

Viriathus was born in Loriga

In 147 b.C., thousands of Lusitanian warriors found themselves surrounded by the military forces of magistrate Caio VetÃ­lio. At first this seemed like just another Roman attempt to seize the Iberian Peninsula in the on going war in which the Roman Republic had led for years. But pursued by the enemy, the Lusitanians elect one of their own and hand him absolute power. Born in Lobriga, Lusitania, Lorica for the Romans, current Loriga, Portugal, this man, who for seven will taunt the Romans, is called Viriathus. Between 147 and 139, the year in which he was killed (murder by the Romans, he was assassinated while sleeping), Viriathus successively defeated Roman armies, led a greater part of the Iberian peoples into revolt and was responsible for the beginning of the war of NumÃ­ncia. After the murder, the Lusitanian guerrilla was continued to resist, "the women bore arms with the men, who died with a will, not a man of them showing his back, or uttering a cry. Of the women who were captured some killed themselves, others slew their children also with their own hands, considering death preferable to captivity". Viriathus, is considered the first Lusitanian figure and also national hero in Portugal. It was born without a doubt in the HermÃ­nio, current Mountain range of the Star (Serra da Estrela), where he was shepherd since child, more precisely in Lobriga, Lorica for the Romans, current Loriga. Viriathus, was praised had to his great qualities human beings, and of great strategist to military and diplomat, inclusively for the old Roman historians. Viriathus, proved that at the time, such as today, the individual capacities do not depend on the social estratum nor of the academical qualifications. Viriathus, was only one shepherd, accustomed since child to cover mountains of the heart of the Lusitania. Rome, the superpower of the time, only obtained to arrange away it to win; resort to the shameful and dishonourable treason coward! Curiously, it was after an act of high treason of the part of the Romans, which cost the life the thousand of disarmed Lusitanians, that Viriathus was elect to leader for his compatriots. Viriathus, leader that it directed with effectiveness the resistance of the Lusitanians, ancestors of the Portuguese, against a powerful invader, is considered since its time an example to follow. Viriathus was a true military genius, politician and diplomat. But, moreover, he was the defender of a world asphyxiated by the great Roman dominion. The world in which the very roots of Portugal are implanted.