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Tales of the Romans

罗马故事

纯英文版

美国作家改编

原著 Plutarch

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改编 Bessie Edmond



航空工业出版社

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北京

普卢塔克和他的《名人传》

普卢塔克(约公元 46 — 120)生于希腊维奥蒂亚地区凯罗涅亚城的一个书香之家;他父亲是一个知名传记作家和哲学家。自幼受到良好教育,养成优良学风。曾多次到罗马讲学、演说,曾为罗马皇帝图拉真、哈德良授课,并博得赞赏。图拉真赐予他执政官的称号。哈德良在位时他当过希腊某地财政长官,他是雅典的荣誉公民,从公元 95 年开始成为德尔斐阿波罗神庙的终身祭司。

他的著作有 227 种之多,大部分散失,现存有 100 多种。代表作有《希腊罗马名人比较列传》(简称《名人传》,又称《列传》、《合传》)和《道德论集》)。

《名人传》共有希腊、罗马名人传记 50 篇,其中 46 篇是希、罗名人成对排列,共 23 组;其余四篇为一人一传。普氏文笔优美,瑰丽多姿,叙议结合,生动有趣,如行云流水;他善于刻画人物性格,妙笔传神,启人心智。《凯撒传》、《格拉古传》等名篇,读之使人如闻其声,如见其人。《名人传》开创了欧洲传记文学的先河,使作者百世流芳。法国的拉伯雷、蒙田,英国的莎士比亚、培根都受其影响。莎翁有两部剧本取材于此书。

本书共有 20 个罗马名人故事,改写后情节更加简练、紧凑,语言生动,趣味更浓,纯英文版是广大读者了解罗马历史,熟悉历史名人风采,提高英语水平的良好教材。

目 录

The Twins	3
What the Forest Lady Said	15
Why the Romans Bore Pain	27
The Second Founder of Rome	39
The Man Who Waited	51
How a Woman Saved Rome	63
The Triumph	78
Cato the Stern	91
The General Who Ate Dry Bread	103
The Red General	117
Battlefields and Gardens	129
The Man Who Loved Gold	142
The White Fawn	154
The Conqueror of Pirates	166
Caesar and His Fortune	179
The Man Who Seldom Laughed	207
Two Noble Brothers	217
Tully	227
The Man Who Looked Like Hercules	237
Caesar's Friend and Enemy	250

《双胞胎》人物关系表

Numitor 努弥托耳：阿尔巴隆加国王。他的女儿雷娅·西尔维亚与天神玛尔斯生下罗慕路斯和雷穆斯。

Amulius 阿穆利乌斯：努弥托耳之弟。

Romulus 罗慕路斯：努弥托耳外甥。

Remus 雷穆斯：罗慕路斯之弟。

Tarpeia 塔尔皮亚：罗马的女叛徒。

《双胞胎》故事梗概

努弥托耳之女雷娅与战神玛尔斯生下罗慕路斯和雷穆斯后,哥俩受到叔公阿穆利乌斯的迫害,但却受到一只母狼、一只大鸟和王室的牧人浮斯图路斯的保护、抚养,长大后他们杀了叔公,战胜了一些外族,创建了罗马城。罗慕路斯任罗马国王长达 33 年之后逝世升天。

The Twins

The cattle were feeding on the *pasture*, but the master was not there. He was going toward the river, and he was carrying a *burden* in his arms. When he reached the edge of the stream, he paused. The water ran toward the *Mediterranean* Sea, roughly and noisily.

“I shall not put them straight into the water,” he said to himself; “I will leave them here, and perhaps the river will rise and carry them away.”

It did. As the flood *crept* round the wooden *cradle*, it rocked and then floated. Inside the cradle lay two lovely boy babies — twins-*princes*. Their grand-uncle had taken their grandfather’s land, and had *bidden* the *herdsman* drown the twins.

The flood of the River Tiber carried the cradle to a green spot, where grew a wild tree. The box lay on the grass, and when the flood went down it still stayed on land. And *be-hold*, a large she-wolf came and *gazed* at the babies with her fierce and *suspicious* eyes, and she seemed to think they were little cubs that needed her milk, and so she fed them. As they grew older, and were able to walk about, and were

too old for wolf's milk, they got food from a friendly bird. No one can say whether the bird, with his long beak and tongue, brought the boys food such as he ate himself (that would be insects and worms), or whether he was good enough to bring *berries* and other fruits. After a while, however, the herdsman took charge of the boys altogether, and saved the woodpecker any further trouble.

The twins became tall and strong young fellows, who minded cattle for the chief *Amulius*.

One day, a loud cry was heard. "Our cattle have been stolen!"

"Who has taken them?"

"The herdsmen of the chief Numitor."

"Follow us!" shouted the tall twins; "we will get them back again!"

A *furious* fight took place. The twins won. The cattle were brought back in triumph. Then the brothers knew that another war would follow. They joined company with escaped slaves and other people who had no settled homes. These people looked upon the twins — *Romulus* and *Remus* — as captains. But Remus was *captured*, and taken to the house of *Numitor*.

