DUCES ROMANORUM

Rose Williams

Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.
Wauconda, Illinois USA

General Editor: John Traupman

Duces Romanorum

Rose Williams

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First Published by Wimbledon Publishing Company 2001

Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.
1000 Brown Street
Wauconda, Illinois 60084
www.bolchazy.com

Printed in the United States of America
2022
by Publishers' Graphics

ISBN 978-0-86516-692-9

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Williams, Rose, 1937-
Duces Romanorum : profiles in Roman courage / by Rose Williams.
p. cm.
Originally published: London : WPC Classics, c2001.
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 978-0-86516-692-9 (pbk. : alk. paper) 1. Latin language--Readers--Biography. 2. Rome--Biography--Problems, exercises, etc. I. Title.

PA2095.W55 2007
478.6'421--dc22

2008015366

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READING I

Aeneas Comes To Italy

After the Greeks took Troy, tradition says that Aeneas gathered a number of surviving Trojans and set sail to the West with twenty ships. As depicted by Vergil, ***pius Aeneas*** *is the embodiment of the highest Roman virtue,* ***pietas****, which includes devotion to the gods, one's family, and one's country.*

Post belli decem annos Graeci Troiam, urbem Asiae Minoris, superaverunt et deleverunt. Multi Troiani et nobiles et plebeii necati sunt; multi servi facti sunt. Aeneas, filius Troiani nobilis et deae Veneris, a matre iussus cum familia ex Troia devastata fugit. Uxor Creusa inter urbis ruinas amissa est; Aeneas cum filio Iulo et patre Anchise et multis Troianis trans mare fugit. Multos annos per terras mariaque Troiani iaciebantur. Tandem tempestate in litus Africae pulsi sunt. Venus Troianos Carthaginem duxit. Dido regina Carthaginiensis Aenean adamavit. Multa beneficia et dona Aeneae dedit et eum Carthagini tenere temptavit. "Si fata," Aeneas inquit, "sinerent me ducere vitam mea sponte, Troiam victis Troianis manu mea redderem. Sed verba Apollinis erant, 'Italiam pete.' Hic amor, haec patria est." Dolens de Didone, ex Africa navigavit quod dei eum oppidum in Italia aedificare iusserant. In Italia Aeneas benigne a gentibus aliis receptus est, sed ab aliis hostis visus est. Latinus, rex Latinorum, filiam Laviniam uxorem Aeneae spopondit, sed hic Reginae Amatae gratus non erat. Ante adventum Aeneae Lavinia Turno Rutulorum sponsa erat; itaque Turnus bellum contra Aenean gessit. Aeneas Turnum necavit. Postea in Italia oppidum aedificavit quod Lavinium a nomine uxoris appellavit. Secundum nonnullas fabulas Aeneas in bello necatus est; secundum nonnullas praemature cecidit et inhumatus fuit ob maledictum

Didonis.[1] Filius Aeneae, Iulus vel Ascanius nomine, oppidum Albam Longam aedificavit. Ex hoc oppido post multos annos Romulus et Remus venerunt.

QUESTIONS

1. *What did Aeneas do after Troy fell?*
2. *Who were his companions?*
3. *What happened in Carthage?*
4. *What did he tell Queen Dido he wanted to do?*
5. *Why did he feel compelled to go to Italy?*
6. *Who was Lavinia and how did she affect the Trojans?*
7. *What was the fate of Aeneas?*
8. *What was the connection between Aeneas and Rome?*

