

Led Zeppelin – Houses Of The Holy (1973/1994)

Written by bluesever

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1. *"The Song Remains the Same"* (Jimmy Page, Robert Plant) – 5:32
 2. *"The Rain Song"* (Page, Plant) – 7:39
 3. *"Over the Hills and Far Away"* (Page, Plant) – 4:50
 4. *"The Crunge"* (John Bonham, John Paul Jones, Page, Plant) – 3:17
 5. *"Dancing Days"* (Page, Plant) – 3:43
 6. *"D'yer Mak'er"* (Page, Plant, Jones, Bonham) – 4:23
 7. *"No Quarter"* (Page, Plant, Jones) – 7:00
 8. *"The Ocean"* (Page, Plant, Jones, Bonham) – 4:31
- Bass – John Paul Jones Drums – John Bonham Guitar – Jimmy Page Vocals – Robert Plant

Houses of the Holy follows the same basic pattern as Led Zeppelin IV, but the approach is looser and more relaxed. Jimmy Page's riffs rely on ringing, folky hooks as much as they do on thundering blues-rock, giving the album a lighter, more open atmosphere. While the pseudo-reggae of "D'Yer Mak'er" and the affectionate James Brown send-up "The Crunge" suggest that the band was searching for material, they actually contribute to the musical diversity of the album. "The Rain Song" is one of Zep's finest moments, featuring a soaring string arrangement and a gentle, aching melody. "The Ocean" is just as good, starting with a heavy, funky guitar groove before slamming into an a cappella section and ending with a swinging, doo wop-flavored rave-up. With the exception of the rampaging opening number, "The Song Remains the Same," the rest of Houses of the Holy is fairly straightforward, ranging from the foreboding "No Quarter" and the strutting hard rock of "Dancing Days" to the epic folk/metal fusion "Over the Hills and Far Away." Throughout the record, the band's playing is excellent, making the eclecticism of Page and Robert Plant's songwriting sound coherent and natural. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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