

## Roman Civilization

CLA1102

Thursday September 8th 2016

### Foundation of Rome

#### *The Golden Apple*

- Peleus and Thetis (Achilles parents) get married
- gods invite everyone to the wedding → goddess not invited is Discordia
  - creates a solid gold apple and says “for the most beautiful goddess”
  - 3 goddesses think that they should have the apple
    - Juno → wife of Jupiter, queen of the gods
    - Minerva → goddess of wisdom
    - Venus → goddess of love and beauty
- Jupiter can't decide so they decide to get a third party
  - go to Mount Ida and see Paris (a Trojan prince → was a shepherd)
  - Hermes comes down and brings Paris to Mt. Olympus – make him decide
- before judgement each goddess tries to bribe him
  - Juno → make you king of Europe and Asia
  - Minerva → wisdom and skill in war so you never lose a battle
  - Venus → the most beautiful woman in the world to be your wife → happens to be Helen of Sparta the wife of Menelaus of Sparta (King)
- Paris gives the apple to Venus → Paris marries Helen and she becomes Helen of Troy

#### *The Trojan War*

- Menelaus and his brother with thousands of ships (all of Greece) and launch a 10 year long war against Troy
  - couldn't break through the wall → leave best soldiers in Trojan horse and sail away → Trojans take horse into the city, party and when everyone is drunk the Greeks leave the horse and capture the city of Troy
- Trojan general (Aeneas) escapes with wife, father and son (his wife gets lost) → two names for the son (Ascanius/Iulus)
- Aeneas (similar to Odysseus) wanders for 10 years → marries king's daughter (Lavinia of Lavinium in Italy near the Tiber and Mediterranean)
  - his son (Ascanius) left and founded his own city = Alba Longa
  - **alba = white, longa = long**

#### *The Twin Heirs*

\*After 12 generations of kings of Alba Longa

- 13th and 14th kings were twins → descendants of Ascanius
  - Numitor → good/13th king/born first
  - Amulius → bad/14th king
- Amulius wants to be king so he drives his brother out and takes the throne
- Rhea Silvia (Numitor's daughter) → she is pregnant and claims Mars is the father → gives birth to twins, Romulus and Remus → henchman is told to drown the twins by Amulius → instead puts them in a basket and sends them down the Tiber river and is caught near the shore
- babies are found by a she-wolf → suckles the babies → shepherd (Faustulus) sees this and adopts them and raises them as their own (never tells them where they really came from)
- at 18 they realize that they're blue blooded and royal and they “can tell” because they are

different and special and hear the story about Rhea Silvia and Mars (figured they were the twins from this story)

- they are the legitimate kings
- **literally, hero means half god and half man**
- drive out Amulius and is actually killed and put Numitor back on the throne
- were 18 and didn't want to wait to rule so they founded their own city → go back to the place where the she-wolf had found them to build their city

### *Building Rome*

- iron age → build cities on hills for easy defense
- two hills: Palatine and Aventine → they have to pick one
- Remus chooses Aventine and Romulus wants Palatine
- decided to look at the flight of birds to predict the future and deem which is better (they “augur”) → belief that gods were speaking through the birds
- Remus goes to the top of Aventine and sees 6 vultures → saw them first
- Romulus sees 12 vultures on the top of Palatine → saw more of them → still can't decide = each builds their own city
- Romulus is very charismatic → gets a lot of help → Remus doesn't do well with people → doesn't get much help → gets jealous
- first part of building a city is setting a sacred boundary (a pomerium) and build a wall → must be plowed with a single white ox
- Remus jumps over the pomerium before the wall is built → form of “black magic”
  - creates a spiritual hole in the wall that means the magic of the pomerium cant protect the city against attacks
  - anyone who attacks in the future can infiltrate the city → sets the precedent for hostile action
  - only way to reverse it is to kill the person who jumped the wall → kills his brother
  - **fratricide → to kill ones brother**
- names the city after himself → Rome
- Foundation of Rome (officially) **April 21st 753 BC**

### **7 Hills of Rome:**

- Palatine
- Aventine
- Capitoline
- Quirinal
- Viminal
- Esquiline
- Caelian

\*Rome is on the southeast side of the Tiber, 15 miles in from the sea (less than 20 km) and situated in between hills.