Janus

In Roman mythology, Janus was the god of doors, gates, and transitions. Janus represented the middle ground between both concrete and abstract dualities such as life/death, beginning/end, youth/adulthood, rural/urban, war/peace, and barbarism/civilization.

Janus was known as the initiator of human life, transformations between stages of life, and shifts from one historical era to another. Ancient Romans believed Janus ruled over life events such as weddings, births, and deaths. He oversaw seasonal events such as planting, harvests, seasonal changes, and the new year.

According to Roman mythology, Janus was present at the beginning of the world. As the god of gates, Janus guarded the gates of heaven and held access to heaven and other gods. For this reason, Janus was often invoked first in ancient Roman religious ceremonies, and during public sacrifices, offerings were given to Janus before any other deity. In fact, there is evidence that Janus was worshipped long before many of the other Roman gods, dating all the way back to the time of Romulus (the founder and first ruler of Rome).
And if you’ve ever wondered how the month of January got its name, you have Janus to thank. As the Roman god of beginnings and transitions, Janus is the namesake of January, the first month of a new year.

What is unusual about the god Janus is his iconic image. As the god of transitions and dualities, Janus is portrayed with **two faces**—one facing the past, and one facing the future. He also holds a key in his right hand, which symbolizes his protection of doors, gates, thresholds, and other separations or openings between spatial boundaries. In ancient Rome, the symbol of the key also signified that a traveler has come to find safe harbor or trade goods in peace.

Janus also oversaw the initiation of enterprise and the West's development into a trading civilization. A major aspect of this was the creation of coins. Roman myth says that Janus was the first (among the gods or humans) **to mint coins**.

Because of this, the image of his double-faced head appeared on many Roman coins. These coins can still be found in museums today, and representations of Janus coins are popular on jewellery.

While most Roman deities have an equivalent in Greek mythology, there is no Greek god that serves as Janus’ counterpart. This can cause some confusion, leading people to wonder if Janus was a Greek or a Roman god. Greek myth does contain a character similar to Janus: **Orthus, a two-faced dog**. Similar to Janus, Orthus has one face looking to the past and one to the future. However, he didn’t have the same significance in ancient Greece as Janus did in ancient Rome.
Though the traditions and worship surrounding the Roman god Janus were practiced long ago, similar practices endure today. Many Jewish homes, for instance, display a mezuzah on the doorway, following the commandment to “write the words of God on the gates and doorposts of your house.” Similarly, Christians often display a cross above the entrance to their home, and Muslims have specific rituals and greetings for entering a mosque. If you are nonreligious, perhaps you display a meaningful photograph, picture, or symbol near your front door—a positive image or token that greets visitors to your home.

Because events like season changes, a new year or month, birthdays, births, deaths, marriages, and even starting a new job are, in a sense, doorways between the past and future, it is beneficial to honour them: Reflect on what you’ve experienced, plan and set goals for the future, celebrate change and transformation.

https://www.andersonlock.com/blog/god-doors/

Romulus and Remus

Romulus and Remus were twin brothers, and their mother was princess Rhea Silvia, one of the Vestal Virgins. They were priestesses of Vesta, patron goddess of the hearth; they were charged with keeping a sacred fire that was never to be extinguished and to take vows of chastity. It is believed that their father was Mars, a Roman god of war. The King Amulius, Rhea Silva’s brother, realized that one day the boys would overthrow him and take the throne. It was
custom that any Vestal Virgin betraying her vows of celibacy was condemned to death; the most common death sentence was to be buried alive. However, King Amulius, fearing the wrath of the paternal god, Mars, did not wish to directly stain his hands with the mother's and children's blood. So, he imprisoned Rhea Silvia and ordered the twins' death by means of live burial, exposure, or being thrown into the Tiber River. He reasoned that if the twins were to die not by the sword but by the elements, he and his city would be saved from punishment by the gods. He ordered a servant to carry out the death sentence, but in every scenario of this myth, the servant took pity on the twins and spared their lives. He placed a basket with the babies in it onto the River Tiber, and the river carried them to safety.

