

= Eternal Pyre =

Eternal Pyre is an EP by the thrash metal band Slayer . Released June 6 , 2006 (06 / 06 / 06) through American Recordings , the EP was limited to a pressing of 1 @, @ 000 (but later 5 @, @ 000) copies . The album is a pre @-@ release to the later album Christ Illusion , which , like the EP , features the song " Cult " . The album was released exclusively through Hot Topic chain stores in the United States and copies were also available in Germany , Finland and Sweden on June 23 , 2006 . There are three tracks featured on the album , one of which is an audio track and the others are videos . The album was not well received by critics , with few critics actually reviewing the album . The album charted on four different charts , peaking number two in Finland and three in Denmark .

= = Background = =

The album Christ Illusion was originally set for release on June 6 , 2006 . Slayer guitarist Kerry King stated this tentative release date was scrapped as a number of other bands had the same idea and thought it was " fucking lame " , although USA Today reported the release date was thwarted because the band had failed to secure sufficient studio recording time . Eternal Pyre was released instead , a preview of their album to be released in the coming months . The EP featured the track " Cult " , a live performance of " War Ensemble " in Germany and four minutes footage of the band in the recording studio . Originally , it was thought that the extended play would feature a live version of " Dead Skin Mask " instead of the live version of " War Ensemble " . Many news reporters were told that the album would feature the " Live Intrusion " video , described as a clip of one of the band 's fans who carved Slayer 's name into his forearm . " 5 @, @ 000 copies were released exclusively through Hot Topic chain stores in the United States and copies were also available in Germany , Finland and Sweden on June 23 . Nuclear Blast Records released a further 7 " vinyl picture disc version limited to one thousand copies on June 30 .

= = Composition = =

Eternal Pyre features three tracks in total . " Cult " was characterized by Thom Jurek as " scathing rejection of religion as the cause for world conflict . " The song revolves around guitarist Kerry King 's perception of flaws in American religion and was a comment on America , which he describes as " the biggest cult in the world " . Their performance was positively commented on , with Pitch.com saying that " King and Jeff Hanneman riff like they 're summoning a storm of thunder , lightning and human blood , " and was also noted to be a down @-@ tuned , two @-@ string vamp " that slithers into the foreground creates a tension as Lombardo 's cymbals call the band into the riff that opens the tune . It 's slow , meaty , unrelenting in its tautness . When Araya 's voice comes in , the whole track is off the rails and stays there . " " War Ensemble " was filmed live from Germany , and contains four minutes of studio footage . Lyrics were said to " please fans still harboring a grudge from Catholic school . "

= = Reception and release = =

Critics did not receive Eternal Pyre very well , with few professionals actually reviewing the album . The Pitch criticized the price of the extended play at US \$ 5 @. @ 99 , stating in comparison it makes iTunes a bargain . The Pitch 's reviewer also said that " Slayer 's worst is never far from its best , and this cut 's in the middle . " The extended play was , however , generally well received by fans , despite having a limited number of copies available . Eternal Pyre debuted at number forty @-@ eight on the Swedish charts , and number two on the Finnish charts . With a limited pressing of 1 @, @ 000 copies , the EP was exclusively made available in Hot Topic stores starting on June 6 , and was later made available in Europe on June 23 .

= = Track listing = =

= = Chart positions = =

= = Personnel = =

The album 's credits can be verified by Eternal Pyre 's back cover .