The Twins

The herdsman went to Romulus and said: "Your brother is in danger of death. He will perhaps be killed by his grandfather Numitor."

"I never knew Numitor was our grandfather," replied Romulus.

"Yet it is so. Your mother was his daughter. But Amulius took the power, and wanted to get rid of you two boys, and bade me leave you in the cradle on the River Tiber, where you would soon have been drowned. But it happened otherwise, and I brought you up after a wolf and a bird had fed you."

"I can hardly believe you."

"Well, here is the box you and Remus sailed in. Take it at once to Numitor. Tell him who you are. Perhaps he will spare Remus's life."

Romulus ran at once to the house of the chief, burst into the room where he was questioning poor Remus, showed the cradle, and told of this strange story. And Numitor, looking at the faces of the young men, saw a likeness to his daughter, and felt sure the tale was true. The two brothers went off with a *band* of armed men to punish their great-uncle, Amulius. Before the little army walked several standard-bearers, carrying poles, on the tops of

which were fastened *bunches* of grass and *shrubs*. An attack was made on the wicked Amulius' house, and he was killed.

The two young chiefs — for such they now were — made up their minds to build a city of their own. They *ploughed* with a share or *blade* drawn by an ox, and ploughed a channel in a sort of circle. This circle was the line on which the walls were built. But Remus never took part in constructing this. He had told Romulus that the city ought to be built in another and safer spot.

“If you build here,” he said, “the enemy will easily enter — as easily as this.”

So saying, he jumped over the ploughed line in a *mocking* manner. In anger Romulus and his friends fell upon Remus and struck him, and he died.

When his *passion* cooled, great was the sorrow of Romulus; but it was too late; his brother was dead. The city that was being built would now to be called after the brother who was left alive — *Rome*.

On a hill near Rome you could see huts, in which *dwelt* the men who had joined Romulus, because they had nowhere else to go — slaves who had escaped from their *lords*, men who had killed neighbors and

The Twins

dreaded being punished by their tribe. After a time the folk was divided into classes. First was Romulus, the chief; he sat on a chair of state; his coat was of *purple*, and a purple *cloak* hung over his shoulders. As he walked through the new city, the guards marched before him, bearing *bundles* of *rods* and leather. If Romulus ordered any man to be beaten, the guards beat the *offender* with the rods. If he said, “*Bind* that man prisoner,” they bound the person with the leather *straps*.

A hundred older men, called the Fathers, sat together in a *council* or *senate*.

The young men who were strong and quick were chosen for soldiers — on foot or horseback. Certain men would watch birds flying, and if the birds flew in a particular manner they would say: “It is not the right time to begin a war,” or whatever the purpose might be.

If the birds flew in what they thought a better way, the watchers would say: “The time is good. The war may begin,” or “The house may be built,” among other things.

These men were called *Augurs*, and were a kind of *priests*. Thus we see the classes — the King, the

Fathers, the Soldiers, the Priests. The rest were known as the People.

A great *feast* was held one day. Romulus sat on a *throne*, dressed in purple. The Romans had asked another tribe, called the *Sabines*, to come to the merry-making, and the Sabines had come, with many *maidens*, who were ready to dance with the young men of Rome. Suddenly, Romulus stood up, and folded his cloak about him.

A shout arose. The Roman young men rushed among the Sabines, and each seized one of the maidens, dragging them away to the city, while the Sabine men were held back from *interfering*. The story goes on to tell that the Roman men married the Sabine young women. Romulus had made this plan for the capture, for he thought it was of little use to have a city with so few women.

Wars went on between the Romans and the Sabines for some years. At last, a day came when each side had fiercely attacked the other; each had fled; each had begun the fight again. A crowd of women ran in between the armies. Their hair was *disordered*; they *uttered* loud cries. Some carried their babies. Some *knelt* on the ground, and wept over the

The Twins

bodies of the dead. And one woman spoke for the rest: “O men, do you wish to hurt us women still more? We were carried away from our fathers and brothers. And now what do we see? Our fathers and brothers are in *deadly* quarrel with our husbands. *Whoever* is killed is a lost friend to us. This war robs us of our husbands and our brothers and fathers. We beg you to stop.” And the Romans and Sabines heard the prayer of the women and made peace, and became one people. How happy it would be if all the tribes of the earth today did *likewise*!

But one woman was not so noble. Before this *peacemaking*, the Sabines once laid *siege* on Rome, and a Roman woman named *Tarpeia* told the enemy she would open the gate to them by night, if they would give her the bracelets of gold which they wore on their left hands. They agreed. She opened the gate, and the Sabines ran in. But they did not respect the *traitor*. The Sabine chief threw at her his *bracelet* and his *shield* (which was on his left arm). All the others did likewise, and the false woman sank under a heavy pile of shields and bracelets, and died. And, after all, the Sabines did not win.

Romulus ruled his city for a long time. One day,

when he stood among the people in an *assembly*, the sky became dark, and thunder rolled. Then the sky cleared to brightness. But Romulus could nowhere be seen. People said the gods had taken him away. Of course, this is only a legend. Not long after that, when the people were gathered together at the place where the senate sat, a senator walked in, and cried: “O people, I have seen Romulus!”

