

Romulus and Remus by Mrs Hughes

Thousands of years ago, before you or I had even been dreamed of, there was a king named Numitor. Numitor, who had many sons and one daughter, ruled a beautiful, ancient city in Italy called Alba Longa. The king had a younger, ambitious brother whose name was Amulius. Selfishly and shockingly, Amulius seized the throne killing his brother and to make sure that none of Numitor's children could become king he killed all of his sons. Amulius spared Numitor's only daughter, who had hair as golden as the sun, she was called Rhea Silvia. As he was worried she may have a male heir, Amulius made her promise she would never have any children and she was banished to live in the temple of Mars.

Surprisingly, whilst in the temple, Rhea Silvia fell in love with Mars, the Roman God of War and they had twin sons. Rhea Silvia had betrayed her vows and the penalty was usually death. Terrified of the wrath of Mars, Amulius decided to imprison Rhea instead. Wanting to get rid of the twins, he ordered one of his servants to drown them in the River Tiber. Amulius thought if the twins died from the elements hopefully Mars would not destroy the city like an angry monster.

After a long walk to the river bank, the servant looked down at the sparkling, innocent eyes of the baby boys. Gurgling at the servant happily the babies were as defenceless as an innocent lamb. His heart felt as if it was going to break when he thought about the terrible task he was told to commit. Instead he decided to place the basket on the gently, flowing stream. As he watched the basket bob peacefully on top of the turquoise-blue river, he prayed someone would discover the basket and rescue the young princes.

Most surprisingly, a wise and gentle she-wolf discovered the basket, surprising as wolves don't usually care for human children. When the wolf peered into the basket, she saw the babies' eyes which sparkled like diamonds in the light. From the instant the wolf met the twins she knew she wanted to protect the children from all of the dangers in the wild. The wolf protected them well and a beautiful, red-crowned woodpecker flew around catching food to feed the twins. After some time, although happy in the forest, it was clear that the boys needed human parents. By chance, a shepherd, who was walking by the river, discovered the twins and took them home to his wife. They decided to call the boys Romulus and Remus.

The couple bought the twins up as if they were their own children. As they grew up, the boys learned how to become shepherds just like their father. They had a happy up bringing but one day when they were out herding their sheep some of king Amulius' shepherds happened to cross paths with them. A fight broke out and Remus was captured and taken to king Amulius. Luckily, the king did not recognise Remus as he thought that the twins were dead.

Quickly and courageously, Romulus gathered a group of shepherds to crusade to rescue Remus. After a long, tiring fight, Romulus managed to free his brother, and in the process killed King Amulius. When the city learned who the boys were, they offered for them to rule as joint kings.

Uninterested, the twins turned down the crown. Being ambitious and determined the twins decided they wanted to build their own beautiful, bustling city. After searching for many weeks eventually they spotted the perfect location. The spot which they came to was actually the place where Rome is located today. Both brothers liked the area but had a big disagreement. Romulus wanted to build the city on the top of Palatine Hill whereas Remus preferred Aventine Hill. As they couldn't agree they both decided to wait for a sign from the Gods. After some time, in the distance Remus spotted birds circling, he realised these were six vultures, however Romulus then argued he had seen twelve. The brothers argued like teenagers and couldn't agree.

Determined, Romulus began building his city and built a strong, high wall around Palatine Hill. As he was overcome with jealousy, Remus began to make fun of his brother. A terrible fight broke out between the two brothers and they fought like hungry lions. Eventually, Romulus killed Remus and was victorious in founding his own city. Upon his death, Romulus returned to his city and finished the building work.

On April 21, 753BC, he officially founded the city naming it Rome, he then made himself king. The city grew and prospered into one of the most powerful cities in the world, and would be for another 1,000 years.

Romulus and Remus

Long ago, two siblings named Romulus and Remus were born to a Roman Princess named Rhea Silvia and the war god, Mars.



King Amulius was worried that the twin's would overthrow him, so he ordered his servant to kill them. Unable to do the deed the servant put the twins in a basket and sent them floating down the river Tiber.

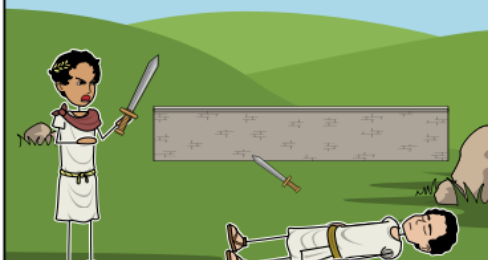


Luckily, the twins were found by a She-wolf, who raised the twins and a woodpecker, who fed the twins. Eventually, the twins were discovered by a shepherd and his wife who raised the boys as their own children.

One day, Remus was captured and taken to king Amulius. Romulus freed Remus and together they killed the king. The people of the city offered joint leadership to the boys but they declined.



The two brothers wanted to found their own city.



Romulus wanted to build in Palatine hill whilst Remus favoured Aventine Hill. They both started building, Romulus built a wall around his city and Remus made fun of him. In a fit of fury, Romulus killed Remus.



After Remus' death, Romulus finished his city which he named Rome after himself. Legend has it that Romulus was the first leader of the great city, setting up the social classes it soon expanded and became the home of the great Roman Empire

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