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Rites and Ritual Acts as Prescribed by the Roman Religion According to the Commentary of Servius on Vergil's Aeneid (Paperback)

By Justus Frederick Holstein

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Excerpt: . the sacrifice is not acceptable to the gods (IV: 219). He who sacrifices, be he the pontifex or a magistratus, in the cinctus Gabinus, i. e. the toga rolled up in a peculiar fashion and drawn over the head (V:755; VII: 612), pours water and wine upon the forehead of the victim, in order to test it thereby. If it is frightened and shudders, it is not fit for sacrifice (VI: 244). Besides wine he also uses frankincense, with these words: mactus est taurus vino vel ture (IX: 641); hence the word mactare = magis augere. Then he sprinkles over the victim, the hearth and the offering-knife horna mola salsa, i. e. flour-mixed salt, hence immolatio, immolare (II:133; IV: 57; X:541); furthermore, he makes a certain gesture with the offering-knife along the back of the animal, from head to tail (XII: 173) and...



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