TALES OF ANCIENT ROME

古罗马的传说

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玛格丽特·梅森
迈克尔·韦斯特 简写
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内 容 简 介

本书故事原文采自英国朗门公司的版本，包括古罗马的传说二十四则，从洛摩罗斯国王公元前753年初建罗马城开始，历经六百多年各种战争和事变，直至最后战胜强大的迦太基人结束。故事按时间顺序排列，每一则小故事都与下一则相衔接，一环扣一环，从而构成全书一个有始有终的大故事，生动而又概括地反映了古罗马历史传说中的一些重大方面。读者在学习语言的同时，可以从中了解到一些必要的欧洲文明史实。

本书语言流畅浅易，基本词汇1,200个左右。现根据中学生的情况，对人名、地名和某些难词、难句作了注释，并配有阅读理解方面的练习，适合中学生作泛读材料。

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1. The Story of the Wolf

Long ago in Italy[1] there lived a king called Procas[2]. He was a wise and good king. When he died he left two sons. The name of the elder son was Numitor[3] and the name of the younger son was Amulius[4].

By law[5] the elder son, Numitor, was then king, but Amulius wanted to become king.

So Amulius said to Numitor, "One of us shall have the gold and jewels left by our father, and the other shall have the crown[6] and be king. Do you think that this is right?"

Numitor was very kind and gentle. He did not want to quarrel with his brother; so he said, "Yes".

"Then I will have the crown," said Amulius, and he became king. But he took not only the crown but all the gold and jewels too; and he drove Numitor away.

Numitor lived quietly in the country with

his wife and two children. He did not try to get back what he had lost.[7]

Amulius remained king. He was always afraid that one day Numitor, or one of his children, would try to get the crown back.

"I shall never have real peace while my brother's children are alive," he said to himself[8].

So he ordered his servants to kill Numitor's son and to shut away[9] Numitor's daughter.

The god Mars[10] became angry with Amulius but he was kind to Numitor's daughter.

One night Numitor's daughter had a strange dream in her prison. She dreamed that two trees came from two leaves which she wore in her hair. The two trees grew and grew until they reached the sky. She dreamed this same dream seven times, and then she knew that it was a dream sent from the gods.

After this two sons were born to her. People had never seen such beautiful babies.

When Amulius heard of[11] the birth of these sons he was very angry. He called two of his servants.

"The girl must be killed at once," he said,

"and her little boys must be thrown into the river."

The servants obeyed this order: they put the babies in a basket and threw it into the river. The river was flowing[12] fast and the water was high and dangerous. The basket lay on the water and was carried down the river to the foot of a hill. It was driven against a tree.[13] As the water dropped back it was left there in a dry, safe place.

The babies had slept all this time, but now they suddenly awoke[14], expecting to see their mother looking down at them. But they could see nothing except the dark sky and the branches of a tree. They were cold and hungry and they began to cry.

Then in the dark night they saw two green eyes looking down at them. It was a great big grey she-wolf[15]. The hungry babies stopped crying and looked in surprise at the animal.

The wolf smelled round the basket. Then she pushed it until it fell over on its side. The two babies rolled out of it. She washed[16] them both with her tongue and carried them away to her cave on the hill. There she fed them with

her milk and looked after them just as if they had been her own babies.

Later the god Mars sent his own birds to feed them. The birds flew in and out of the cave each day, bringing with them food for the little boys.

But neither the wolf nor the birds could do everything for the children. So the god Mars sent Faustulus[17] to help them.

Faustulus was a servant of King Amulius and looked after his animals. As he went near

the river one day he noticed the empty basket lying on its side near the tree. Then he went near the cave.

"This is very strange!" he said. "There is a bird flying into the cave with a piece of bread in its mouth, and a wolf has just come out of the cave and is running into the woods."

Faustulus went into the cave. There he saw the two beautiful children, lying on a soft bed of grass.

He said to himself, "These children must be children of the gods. I will take them home with me."

He took the babies in his arms and carried them home to his wife.

"They are beautiful boys," said his wife. "They shall live here with us and we will call them Romulus[18] and Remus[19]."

As the years passed the two boys grew up brave and strong[20]. When they were old enough they helped Faustulus to look after the animals.

Sometimes the servants of King Amulius had fights with the servants of Numitor, whose fields were near. For Numitor still lived quietly

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on his farm. He did not know that the two children of his daughter had been saved from death and were living so near him.

