# ITINERA AENEAE



#### BACKGROUND OF AENEAS

As we know, Aeneas was a hero in the Trojan War. Aeneas was the son of Anchises and Venus. He was a cousin of Priam and fought on the side of the Trojans.

We learned that before the fall of Troy, Aeneas was commanded by the gods to gather a group of Trojan citizens and flee

#### BACKGROUND OF AENEAS

Aeneas and his followers (collectively known as Aeneads) were to travel to Italy to found a new settlement.

The Aeneads included Misenus (a trumpeter); Anchises (his father); Achates, Sergestus and Acmon (his friends); Iapyx (a healer) and Ascanius/Iulus (his son). Ascanius was Aeneas' son with his first wife, Creusa.

## BACKGROUND OF AENEAS

He also carried the Lares and Penates, two household gods sacred to Troy, and transplanted them in Italy.

- We know from the story of the Trojan War that the results of the war left many gods and goddesses unhappy.
- For the Aeneads, Juno stirred up a storm to show her displeasure at their escape. This lead to them being lost at sea for six years.

• While lost at sea, Aeneas and his crew get stopped at Sicily, where unfortunately Anchises dies.

• The group carries on, eventually ending up shipwrecked at Carthage.

While at Carthage, Aeneas fell in love with the queen of the land, Dido. Dido urged Aeneas to settle his people there and he may be her king.

Together they formed a year-long marriage alliance.

However, Jupiter sent Mercury to Aeneas to remind him of his duties: to found a new city for his people. Jupiter urged Aeneas to leave secretly.

When Dido learned of her lover's intention to leave, she spit a curse that Carthage and Rome would forever be enemies.

• Dido then committed suicide by stabbing herself with the sword she gave to Aeneas as a gift.

Aeneas sailed away, travelling on to Sicily to mourn his father again.

#### LANDING IN ITALY

Aeneas and his crew landed on the western coast of Italy.

Aeneas visited the temple of Apollo and Diana, where he met with the Sibyl. She permits him passage to the underworld.

#### LANDING IN ITALY

Aeneas travels through the underworld, seeing many of his lost comrades and acquaintances. He sees Dido, who refuses to speak with him.

Importantly, he speaks with his father, who explains the cycle of rebirth and shows him the future of his descendants and the future history of Rome.

Aeneas leaves the underworld and prepares to begin Rome's future.

#### BATTLE FOR LATIUM

Aeneas and his crew were welcomed to the land of Latium by their king, Latinus.

Latinus allowed them to regroup and rebuild their lives among his people.

## BATTLE FOR LATIUM

 King Latinus had a daughter, Lavinia, who was set to marry a king, Turnus, from another land. However, after receiving a prophecy that his daughter should marry a different king from a strange land, Latinus sought to give his daughter to Aeneas.

#### BATTLE FOR LATIUM

As we know, it's a bad idea to try to take someone's lady. Juno urged Turnus to declare war on Aeneas so he did.

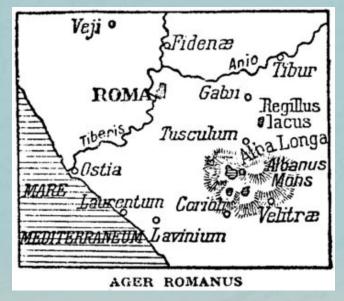
Aeneas, the former Trojans and the people of Latium were victorious! Turnus was killed, King Latinus was mortally wounded and Aeneas married Lavinia.

Aeneas lived on to found Lavinium and later died in battle defending his new city.

#### AENEAS' DESCENDANTS

 Aeneas' descendants went on to found other cities around Lavinium, the most important of which being

Alba Longa.



 The kingdom of Alba Longa was highly successful and had many generations of rulers, all of whom were descendants of Aeneas.

#### AENEAS' DESCENDANTS

• One of Aeneas' descendants was Numitor, a king.

Numitor's brother Amulius usurped the throne and forced Numitor's daughter, Rhea Silvia, to be a Vestal Virgin (which means she was a priestess to the goddess Vesta).

One of the rules of a Vestal Virgin was that they must never bear children, which would ensure that Numitor would have no heirs.

#### AENEAS' DESCENDANTS

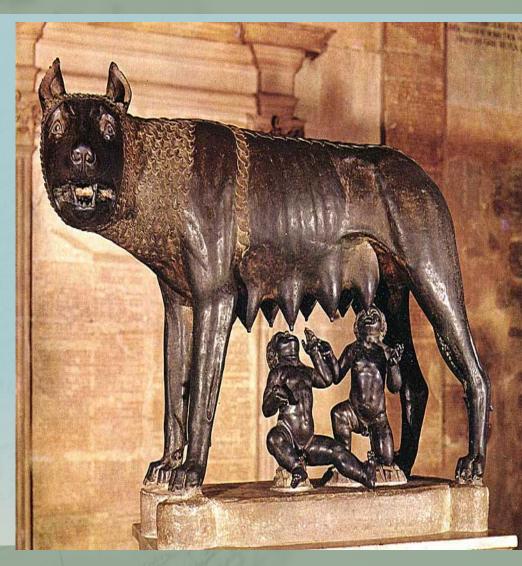
Therefore, when Rhea Silvia became pregnant, it was quite a scandal.

Rhea Silvia claimed that Mars, god of war, was the one who impregnated her. Once she gave birth, Amulius ordered that she be imprisioned.

Amulius ordered that her offspring, two twin boys, be killed. They were set to drown in the river Tiber.

# ROMULUS & REMUS

- These twins were named Romulus and Remus.
  They were protected by a number of unusual circumstances.
  - First, the Tiber river carries them to safety, rather than to their death
  - A she-wolf (lupa) finds them and feeds them of her own milk
  - A shepherd and his wife discover and raise the boys as their own.



# ROMULUS & REMUS

Romulus and Remus were natural leaders, each gaining a following. Eventually they learn the truth of their birth and choose to kill Amulius. They restore Numitor to his rightful throne.

Rather than wait to inherit Alba Longa, the boys resolved to found their own city.

Romulus wanted to found their city on the Palatine Hill

Remus wanted to found their city on the Aventine Hill.

- The two decide to seal the fate of the city on augury
  - Ancient Romans believed that the will of the gods could be read in the flight direction, group structure, sounds and bird type.
- However, both men interpret the patterns in their own favor, which leads to a quarrel.

In the quarrel, Remus is killed, Romulus is victorious and founds the new city, calling it Rome.

The city of Rome grew rapidly, filling itself with unmarried, landless male refugees.

To prolong his race, Romulus arranges the abduction of nearby women, the Sabines.



War ensued and ended with the union of the Roman men and the Sabine women, uniting as one dominant Roman populus.

#### DATE OF FOUNDATION OF ROME

According to legend, the foundation of Rome took place 438 years after the fall of Troy, giving the date of foundation as the 21st of April, 753 BC, traditionally celebrated with the festival of Parilia