

SELF-INTERVIEW / IN THE BAND'S OWN WORDS

Seoul, June 2026 — written and answered by Hollow Jan

01

IDENTITY & PHILOSOPHY

Q — On identity and philosophy

We don't attach any particular meaning to identity or philosophy. We started purely because we loved it, and that feeling melted into each of our parts and came together as one — that became our way of delivering music. That process kept repeating itself, and it has carried us to where we are now.

Q — What scares you most when you make music?

Nothing has ever really scared us. What we agonized over was timing — when, at what moment, to put things out. The truth is we never had much time to fully immerse ourselves in music, so we made the most of whatever time we had.

There was never any rule that a new record had to be better than the last. The album we're preparing now is themed around "hope," so the real question is how to unravel that in our own style.

Q — Is Hollow Jan's music an escape from reality, or a confrontation with it?

Maybe both. Looking back at the songs we've written, there were times we accepted reality and times we wanted to let it all go — so in the end, it's both. And somehow it always ends in acceptance; sometimes we even found hope inside the despair.

Q — Of all your songs, which carries the most personal wounds?

"Out of Existence," from our first album. It was the very first song we wrote after the band was born. I put into the lyrics what I was going through at the time — job hunting, human relationships, all of it.

Q — What was the biggest musical clash between members?

We decide everything together, usually by majority. When someone says "we absolutely have to do this!!", the rest of us either go along or quickly let our own idea go — so there's never really been a clash.

Q — If today's Hollow Jan looked at the Hollow Jan of the past, what verdict would you give?

In the early days it was raw, unpolished. Nothing was in order, and even when time seemed to sort things out on its own, it somehow never quite did. Then and now, we are a work in progress.

Experience has piled up and a lot of time has passed, but apart from the lineup, nothing has really changed. Maybe the slightest shift? There's nothing to pass verdict on.

Q — Might a more honest Hollow Jan live inside the discarded songs?

Rather than "discarded," I'd say they simply weren't chosen — because of the mood or the circumstances at the time. Some of those songs I still remember, and if the chance ever comes, I'd love to rework them and play them live, or put them on a record.

That lingering attachment — maybe it exists precisely because those songs hold a large piece of what Hollow Jan is.

02

THE MUSIC INDUSTRY & THE SCENE

Q — Have you ever wrestled with the line between accessibility and artistry?

I'd be lying if I said no — but we've never deliberately written something to be commercial. Our latest single, "Dreambound Tides," does carry more accessible elements than anything we've released before. But that wasn't calculated from the start; as we fleshed the song out, certain things became necessary — though I did catch myself wondering whether it had turned out too accessible compared to our older songs.

The theme of our third album has been set since 2019 — "hope" — so the direction of the writing was already largely in place. In the end, whether it comes out sounding accessible or artistic, we want to show our own colors, in our own way.

That said, I wouldn't call us an "artistic" band. The moment the vocalist starts screaming, you're already drifting away from the mainstream.

Q — Is the streaming era a blessing or a curse for musicians?

Music, at its core, is something you listen to, enjoy, and pour your feelings into. For that, someone has to hear it — good or bad, the music has to be shared. A band or a singer exists partly because the music gets known; that clearly matters.

So yes, in this day and age, streaming is necessary. Physical formats can only reach so far, and given how the industry and technology have advanced, the convenience is undeniable. But the revenue structure — starting with how little actually returns to the people who create — is simply wrong. It has become a necessary evil.

Q — What trace does Hollow Jan want to leave on the scene?

We don't wish for anything. Being remembered is enough. We're grateful for that alone.

03

LIVE SHOWS & THE AUDIENCE

Q — What do you most want from the audience during a show?

If anything — from everything we've seen of our audiences over the years — we'd want each person to release whatever they carry: their own emotions, their own experiences, however the show makes them feel. Sing along with us, listen in stillness, jump and let go — whatever it is, do all of it.

Q — When are you most honest on stage?

We sometimes burn incense to focus, play barefoot, or turn our backs to the audience to sink deeper into the emotion. I think the honest moment comes when you can feel the space and the energy of that room.

Q — Which frightens you more — a show where no one reacts, or one where everyone roars?

Neither, I think. If there's no reaction, that's still us. If there's cheering, that's us too. We simply do what we can do on stage.

Q — If someone told you Hollow Jan's music changed their life, how would that feel?

I think I'd feel sorry. I don't want to dress that up with reasons.

04

THE PERSONAL & THE ARTISTIC

Q — Without music, who would you be now?

Probably living an ordinary life — going to work, traveling when the season comes around, keeping things small and quiet.

Q — Is art a form of healing, or the act of endlessly staring into the wound?

Healing, I believe. There's a kind of quiet thrill in those moments when the things you've lived through find consolation.

Q — Are there moments when you can't stand your own music?

When I'm deep into writing a song, I listen to it all day, earphones in, nothing else. From the moment it's mixed, mastered and released, I barely listen to it again. By then I've heard it so many times I know it by heart — it's not that I hate it, I'm just worn out.

05

FUTURE & LEGACY

Q — If Hollow Jan's final show were to happen, what would you want it to look like?

Everyone laughing — us on stage and everyone in the crowd — all of us enjoying it together. We want to leave smiling.

Q — Years from now, someone asks: "What kind of band was Hollow Jan, in the end?" How would you answer?

A band that wept in someone's place, that spoke of hope, that offered consolation — a band that raised a loud voice from the lowest places. That's how we'd want to be remembered.

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