

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Much later, Roman historians, such as Livy, combined a Greek myth and a Roman folktale to provide a far grander and more interesting account of how their great city was founded.

The story began with Aeneas - a mythical hero from Greek legend who had escaped from the conquered city of Troy. After many adventures, Aeneas finally arrived in Italy, where he married a Latin princess and started a new line of kings.

According to Roman tradition, two of Aeneas's descendants were twin boys named Romulus and Remus. The boys' great-uncle, Amulius, wanted them out of the way and ordered them to be drowned in the Tiber. But Amulius's men took pity on the babies and set them afloat in a cradle. They drifted ashore where they were found by a she-wolf, who fed them with her milk until they were rescued by a kindly shepherd.



A later Roman coin showing a portrait of Romulus

When the boys grew up, they killed their wicked great-uncle and decided to build a new city on the banks of the Tiber. But as the city walls were being built, Remus mocked his brother, and they had a violent argument. Romulus killed Remus and became king of the new city, which was named 'Rome' after him. According to tradition, this happened in 753BC.

A bronze statue of the she-wolf feeding Romulus and Remus

