

CLARIFICATION

**AT A PRESS CONFERENCE CALLED THE NEXT DAY
THE TETRARCH DISCUSSED HIS DECISION:
- I HAD NO CHOICE, HE SAID, CHOKING BACK TEARS
MOST OF YOU KNOW THE PROPHECIES -
WONDROUS STAR, A NEW KING, LOVING HOSANNAS FOR HIM
THEN FOR ME A LIFE OF MEDIOCRE LUST
ENDING IN ASSASSINATION AT BEST
UGLY DROOLING DISSOLUTION AT WORST
A CRUEL UNLOVED FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY ...**

**LET ME ASSURE YOU:
AS PERSONALLY OPPOSED AS I MAY BE
TO THE SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS
I REALLY HAD NO VIABLE OPTIONS.**

**AFTER ALL, I AM NOT UNKIND -
I HAVE TWO OR THREE GRANDCHILDREN MYSELF,
HE MURMURED, AND DABBED AT EYES
MEANT TO BE SEEN AS WATERY.**

**BUT OF COURSE, HE EXPLAINED, I AM HEROD
CAPABLE OF MANY MORE YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THOSE GODLESS MASTERS WHO SUPPORT ME
AND AFTER ALL, THOSE BABIES I ORDERED KILLED -
THEY ARE NOTHING
MERELY MORE JEWS ...**

**THEN IN A VOICE NOT MEANT TO BE HEARD:
AND MAYBE ONE TO OVERTHROW THE WORLD.**

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