

TOM ARAYA

His full name is Tomas Enrique Araya. He was born 6. of June in 1961 as a fourth child in a family of nine. They lived in Chile, in a city Viña del Mar, but when he was five, they moved to California. He started playing bass because of his older brother, who played guitar. The two of them played Beatles and Rolling Stones songs. In the early 1980, he enrolled in a two-year technical course, wanting to become a respiratory therapist. In 1981, he was approached by Kerry King and asked to join his band Slayer. Araya accepted, and used his earnings to finance their first album, *Show No Mercy*, which was released in 1983 and got a huge success in the metal community (more than 40,000 copies sold). Tom wanted to tour in 1984, but the hospital didn't give him time off. As a result, Tom was fired after not showing to work for a month. Following the success of *Show No Mercy*, the band released album *Hell Awaits* in 1985. A year later, one of their best albums was made, called *Reign In Blood*.

The band received many praises and won 2 Grammys (+2 nominations, one has yet to be decided). Tom wrote the lyrics for their first Grammy-winning song, *Eyes of the Insane*. The song deals with post-traumatic stress disorder, a common disorder within the military. He also stated, that it is sad, that many people have it, but the military always hides the facts.

At the moment, he lives in Buffalo, in Texas with his wife and two children, a 13-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son. He helps his wife, Sandra look after 5 cows and chickens. His kids were also at the *The Unholy Alliance* tour.

Even though Slayer's lyrics also include Satanism, he believes in God. Towards the accusations that Slayer worships Satan, he replied: "Yeah, yeah I think that's one of the biggest misconceptions towards the band, but next to that just the fact that we're normal." When King writes a good song, he is ready to put his beliefs aside "I'm not one that's going to go, 'This sucks because it's contrary to my beliefs.' To me it's more like 'this is really good stuff. You're going to piss people off with this.'"

He also stated that he believes that Christ came to teach us about love and accepting each other and leaving peacefully. He also said, that he believes in all-knowing, all-loving God.