

Viriato nasceu em Loriga

VIRIATO [VIRIATHUS] WAS BORN IN LORIGA

In 147 b.C., thousands of Lusitanian warriors found themselves surrounded by the military forces of magistrate Caio Vetúlio. 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, Lusitânia, Lorica for the Romans, actual Loriga, Portugal, this man, who for seven will taunt the Romans, is called Viriato.

Between 147 and 139, the year in which he was killed (murder by Romans, he was assassinated while sleeping), Viriato successively defeated Roman armies, led a greater part of the Iberian peoples into revolt and was responsible for the beginning of the war of Numância. After the murder, the Lusitanian guerrilla was continued to resist, "the women boke 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".

Viriato, is considered the first lusian figure, and also national hero in Portugal. It was born without a doubt in the Hermínius, current Mountain range of the Star, where he was shepherd since child, more precisely in Lobriga, current Loriga.

Viriato, was praised had to is great qualities human beings, and of great strategist to military and diplomat, inclusively for the old romans historians. Viriato, proved that at the time, such as today, the individual capacities do not depend on the social estratum nor of the academical qualifications. Viriato, was only one shepherd, accustomed since child to cover mountains of the heart of the Lusitânia.

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, wich cost the life the thousand of disarmed Lusitanians, that Viriato was elect to leader for is compatriots.

Viriato, leader that it directed with effectiveness the resistance of the Lusitanians, ancestors of the Portugueses, against a powerful invader, is considered since its time an example to follow.

Viriato, 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.

Viriato, is a real portuguese national hero