One day Remus had a quarrel with the servants of Numitor. They took him prisoner[21] and brought him before their master.

"Who are you ?" asked Numitor. He thought to himself, "This boy's face makes me remember[22] my long-lost[23] daughter. I wonder who he is."

Remus told Numitor all about himself and his brother. Just then Faustulus and Romulus came looking for Remus. The servants brought them before Numitor.

"This boy says that he was found by you in a cave when he was a baby," said Numitor to Faustulus.

"Yes. He and his brother came from a basket in the river," said Faustulus. "A wolf was looking after them and some birds were bringing them food. I took them to my wife. She has cared for them[24] ever since."

Numitor thought, "Romulus and Remus are the sons of my daughter ! I am sure of that ! They have been saved from[25] King Amu-

lius." He was very happy.

"I am your grandfather," he told the two young men, "and I am glad to know that you are alive and well. Faustulus and his wife have been very good to you."

Romulus and Remus were also very happy. When Numitor told them about Amulius they became angry.

"He killed our mother and he tried to kill us !" they cried. "We will go with our men to see him."

They gathered a small army of men and went to the place where King Amulius lived. They ran into the King's room.

"You stole the crown from our grandfather Numitor !" they cried. "See ! We are the two boys whom you tried to kill ! You killed our mother and you shall die for it[26] !"

Before Amulius could say a word they sprang on him[27] with their swords and cut his head off.

Then they brought Numitor to be king in his place and all the people were very glad.

Notes:

1. Italy ['itəli] 意大利
2. Procas ['prəukəs] 普罗卡斯(人名)
3. Numitor ['nu:mitər] 努弥托尔(人名)
4. Amulius [ɑ:'mulius] 阿穆利乌斯(人名)
5. By law = according to law 根据法律规定
6. crown [kraun] 王冠，王位
7. He did not... what he had lost. 他不想拿回他已失去的东西。what he had lost 作 to get back 的宾语从句
8. he said to himself 他自言自语
9. shut away 囚禁
10. Mars [mɑ:z] (战神)玛斯
11. heard of 听人说起
12. flowing ['fləuiŋ] 流动
13. It was driven against a tree. 往下冲被一棵树挡住。
14. awoke [ə'wəuk] 醒来 (动词原型是 awake)
15. she-wolf 母狼；she- 可以表示雌性，如 a she-goat 母羊；a she-cousin 堂(表)姐(妹)
16. washed = licked 舔
17. Faustulus ['fɔstuləs] 福斯都拉斯(人名)
18. Romulus ['rɔmu:lus] 洛摩罗斯(人名)
19. Remus ['ri:mus] 瑞摩斯(人名)
20. grew up brave and strong 长得又勇敢又强壮；grew up 起双重作用，既保留原有"长大成人"的意思，又有系词的作用；brave and

strong 为主语补充语

21. took him prisoner 将他俘获
22. makes me remember 使我想起；make 表示"使、迫使"时，后面跟不带"to"的动词不定式，如：He made me do it. 他迫使我干这件事。
23. long-lost 久已失去的
24. has cared for them = has looked after them 照料他们
25. have been saved from ... 从……手中被救了出来
26. you shall die for it 为此你一定得死；shall 用于第二人称 you, 表示许诺、决心、威胁
27. Before Amulius ... sprang on him 阿穆利乌斯还没来得及说一句话，他们就向他身上扑去

Exercises:

Say which statements are true and which are false according to the story:

1. Numitor should become king by law.
2. Numitor had the crown.
3. The bad king killed the two babies of Numitor's daughter.
4. A hungry wolf ate one of the babies.
5. The god Mars sent the birds to help the babies.
6. The servants of the king and the servants of

Numitor often had fights.

7. Old Numitor finally knew that the two young men brought before him by his servants were his grandsons.
8. The bad king escaped when Romulus and Remus ran into his room.

2. How Rome Began

After a little time the two brothers decided to build a city on the Palatine Hill[1], near the place where the wolf had looked after them.

They went to the hill and found a good place. Then they began to talk of a name for their city.[2]

"I will be king and give the new city my name," said Remus.

"No!" cried Romulus. "I will be king and call the city by my name[3]. I have as much right as you have![4]"

The brothers began to quarrel, because each wanted the city for himself.

Then their grandfather Numitor said, "Do not quarrel. Let the gods decide. Romulus, you go and stand on the top of this hill[5]. Remus, you go and stand on the top of that hill over there. Then you must both ask the gods to help you."

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