



The land in the Orientalising Age (VIII – VII century BC): the birth of the City.

Text: Augusto Palombini ed Eva Pietroni, CNR ITABC

Translation: Clive Riche

What an extraordinary and new time that was!

Everything that has brought civilization in the world was initiated, namely that the existence of mere survival for men became *life!* And it was all so new that were still weren't the words to tell the tale.

No longer sleeping huddled with others to shelter from the cold, for the time given to us to pass on the earth, cultivating or following the paths of transhumance.

We began to know what would become the *city*. And what was to become *the people*: People who are linked to the earth, and put down roots where they live.

Many huts built close up, for hectare upon hectare: the enclosures with livestock, common areas for working, gardens with lentils, barley and fruit.

Men, women and children multiplied and filled the spaces with voices and encounters.

On our land, with crops and trees, there wafted the perfume of the barley, the elderberry, olive oil and wine. The vines entwined around the trees at the edge of the woods.

Thus we developed the art of words and negotiation, the villages became large as never seen before, 20 hectares and more, and the largest took control over the others.

Year after year, the straw huts gave way to walls, tiles and frameworks of sharp woods that had lost the perfume of the forest...but which kept at bay the icy breath of the night.

And we knew then, limits, the other men, the ones who were different. The Tiber became a frontier, separating the Etruscan territory from the Carpenates, on the right bank, and the Latin people on the left, where the Sabine people came down to populate the fertile plains of Lazio.

And so we knew fear...and mistrust: the anxiety of being attacked or having to defend yourself. The open villages were abandoned and new ones were created, perched on hills, in places that could be defended.

Yes, a new era was born.