

## The Legend of Romulus, Remus, and Rome

Many tales and legends that explain the existence of ancient cities have been passed down throughout the ages. These legends are only as strong as the belief of the reader. This legend will tell one story of how Rome was built and by whom.

It would happen that Mars, the god of war, would fall in love with the priestess Rhea Silvia. This great love that he had for her led to her giving birth to twin boys, Romulus and Remus. Soon after their birth, a jealous family member cast them into the Tiber River. He hoped they would float away and drown, but he had not counted on the river waters falling and the boys floating ashore.

Once ashore, the boys were discovered by a she-wolf. Rather than killing the boys, she took pity on them, fed them, and looked after them. While with the wolf, the boys were discovered by Faustulus, a shepherd who brought the boys to his home for safe keeping. Faustulus and his wife decided to raise Romulus and Remus as their own children.

The boys grew up strong and clever and soon decided that they would like to leave their home. Although they thought about returning to their birthplace, they decided instead they would like to develop a city of their own. The boys chose the location along the Tiber River where they had been found and cared for by the she-wolf. The first step in designing the city was building the walls to define the land. Romulus took to the task, but Remus began to make fun of him. Remus said that the walls were too low to properly protect the city and he leaped over them to prove it. This greatly angered Romulus, and he killed his brother in rage. Romulus did not let this stop his efforts to create his own city. Romulus continued building his city and named it Roma—or Rome—after his own name. Although it was a new place, there were not many people who wished to move to this new city. Romulus now had his own city of outlaws and fugitives.

