

Altar and Sacrifice belong together. If we speak of sacrifice, we think of a gift for the Gods, but the Egyptians, along with a sacrifice to the Gods, had also a sacrifice to the dead. It is therefore necessary, in addition to the altar for the gods, also to consider the reservations for the offerings for the dead. In order that the dead ones should lack nothing in the future life, the Egyptians gave them food and drink in their graves and renewed these gifts from time to time. For this sort of offerings to the dead, the Name "Offerings for the Dead" is customary. Erman, in his book "The Egyptian Religion" (1909) takes the position that the Egyptians did not give divine reverence to their dead originally but that this practice originated in the later times. However, it is impossible to make a sharp division between food and offerings. The honoring of the dead took on forms from which it is practically or completely impossible to distinguish from those of the public and private service to the gods. The writing sign for the gifts to the dead is the same as that for the offerings for the Gods. The same things are presented for the dead and the gods. The stands on which the gifts were laid were the same in form and in size. The sacrificial records of the sacrifice on the chambers of the tombs are similar to the reliefs on the walls of the temples, except in the place of the god, the deceased is found. From one fundamental idea the Egyptian developed the type of building of house, grave, and ~~house~~ temple. They are the same in detail. They all serve the same purposes, dwelling places for the gods, the dead ones, and the people. From these revelations, one will not wonder that in the service of the gods and the service of the dead, there were originally no other objects than in the domestic usage of daily life, and if finally a special type of article developed, this only happened in an advanced stage and is connected with the development of the sacred art, but always the close relationship between profane and sacred vessels remained visible and the origin of the latter is undeniable.