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Jake Nabel. "Exemplary History and Arsacid Genealogy in Tacitus, Annals 6.31", *Dabir (The Digital Archive of Brief Notes & Iran Review)*, 7, 2020, p. 175-191.

- 1 In this paper, Nabel deals with the famous passage of Tacitus' *Annals* (6.31) where the Parthian Great King Artabanus II, in a supposed letter to Emperor Tiberius, claims the right of ruling all lands once controlled by both Cyrus and Alexander. In the past, scholars have considered this passage a hint of the political agenda of the Parthian kings in general and of Artabanus in particular. Nabel takes into account Roman historiographic parallels and in particular, a passage by Cicero where the orator criticises Crassus' behaviour by referring to the same two conquerors. From the author's investigation, the moral and personal value of the letter seems evident. Far from being a statement on Parthian kings' political aims, it should be intended as a possible moral characterisation of Artabanus itself. Moreover, the point of view is entirely Roman; the historical figures referred to belong to the tradition of historical exempla popular in Roman culture. The contribution of the passage to the understanding of the Arsacid dynasty and its political program should be therefore downsized.

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