

# A STORY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

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IT WAS A CUSTOM IN ANCIENT BABYLONIA TO CHOOSE A "KING FOR THE DAY" ONE DAY OUT OF EACH YEAR, TAKEN FROM THE COMMON STOCK. THIS KING WOULD RULE BABYLON UNTIL HIS FIRST SUNSET ON THE THRONE, AFTER WHICH HE WOULD BE SACRIFICIALLY PUT TO DEATH.

THERE IS ONE INCIDENT IN WHICH THE REAL KING, ERA-IMITTI, CHOSE HIS GARDENER, ENLIL BANI, TO BE THIS DOOMED KING. ERA-IMITTI, IRONICALLY, WAS EVEN MORE DOOMED, AND DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES WHILE THE CEREMONIAL PARTY RAGED ON. THE MOCK KING RULED FOR TWO DECADES, AND DID IT WELL.

THUS MAY THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB WIELD THE DAGGER FOR HIMSELF. SOMEBODY, SOMEWHERE, HAS TO WIN THE LOTTERY.