VOCABULARY FOR READING I

adamo 1 to fall in love with, to love intensely
adventus –us *m* arrival
alii . . . alii some . . . others
appello 1 to call, to name
beneficium –ii (i) *n* kindness, favor
cado, cadere, cecidi, casum to fall, be slain
devasto 1 to destroy, devastate
gens, gentis *f* tribe, family, nation
gero, gerere, gessi, gestum to carry on; to bear; to wear
iacio, iacere, ieci, iactum to throw, hurl
inhumatus –a –um unburied
inquit, inquiunt *def* he says, they say *(used after one or more words of direct quotation)*
Latini –orum *mpl* the Latins *(a people of Latium in central Italy)*
maledictum –i *n* curse
manu by hand
praemature *adv* prematurely, before the proper time
Rutuli –orum *mpl* the Rutuli *(a people of central Italy)*
secundum *adv* after; behind; *prep* (+ *acc*) according to
sino, sinere, sivi (sii), situm to allow
spondeo, spondere, spopondi, sponsum to promise in marriage, pledge
sponte *(abl only) f* according to one's wishes; of one's own accord
tempto 1 to try
tempestas, tempestatis *f* storm, weather

Notes

[1] Among Dido's curses at the departure of Aeneas was the hope that he would die before his day and lie unburied; this was very serious to the ancients, who believed that their entrance to the world of the dead depended upon burial.

READING II
Romulus and the Romans Take Brides

Romulus and Remus, born in Alba Longa and abandoned in the Tiber by a wicked uncle, after restoring rulership in Alba Longa to their grandfather Numitor, founded a small city on the Tiber. They found that they and their citizens were viewed with distrust by the neighbors.

Romulus et Remus iuvenes ad ripam Tiberis revenerunt ut urbem conderent. Iratus Romulus Remum necavit. Postea Romulus solus urbem, quam Romam appellavit, rexit.
Roma asylum[1] fugitivis erat, et mox urbs iuvenes multos sed nullas feminas tenuit. Romulus ad oppida finitima legatos misit qui de matrimonio rogarent, sed finitimi Romanos maritos filiabus accipere noluerunt. Itaque Romulus ludos magnos declaravit et omnes finitimos ad ludos vocavit. Multi Sabini ad ludos venerunt et cum amicitia accepti sunt. Sed, dum patres ludos spectant, innuptae a Romanis raptae sunt. Parentes et fratres irati domum redierunt ut bellum compararent.
Romani puellas magna cum honestate acceperunt, et uxores, non servas, eas fecerunt. Benignitatem magnam uxoribus suis monstraverunt, quod feminae, cognatis amissis, maritos solos habuerunt.[2] Ubi Sabini cum exercitu ad puellas recipiendas venerunt, puellae inter maritos et parentes cucurrerunt. "Si," clamaverunt, "mors necessaria est, necate nos! Nos causa belli sumus, et melius est mori quam sine maritis nostris aut sine parentibus nostris vivere." Lacrimae feminarum exercitum utrumque moverunt, et silentium undique erat. Duces omnes convenerunt ut pacem facerent, et duae gentes una factae sunt.

Notes

[1] **Asyla,** or cities of refuge, were common in the ancient world. They provided sanctuary for people accused of crimes or for those who were otherwise unwelcome in their homes.

[2] **Pietas,** which placed great emphasis on family, may have led the Romans to try to replace the lost families of their stolen wives. This considerate attitude probably had much to do with the wives' desire to stay with the Romans.

QUESTIONS

1. *Who made up the early population of Rome?*
2. *What was lacking in the city?*
3. *How did the Romans first try to supply this lack?*
4. *What did they do next?*
5. *What was their attitude toward Rome's newest citizens?*
6. *Who made peace between the Romans and the Sabines? How?*

VOCABULARY FOR READING II

asylum –i *n* refuge, safe haven
cognatus –i *m* blood relative
declaro 1 to proclaim, announce
fugivitus –i *m* fugitive
honestas, honestatis *f* honor, integrity
innupta –ae *f* unmarried girl
iratus –a –um angry
lacrima –ae *f* tear(drop)
monstro 1 to show, demonstrate
necessarius -a -um necessary
pax, pacis *f* peace
rapio, rapere, rapui, raptum to seize and carry off; to snatch
silentium –ii (i) *n* silence
undique *adv* on all sides
uterque, utraque, utrumque *pron* each one *(of the two)*; both
vivo, vivere, vixi, victum to live