

(no subject)

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 23 Jun 2003

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Andrew Bollen — 23 Jun 2003, 06:51

I SAUD

... Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, appointed dictator in 458, so maybe our Latro? Probably not, given that Livy has him at 80+ years old when appointed dictator again in 439. But one of his first acts in 458 was to appoint as "Master of the Horse, Lucius Tarquinius, a member of a patrician house, but owing to his poverty he had served in the infantry, where he was considered by far the finest of the Roman soldiers." That could be our man, maybe.

Just continuing this idle speculation, if Lucius Tarquinius is in fact Latro, we get a back-story for why he should have been an exile. The Tarquinius were in fact the Tarquins, slightly re-branded after the expulsion of the Tarquinius Superbus, the last king. Mr Google says this:

"It is common belief that the gens Tarquinia died out in Rome after the expulsion of Superbus, but, although there is a significant period in which they are not present, the descendants of the Tarquins were around even through the late Republic. The name underwent a very slight change, becoming Tarquinius, perhaps because the name of Tarquinius would stand a very poor chance of becoming a leading family in Rome after the mass expulsion of the gens. After the exile, the founding of the Republic, and the conclusion of the wars resulting from the above, the gens Tarquinia, Etruscan gens Tarchna, settled in nearby Caere. However, they did not stay long from Rome. By 444BCE, the Tarquinius had once again become an imperial family, under the name of the Tarquinius. "

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Sparta/7249/History.html#etruscus>

In the 480's, presumably the family was still in exile.

Latro as the descendant of kings makes a great deal of sense. All of this hob-nobbing with deities is not something one would expect (Hellenistically) of a commoner. Despite his "plain fighting-man" appearance, he can certainly summon courtly manners when appropriate. I believe Korte refers to him as "whelp of the wolf" at some point.

FWIW, the Tarquinius were descended from Demaratus of Corinth, exiled to Etruria and reputed to have taught the Etruscans letters. Whether there was ever supposed to have been a connection between this Demaratus, and Demaratus of Sparta in exile at Xerxes court in Latro's time, I don't know.