



## DIOCLETIAN

Diocletian rose from nowhere to the top of his career, took over the empire with violence, ruled by fierce determination for more than twenty years, from 284 to 305, but the pomp of power did not change its nature: he remained a soldier. Diocletian was not a revolutionary, as Augustus or Constantine. Following his instinct as a soldier, he thought that the re-establishment of the empire were to proceed in accordance with the tradition, with the religion. At the end he triumphed over all his enemies: usurpers, the barbarians, the Persians. As a sign of gratitude to the gods unleashed harsh persecution against dissidents, the wicked followers of religions away from traditions, including Christians. At the height of glory, however, the emperor abdicated. It was a choice unheard, unexpected, unique in the history of the Roman Empire. Why he abdicated? Illness, fatigue, disappointment? The choice of Diocletian is an enigma that continues to fascinate historians.

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