1. Livy 1.11.6-9


Spurius Tarpeius was the commander of the Roman citadel. Tatius corrupted his virgin daughter with gold so that she would let the armed troops into the citadel; by chance she had gone to seek water for rites outside the walls. Once they were in, they killed her by burying her under their weapons, either so that the citadel would seem to have been taken by force or to show by example that there was no faith in a traitor. There's also a story that the Sabines generally wore golden armbands of great weight and jeweled rings of great beauty on their left arms. She asked them for what they had on their left arms; they showered her with shields instead of gold. There are those who say that after making the agreement for what they had on their left arms, she asked for the weapons; when she appeared deceitful, she paid the price with her life.
2. Dionysius of Halicarnassus, *AR* 2.40.1-3

Ἐπειτα πάλιν ὁ μὲν Πείσων φησὶ τῶν Σαβίνων τὸν χρυσὸν ἑτοίμων ὄντων διδόναι τῇ κόρῃ τὸν περὶ τοῖς ἀριστεροῖς βραχίοσι τὴν Τάρπειαν οὐ τὸν κόσμον ἀλλὰ τοὺς θυρεοὺς παρ’ αὐτῶν αἰτεῖν. Ταῦτα ὁ δὲ θυμὸν τε εἰσελθείν ἐπὶ τῇ ἐξαπάτη καὶ λογισμὸν τοῦ μὴ παραβῆναι τὰς ὀμολογίας. δόξαι δ’ οὖν αὐτῷ δουῦνα μὲν τὰ Ṽπλα, ὡσπερ ἡ παῖς ἡξίωσε, ποιῆσαι δ’ ὁπως αὐτοῖς μηδὲν λαβοῦσα χρήστεται, καὶ αὐτίκα διατείναμενον ὡς μάλιστα ἱσχύος εἴχε ὦίψαι τὸν θυρεόν κατὰ τῆς κόρης καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις παρακελεύσασθαι ταυτὸ ποιεῖν. οὖτω δὴ βαλλομένην πάντοθεν τὴν Τάρπειαν ὑπὸ πλήθους τε καὶ ἱσχύος τῶν πληγῶν πεσεῖν καὶ περισσωρευθεῖσαν ὑπὸ τῶν θυρεῶν ἀποθανεῖν. οἱ δὲ περὶ τὸν Φάβιον ἐπὶ τοῖς Σαβίνωις ποιοῦσι τὴν τῶν ὀμολογίων ἀπάτην· δέον γὰρ αὐτοῦς τὸν χρυσὸν, ἡμιε ἡ Τάρπεια ἡξίου, κατὰ τὰς ὀμολογίας ἀποδιδόναι, χαλεπαίνοντας ἐπί τῷ μεγέθει τοῦ μισθοῦ τὰ σκεπαστήμια κατ’ αὐτῆς βαλείν, ὡς ταῦτα ὑπὲρ ἔμμεσαν αὐτή δώσειν ὑπεσχῆμα. Εἰς εἰς τὰ μετὰ ταῦτα γενόμενα τὴν Πείσωναν ἀληθεστέραν ποιεῖν [ἀπόκρισιν], τάριον τε γὰρ ἐνθα ἐπεσεν ἡξίωσαι τὸν ἰερωτάτων τῆς πόλεως κατέχουσα λόφον, καὶ χοὰς αὐτὴ Ῥωμαῖοι καθ’ ἐκαστὸν ἐνιαυτὸν ἐπιτελοῦσι, (λέγω δὲ ἡ Πείσων γράφει) ὃν ὀὐδενὸς εἰκὸς αὐτήν, εἰ προδιδοῦσα τὴν πατρίδα τοῖς πολεμίοις ἀπέθανεν, οὔτε παρὰ τῶν προδοθέντων οὔτε παρὰ τῶν ἀποκτεινόντων τυχείν, ἀλλὰ καὶ εἰ τι λείψανον αὐτῆς ἡ τοῦ σώματος ἀνασκαφέν ἐξω ὄρθηται σὺν χρόνῳ φόβου τε καὶ ἀποτροπὴς ἐνεκα τῶν μελλόντων τὰ ὁμοία δρᾶν. ἀλλ’ ὑπὲρ μὲν τοῦτων κρινέτω τις ὡς βούλεται.

Again Piso says that the Sabines were ready to give the girl the gold which they had on their left arms, but Tarpeia demanded from them not the jewelry but the shields. At this treachery, Tatius was filled with fury, but found a way to avoid breaking their agreement. He decided to give the weapons, as the girl asked, but in a way that she would never be able to use them. At once stretching out his shield, he threw it upon the girl as hard as he could and commanded the others to do the same. Thus hit from all sides, Tarpeia fell due to the number and strength of the blows; she died buried by shields. But those following Fabius claim that the deceit in the agreement was on the Sabines’ side; for when it was necessary to deliver the gold that Tarpeia asked for according to the agreement, they became grouchy at the cost and threw their shields at her, as if they had promised to give her these when they had sworn. But the version of Piso seems more likely to be true. For there where she fell she was honored with a tomb set on the most sacred hill of the city, and the Romans make liquid sacrifices each year – I repeat what Piso writes – which no one would be likely to do if she had died betraying her country to the enemy, neither those who were betrayed nor those who killed her. Instead, in time they would have dug up any part of her body that was left and thrown it away to inspire fear and ward off anyone who would act similarly. But let each one judge it as he will.
3. Topography of the Capitoline Hill

Map from Richardson 1992, p. 69, with my additions:
Tarpeian rock marked with a star
Carmenta Gate marked with an arch
Arrow points to Temple of Juno Moneta
Arx and Capitol are circled

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