Luckily for the boys, a female wolf found them, cared for them, and protected them as if they were her own. Soon a group of shepherds came across the two boys, so one of the shepherds took the boys home and he raised them as if he was their father. One day Remus was kidnapped and brought to the king. This is when everyone discovered Remus's true identity. Romulus wanted to save his brother, so he gathered up some shepherds to take with him to rescue his brother. In the end, they killed the king, but when everyone found out who the twins really were, they offered them a spot as joint kings. The twins wanted to find and create their own city, so they turned the offer down. The twins left the city where they should have been ruling to go and find the perfect spot to build a city.

Romulus and Remus eventually found a spot, which is known as Rome today. They both really liked the area, but they both wanted
to place the city on a different hill. Romulus wanted the city to be on Palatine Hill, while Remus wanted it on Aventine Hill. Since they could not agree on the perfect location, they decided to make an agreement, wait for a sign from the Gods, and augury, to see which hill to use.

Remus saw a sign of six vultures first, but Romulus said he saw twelve. Both brothers said that they won. However, Romulus refused to waste time on futile arguments and started to build a wall around Palatine Hill. Remus was jealous, so he started to make fun of his twin brother’s wall. While making fun of Romulus, Remus jumped over the wall trying to show him how easy it was to cross. Romulus was so angry that he killed him.

With Remus dead, Romulus kept on building the wall around the hill. On April 21, 753 BC, he officially founded the city and declared himself king. He named his city Rome, after himself. From there, he started to organize the city. Romulus divided the army into legions of 3,300 men. The Patricians and the elders of Rome, the senate were his 100 most noble men. The city grew more and more as the years went by. Overtime, the city of Rome expanded all the way through the seven hills around Palatine Hill. The seven hills were: Aventine Hill, Caelian Hill, Capitoline Hill, Esquiline Hill, Palatine Hill, Quirinal Hill, and Viminal Hill. For over 1,000 years, Rome was one of the most dominant cities in the world. Later on, when Romulus died, no
one knew exactly what happened, but the legend is that he mysteriously disappeared into a whirlwind. Even after his death, Rome continued to grow and flourish.

Romulus was the first king of Rome. He and all others who followed introduced to Rome many important reforms and helped Rome grow into power. Without Romulus none of Rome would be here today. Based on the myth, Rome created their first unofficial symbol, the she-wolf. About everyone in this myth is important because they helped Romulus and Remus survive and created a strong bond. The people and the wolf helped take care of the twins. If the dad had never taken the twins to the river and left them there, Rome might not have been created. The Romans have Romulus and Remus to thank for creating their city.

The Creation Myth of Romulus and Remus was taught to every school in Rome. In fact, it was so important that the Romans wrote it in stone. This myth is well known in almost every culture. It taught many cultures and many Romans that if you really want to do something, then you should go after it. Rome is a powerful city which has been standing for over thousands of years. It shows that even the wildest dreams are possible. This myth also taught them that you should not be selfish, you should try to compromise.

https://sites.google.com/site/creationmythofromulsuandremus/
https://www.ancient.eu/Romulus_and_Remus/
The Temple of Janus

The temple of Janus had two doors opening to east and the west which he stood with his two faces. The two faces of Janus symbolized the harmonious blending of the energy of youth and the wisdom of the aged. One without the other is counter-productive; youthful energy without the guiding light of wisdom will not end well; and the light of wisdom without the force of young energy will be ineffectual. But whenever the energy of the youth is under the guidance of the Wisdom of the Ages, when the mind and soul blend in unison, “there with certainty are fortune, victory, wealth and wise action.”

The Past, Present & Future

On the eve of every New Year the media are full of analysis of events gone by, and speculations on the promise of the New Year. But if such self-reflection does not correctly trace causes to their effects (the causes being mostly in the ideas that we hold) then no good reform of society or change for the better is possible.

But Janus, the double headed god, is able to see both the past and the future at once! And what does this imply? That the past, the present and the future are, in reality, a continuum? An unbroken flow of time and consciousness.

This apparent gulf between past, present and future is bridged by the One Self, by universal Consciousness, the Eternal principle which knows no past or future. To it, all is the Eternal Present which transcends time and space.

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