

UN OBICEI UITAT - BUTUCUL DE CRĂCIUN

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Cuvinte cheie: *Larii, Penații, Manii, Genii, Vesta, sacra privata, feriae conceptivae, Butucul de Crăciun, Larentalia, Compitalia, Tibullus, Cicero, Varro, Macrobius.*

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Abstract: *Lares and Penates enter in the sacra privata category, they are ceremonies made by individuals and Roman families. The word Lar refers to the tutelary spritis, dead men souls, demons, ghost, the protector genius of the family. The Lares were the sons of Acca Larentia, they also had agricultural attributions being named custodes agri (protectors of the Earth).*

In honor of the Lares were built chapels named pertusa compita. The holiday praised to Lares Compitales was named Compitalia. This holiday didn't have a fixed date (feriae conceptivae), it took place between the 17th of December and the 5th of January. Pigs were sacrificed during this holiday.

Lares were also mentioned by Kalendis Ianuariis, when in their honor a log was burned. In the 6th century, after the instauration of Christianity the habit of burning the log on Christmas is mentioned. The same as the Romans, to the log it was dedicated wine and other offerings. In the 12th century, Dante mentions the presence of the same tradition.

In the 20th century the tradition of the Christmas log it is present for the French, Belgians, Italien, Swiss, Romanians and also for the Balkans people: Serbians and Bulgarians. It was believed that the remaining ashes from the log, had healing and fertilizing attributes. This kind of practice has the origin in the Roman tradition to offer a log to the Lares. Unfortunately, in present times the tradition is very rare.