Romulus and Remo

Romulus and Remo were the twin brothers and main characters of the legend of Rome’s foundation.

The legend says that one day the god Mars and Rhea Silvia, who was a Vestal Virgin, met and fell in love. After 9 months she gave birth to two twins but their uncle Amulio received the news and imprisoned Rhea Silvia. Since he was afraid to lose his throne, he ordered his servants to put the twins in a basket and throw it away into the Tiber river. Just on that day, the Tiber overflew and the basket stopped in a bush under the Palatine hill.

The twins were discovered by a female wolf. The she-wolf nursed and fed them with her milk for a short time before they were found by a shepherd, Faustolo, who lived in that area. He saw the she-wolf with the twins and decided to adopt them. Then he called them Romulus and Remus. When the twins grew up, Faustolo told them that he wasn’t their real father. When they discovered their real story, they decided to found the city where the she-wolf had nursed them; but in order to decide who would become the king they went on a hill to get a kind of sign from the sky. While Romulus wanted to found the new city on the Palatine hill, Remus preferred the Aventine hill. They looked carefully at the sky for hours, studying the flight of birds to understand what the Gods had decided. Remus was the first to see a large number of birds, precisely six. But shortly after, Romulus saw twelve birds and at that point the twins began to quarrel. Romulus drew a large square around him and said that nobody had to overcome it without his permission. Remus didn’t listen to his brother and trod the line, so Romulus killed Remus with his sword.

So the new city was founded by Romulus who named it “Rome”, the largest and most beautiful city of the ancient world.