King 's statement , " Eyes of the Insane " won Slayer their first Grammy award . The Slayer guitarist has also stated ; " I like playing ' Jihad ' because I 'm back changing my guitars , and Jeff starts it and he starts it quietly so you can hear the fans go crazy about it and you can 't always hear that at the beginning of a song . "

= = = Controversy = = =

" Jihad " 's lyrical matter provoked controversy from several quarters . Peter Atkinson of KNAC.com remarked that the song , " no doubt will be Christ Illusion ? s most controversial track . " In May 2006 , World Entertainment News Network announced that revelations of the song 's lyrical content had angered the families of 9 / 11 victims .

Joseph Dias of the Mumbai Christian group " Catholic Secular Forum " (CSF) issued a memorandum to his police commissioner , in which he expressed concern that " Jihad " would offend " the sensibilities of the Muslims ... and secular Indians who have respect for all faiths . " EMI India met with the CSF , apologising for the album 's release , and recalled all copies , with no plans for a reissue . On October 11 , 2006 , it was announced all stocks had been destroyed . The track , alongside the album 's controversial Larry Carroll painted cover art and provocative lyrics , were the specific reasons for EMI India 's decision . Araya had expected " Jihad " 's treatment of the events of 9 / 11 to create a backlash in America , however it failed to materialise . This was in part , he believes , because of peoples ' view that the song was merely " Slayer being Slayer " . Hanneman expected that the Muslim community would either " embrace " or hate Slayer for penning the track , or that the victims of 9 / 11 would criticize the band over the song 's subject matter .

" Jihad " was one of six songs performed by Slayer during their first US network television appearance on ABC @-@ TV 's Jimmy Kimmel Live ! (January 19 , 2007) , although only the opening minute of the track was broadcast . ABC @-@ TV 's Broadcast Standards and Practices department censored " Jihad " , and approached Slayer the day prior to broadcast with roughly 40 % of the song lyrics deleted . King has since confirmed that the group were ten minutes from

withdrawing from the show , but eventually decided to " just go do it . "

= = = Comparisons to " Angel of Death " = = =

On a number of occasions the song has been compared to " Angel of Death " , a Hanneman @-@ penned Slayer track from 1986 's Reign in Blood , which was lyrically inspired by Nazi physician Josef Mengele . " Angel of Death " focused on human experiments conducted by Mengele at the Auschwitz concentration camp in World War II . KNAC.com 's Peter Atkinson commented upon the similarities , to which King responded that the whole affair " was blown out of proportion " .

Making the connection , King remembers thinking " Great , now we 're gonna be answering for this one ! " after listening to a playback of the song . " But as with ' Angel [of Death] , ' we 're not endorsing anything . It 's just not an ' anti ' song , either . " Hanneman emphasised , " Like ' Angel of Death , ' it 's just a documentary . "

= = Personnel = =

Jeff Hanneman - guitar

Kerry King - guitar

Tom Araya - bass , vocals

Dave Lombardo - drums