

## The Legend of Romolo and Remo

According to the legend Amulio became the tyrant of the city of Alba Longa after having kicked out his brother Numitore, legitimate king of the city, and having killed his son Egesto.

Amulio forced the king Numitore's daughter, Rea Silvia, to become priestess (vestal) to avoid that in the future his descendants might take revenge.

But the god Mars fell in love with Rea Silvia who became the mother of two twins, Romolo and Remo.

Amulio ordered to throw the two babies into the river Tevere.

The two twins were put in a basket and they were left in the Tevere. The flow transported the basket along the river and stopped near a fig tree, in the place where Rome would rise.

A wolf came there to drink and heard the twins crying. She saw the basket and she rescued the kids by securing them in a nearby cave.

She breastfed them, and she took care of them until they were found by a shepherd called Faustolo, who took them to his house, raised them as if they were his children, together with her wife Acca Larenzia.

It was at that time that the two twins were named Romolo and Remo.

Once they grew up, according to the gods' wish, they killed Amulio and built a city in the same place where the wolf had found them.

On April 21<sup>st</sup> 753 B.C. the two twins built Rome, after having decided, by observing the birds' flight, that Romolo was going to be considered the founder.

Romolo chose the name of the city and he traced the path that nobody should ever have crossed with arms.

Immediately the two brothers had a quarrel and Remo was killed during it: he was indeed envious of his brother.

Romolo became the first king of Rome.

At this point Romolo filled up the new city, giving protection, on the hill called Capitolino, to the refugees from the villages nearby, including free people and slaves, without any distinction. In a short time, a new community, made up exclusively of men, was built.

Then Romolo gave wives to these men by kidnapping all the women from his neighbors *Sabini* during a religious festival. The rape of the Sabines, made their king, Tito Tazio, very angry. Indeed, he started a war against Romolo. After a while they made peace thanks to the kidnapped Sabine women, who mediated in the dispute between the two armies.