
THE
ROMAN ANTIQUITIES
OF
DIONYSIUS HALICARNASSENSIS.

THE FOURTH BOOK.

TARQUINIUS, dying in the manner I have mentioned, left two grandsons who were infants, and two daughters, already, married. He was succeeded in the kingdom by Tullius, one of his sons-in-law, in the fourth year of the fiftieth Olympiad, when Epitelides, a Lacedaemonian, won the prize of the stadium; Arcestratides

ANNOTATIONS on the Fourth Book.

* *ἱἰωνοὺς*. Since our author has employed so many arguments to prove that Lucius Tarquinius, and his brother, were not the sons, but the grandsons of Tarquinius Priscus, it is something extraordinary that all the editions, and manuscripts, should call them *ἱἰωνοὺς*, instead of *ἱἰωνοὺς*, which last reading I have made no difficulty to follow in the translation. † Livy says

it is not clear whether they were his sons, or grandsons; but rather inclines to think them his sons, upon the authority of the greatest number of historians. However, I believe the reasons, alledged by our author, will clear up this point of history. All this makes it plain that we must read *ἱἰωνοὺς*, as Casaubon has, very well, observed.

† B. i. c. 46.

being

being archon at Athens. This is the proper place to mention those particulars relating to Tullius, which we, at first, omitted, and to give an account both of his parents, and of the actions he performed, while he was yet a private person, and before his accession to the government. Concerning his family, therefore, the relation I think the most probable is this: There lived at Corniculum, a city of the Latine nation, a man of the royal family, named Tullius, who was married to Ocrisia, a lady far excelling all those of her sex in Corniculum, both in beauty, and modesty. When this city was taken by the Romans, Tullius himself was slain fighting for his country; and Ocrisia, then with child, was selected from the spoils, and given to Tarquinius, then king of the Romans, who presented her to his wife: She, being informed of every thing, that related to this woman, manumitted her soon after, and distinguished her above all other women by the marks of tenderness, and regard she continued to bestow upon her. While Ocrisia was yet a slave, she was brought to bed of a boy, to whom, when he was brought up, his mother gave the name of Tullius, from his father, as his proper, and family name; and, also, the name of Servius, as a common, and appellative name, from her own condition, because she was a slave, when she was brought to bed of him: Which appellation, if translated into Greek, would be expressed by *Δεσλιος*, *Servile*.

II. There is another tradition concerning his birth, mentioned in the writings of this nation, which, though it, fabulously, exalts him, we have met with in many Roman

histories; and the account of it, if the gods, and genius's will allow it to be related, is as follows: They say that, from the altar in the palace, on which the Romans offer sacrifices, and consecrate the first offerings of their evening meals, a man's privy member rose up above the fire; and that Ocrisia first saw it, as she was carrying the customary cakes to the fire, and, immediately, informed the ² king, and queen of it: That Tarquinius, upon hearing this, and, afterwards, seeing the prodigy, was astonished: But Tanaquil, who was, otherwise, a woman of sense, and inferior to none of the Tyrrhenians in the knowledge of the prophetic art, told him, it was ordained by fate that the child, foretold by the prodigy seen upon the altar of the palace, and sprung from the woman, who conceived by the phantom, should be of a condition superior to human nature: And the other augurs affirming the same thing, the king thought fit that Ocrisia, to whom the prodigy had first appeared, should converse with him: After which, this woman, being dressed like a bride, was shut up alone in the room, in which the prodigy had been seen; and one of the gods, or genius's, whether Vulcan, as they think, or the hero, to whom the house was dedicated, having had conversation with her, and, afterwards, disappearing, she conceived by him, and was delivered of Tullius at the proper time. This fabulous account, which seems not altogether credible, is the less disbelieved by reason of another manifestation of the

². Τῆς βασιλεις. This could not well be rendered otherwise than *the king, and the queen*, as, I find, the French

translators have rendered it. However, it must be remembered, that the wives of the Roman kings were not queens.

gods relating to this man, which is wonderful and extraordinary. For he, falling asleep, as he was sitting in the portico of the palace about noon, a fire shone from his head: This, his mother, and the king's wife, as they were walking in the portico, saw, as well as all, who then happened to be present with them: And the flame continued to shine quite round his head, till his mother, running to him, waked him; and, when his sleep was ended, the flame disappeared. These are the accounts, that are given of his birth.

