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The History of Rome, Books I–V

Livy (Titus Livius) · *c. 27–25 B.C. · D. Spillan, 1853*

Whether in tracing the history of the Roman people, from the foundation of the city, I shall employ myself to a useful purpose, I am neither very certain, nor, if I were, dare I say. Spillan's English here is Books I–V only, from Aeneas and the twins to the Gallic sack. The Gutenberg volume continues through Book VIII.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How does a people tell the founding of its city, and what remains of virtue and of crime when the story is already half legend?

"Whether in tracing the history of the Roman people, from the foundation of the city,"
The preface

The translation is D. Spillan (1853). Project Gutenberg #19725 is The History of Rome, Books 1–8. The site text and EPUB are the labeled selection, Books I–V (founding to the Gallic sack). Quote only I–V, in stretches that appear in both; do not quote Books VI–VIII from the Gutenberg file as this work. The preface is present in both. Spellings include Æneas. Footnote numbers in this file must not be taken into a quotation. A complete five-book opening of Livy, for older students, of founding, kings, liberty, and a sack—not the whole history of Rome.

KEY CHARACTERS

Livy
The historian of the preface, uncertain of his use, and committed to the city's memory.

Romulus and Remus
The twins of the founding, exposed, and found.

the kings, and Brutus
The line that builds the city, and the consulship that ends the kingship.

Camillus, and the Gauls
The later crisis of Book V, the sack, and the city's survival.

FROM THE FOUNDATION

> *"Whether in tracing the history of the Roman people, from the foundation of the city,"*
> The preface

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01
A Preface, and a Doubt
THE PREFACE

Livy is not certain that tracing Rome from its foundation will be useful, and he dare not say so if he were. The practice is old; the consolation is the greatness of the subject.

- The opening clause is exact in both the site text and the EPUB.
- Do not include the footnote number after 'purpose'.
- This map is Books I–V only.

> *"Whether in tracing the history of the Roman people, from the foundation of the city,"*
> The preface

02
Aeneas, and the Twins
BOOK I, THE FOUNDING

Æneas comes into Italy; Romulus and Remus are exposed; a she-wolf comes from the neighbouring mountains. So great a city, Livy says, was due to the Fates.

- This text's spelling is Æneas, not Aeneas.
- 'so great a city, and the establishment of an empire next in power to that of the gods, was due to the Fates' is in both witnesses.
- The founding is already a mix of legend and moral claim.

03
Kings, and a Brutus
THE REST OF BOOK I

Numa, Tullus, Ancus, the Tarquins, and the crime that ends the kingship. The first consuls are made.

- Lucretia's story must be taught with gravity, for older students; do not sensationalize it.
- The liberty of the Republic begins as a moral revolt, not a modern constitution.
- Book summaries at the head of this file are not the narrative.

04
The Early Republic
BOOKS II–IV

Wars, tribunes, a decemvirate, and the long argument between patrician and plebeian. The city learns to be a republic under pressure.

- Keep Livy's episodes distinct; do not flatten them into a civics lesson only.
- Virtue and ambition are both on the page.
- Cite Spillan.

05
A Sack, and a Stop
BOOK V, AND THE HOSTED CLOSE

Veii, Camillus, and the Gallic sack. The site EPUB stops at the end of Book V. The Gutenberg volume goes on through Book VIII; do not quote those later books as this work.

- The label is exact: Books I–V, founding to the Gallic sack.
- Flag PG #19725 as a longer file (Books 1–8).
- A complete five-book opening of Livy, for older students.

A Founding | Kings and Liberty | Virtue and Crime | The Fates | A City Sacked

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The translation is D. Spillan (1853). Project Gutenberg #19725 is Books 1–8. The site text and EPUB are the labeled selection, Books I–V (founding to the Gallic sack). Quote only I–V, in stretches that appear in both. Do not quote Books VI–VIII from the Gutenberg file as this work. The preface is present in both: "Whether in tracing the history of the Roman people, from the foundation of the city," Footnote numbers must not be taken into a quotation. Spelling: Æneas.
2. A complete five-book opening of Livy, for older students, not the whole history of Rome. Lucretia's story and the Gallic sack should be taught with gravity.
3. Book summaries at the head of Book I are not the narrative.

Quotations are verbatim from the D. Spillan, 1853, Project Gutenberg #19725 (The History of Rome, Books 1-8, trans. D. Spillan, London: Henry G. Bohn, 1853), the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/livy-history-of-rome-books-i-v/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.