

Finch & C°



A ROMAN MARBLE VOTIVE ALTAR INSCRIBED IN GREEK LETTERING 'EUCARPIA' , 'GOOD FRUITS'

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CIRCA 1 ST – 2 ND CENTURY AD

SIZE : 8 CM HIGH , 16.5 CM DIA – 3¼ INS HIGH , 6½ INS DIA

LITERATURE

THIS ANCIENT MARBLE ALTAR WAS INTENDED FOR DAILY RITUAL HOUSEHOLD USE UPON WHICH SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS WERE MADE . ROMAN SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS WERE CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO GREEK , ETRUSCAN AND ROMAN RITUAL . MANY SACRIFICES WERE PART OF MUCH LARGER CELEBRATIONS AND OCCASIONS FOR THEM IN THE SACRED CALENDAR WERE NUMEROUS . SACRIFICE FIXED THE SUPERIORITY AND THE IMMORTALITY OF THE GODS , ALONG WITH THE MORTAL CONDITION AND THE PIOUS SUBMISSION OF THEIR HUMAN PARTNERS , AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ANIMAL VICTIMS .

BESIDES ANIMAL SACRIFICE , GIFTS OF CAKE IN SPECIFIC FORMS ACCORDING TO THE DIFFERENT CHARACTERS OF EACH DIVINITY WERE GIVEN , AND FRUIT AND GRAINS OFTEN MIXED , AND EVEN COOKED AS SPECIFIC RITUAL DISHES , WERE ALSO OFFERED TO HONOUR PARTICULAR GODS .