III. The memorable actions he performed before his accession, in consideration of which Tarquinius admired him, and the Roman people honoured him next to the king, are these. Being very young at the time, when Tarquinius undertook his first expedition against the Tyrrhenians, and in the horse, he was thought to have behaved himself with so much bravery, that he, presently, gained an universal reputation; and, preferably to any other person, received the prize of valor. Afterwards, when another expedition was undertaken against the same nation, and a sharp battle fought near the city of Eretum, he was judged to have shewn greater bravery than any man, and was, again, crowned by the king in testimony of his having deserved the same reward. When he was at most twenty years old, he was appointed to command the auxiliary forces, sent by the Latines, and assisted Tarquinius in obtaining the sovereignty over the Tyrrhenians. In the first war against the Sabines, being general of the horse, he put to flight That of the enemy, pursuing them as far as the city of Antemnae,

and, again, received the same customary rewards for the superior bravery he had shewn upon this occasion. He was engaged in many other actions against the same nation, sometimes commanding the horse, and, sometimes, the foot; in all which he shewed himself a man of the greatest courage, and, always, was the first person crowned upon these occasions. And, when that nation came to surrender themselves, and deliver up their cities to the Romans, he was looked upon by Tarquinius as the chief author of this sovereignty also, and crowned by him with the crowns, usually, given upon a victory. Besides, he had the³ justest thoughts of civil government, and was inferior to none in his manner of expressing them; and possessed, in an eminent degree, the power of accommodating himself to persons of all conditions, and all characters. In consideration of these accomplishments, the Romans thought proper to translate him, by their votes, from a plebeian, to the rank of a patrician, an honor they had conferred on Tarquinius, and, before that, on Numa Pompilius: The king, also, made him his son-in-law, giving him one of his two daughters in marriage; and, whatever business his infirmities, or his age, rendered him incapable of attending to himself, he ordered Tullius to transact it; and committed to his care, not only, the private affairs of

³ Ην δε και φρανησαι τα πολιτικα συνελωλιος, etc. This thought our author has taken from ^bThucydides, though he has expressed it in other words: Those of the latter are, *ος μεδενος ησων οιομαι ειναι γνωναι τε τα δεοντα,*

και εβμηνεσαι ταυτα. If Thucydides has the advantage of the expression, our author has, certainly, That of decency; since the former makes Pericles give himself these qualifications, and the latter gives them to another.

^b B. ii. c. 60.

his own family, but, also, Those, that related to the public. In all these employments, he was found to have acted with integrity, and justice; the people finding no difference between the administration of Tarquinius, and That of Tullius; so effectually did he gain their affections by the favors he conferred upon them.

IV. This person, therefore, being, sufficiently, formed by nature for command, and, also, supplied by fortune with many, and great opportunities of attaining it, as soon as Tarquinius was slain by the treachery of the sons of Marcius, who, thereby, sought to recover the kingdom their father had been possessed of, as was shewn in the preceding book, he looked upon himself to be called to the royal dignity by the very situation of affairs; and, being a man of activity, he did not let slip the opportunity. The person, to whose assistance he owed the possession of the regal power, and, who was the author of all his good fortune, was the wife of the deceased king, who supported him both as he was her son-in-law, and, as she found, by many oracles, it was ordained by fate that this man should be king of the Romans. It happened that her own son, a youth, was, lately, dead, and that his two sons were left infants: She, therefore, reflecting on the desolation of her family, and being under the greatest apprehensions left, if the sons of Marcius possessed themselves of the sovereignty, they should destroy these infants, and extirpate all the royal family, first ordered the gates of the palace to be shut, and a guard to be placed there, with orders

orders to suffer none to pass in, or out; then, causing every one to leave the room, in which they had laid Tarquinius just ready to expire, except Ocrisia, Tullius, and her daughter, who was married to Tullius, she directed the children to be brought thither by their nurses, and spoke to the others in the following manner: “ Tarquinius, the
“ king, O Tullius, by whom you were brought up, and
“ educated, and who honoured you more than any of his
“ friends, and relations, has, by an impious assassination,
“ finished his destined course, without having made either
“ any disposition of his private affairs, or any regulation
“ concerning Those, which relate to the public, and to the
“ civil administration; and without having had it in his
“ power even to embrace any of us, or to take his last farewell
“ of any: And these unfortunate orphans are left destitute,
“ and in imminent danger of their lives: For, if the power
“ falls into the hands of the Marcii, the murderers of their
“ grandfather, they will be put to death by them in the
“ most miserable manner; even, the lives of you, to whom
“ Tarquinius gave his daughters in preference to them,
“ will not be safe, should his murderers possess themselves
“ of the sovereignty, any more than the lives of the rest of
“ his friends, and relations, or of us miserable women;
“ but they will endeavour to destroy us all, both openly,
“ and privately. These things, therefore, being considered
“ by us, we ought not to suffer the wicked murderers of
“ Tarquinius, and, at the same time, the enemies of us all,
“ to obtain so great a power; but to oppose, and prevent
“ them,

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