“Tell us where and how?”

He then told the following story. He had met Romulus, dressed in bright *armor*, on the road near the city.

“Why, O King, did you leave the people who loved you?”

“My good friend, I dwelt on earth and built a city, and did my work, and now the gods have called me to heaven. Farewell. Go and tell the Romans that by the exercise of patience and courage they shall become the greatest people in the world.”

注释

pasture [ˈpɑːstʃə] *n.* 草地、牧场

burden [ˈbɜːdn] *n.* 重负、大包

The Twins

Mediterranean [ˌmedɪtə'reɪnjən] *n.* 地中海

creep [kri:p] *vi.* 爬行、慢慢地行

cradle [kreɪdl] *n.* 摇篮

prince [prɪns] *n.* 王子、王孙

bid [bɪd] *v.* 命令

herdman [ˈhɜ:dzmən] *n.* 牧主、牧人

behold [bɪ'həʊld] *v.* 看见、注视

gaze [geɪz] *vi.* 盯着看、凝视

suspicious [sə'spiʃəs] *a.* 可疑的、猜疑的

berry ['beri] *n.* 浆果、干仁

Amulius *n.* 阿穆利乌斯(又译:阿穆略),阿尔巴·隆加国第15任国王普洛卡斯之子,努弥托耳的弟弟。后来成了奸王,被罗慕路斯和雷穆斯杀死。

furious ['fjuəriəs] *a.* 暴怒的、猛烈的、喧闹的

Romulus [rɒmjʊləs] *n.* 罗慕路斯,(古)传说古罗马的建国者,在正史中罗马城的创建者是拉丁人的祖先拉丁努斯。

Remus ['rɪməs] *n.* 雷穆斯,(古)传说罗马创建者之一,罗慕路斯之弟。

capture ['kæptʃə] *vt.* 俘获、夺取

Numitor *n.* 努弥托耳,拉丁姆地方阿尔巴·隆加城的国王普洛卡斯的长子,埃涅阿斯王朝的第16任国王,瑞亚·西尔维亚的父亲,罗慕路斯和雷穆斯的外祖父。

band [bænd] *n.* 一帮、一伙

bunch [bʌntʃ] *n.* 束、突起

shrub [ʃrʌb] *n.* 灌木

plough [plau] *v.* 犁、耕、开路

blade [bleɪd] *n.* 叶片、刀片

mock [mɒk] *vt.* 嘲笑、无视

passion ['pæʃən] *n.* 激情、热心

Rome [rəʊm] *n.* 罗马(意大利首都),古罗马城

dwel [dwell] *vi.* 居住、居留

lord [lɔ:d] *n.* 君主、领主、主人

dread [dred] *v.* 恐怕、担心

- purple** ['pɜ:pəl] *a.* 紫色的、(古)深红色
- cloak** [kləʊk] *n.* 斗篷、外套
- bundle** ['bʌndl] *n.* 包袱 *vt.* 包裹
- rod** [rɒd] *n.* 枝、棍棒
- offender** [ə'fendə] *n.* 罪犯、犯人、得罪人的人
- bind** [baɪnd] *vt.* 捆、卷
- strap** [stræp] *n.* 皮、(布、铁)带
- council** ['kaʊnsəl] *n.* 议事、协商
- senate** ['senit] *n.* 元老院(古罗马),立法机构、参议院
- Augur** ['ɔ:gə] *n.* 预言者、卜占官
- priest** [pri:st] *n.* 教士
- feast** [fi:st] *n.* (宗教上的)祝典、筵席
- throne** [θrəʊn] *n.* (帝王)位、宝座
- Sabine** ['sæbain] *n.* 萨宾人
- maiden** ['meɪdn] *n.* (古)处女、少女
- interfering** [ɪntə'fɪəriŋ] *a.* 干涉的、互相冲突的
- disordered** [dɪs'ɔ:dəd] *a.* 混乱的、失调的
- utter** ['ʌtə] *vt.* 说出、吐露
- kneel** [ni:l] *vi.* 跪下、跪着
- deadly** ['dedli] *a.* 致命的
- whoever** [hu:'evə] *pron.* (宾格),任何人、不管谁
- likewise** ['laɪkwaɪz] *ad.* 同样地、也
- peacemaking** ['pi:smeɪkɪŋ] *n.* 和好
- siege** [si:dʒ] *n.* 包围、围攻、劝诱
- Tarpeia** *n.* 塔尔皮亚,(又译塔佩亚)
- traitor** ['treɪtə] *n.* 卖国贼、叛徒
- bracelet** ['breɪslɪt] *n.* 手镯、手铐
- shield** [ʃi:ld] *n.* 盾、保护
- assembly** [ə'sembli] *n.* 集会
- armor** ['ɑ:mə] *n.* 盔甲、装甲

What the Forest Lady Said

《林中仙女说了什么》 人物关系表

Numa 努马：传说中罗马第二任国王，公元前 715—前 672 在位。

Egeria, The Lady of the Fountain 埃吉里娅：又译：厄革里亚。林中的泉水女神，在罗马神话中，她是努马的第二任妻子。