

# Classics 17B: Roman Gods, Temples, Cults, and Shrines

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## 1 General notes

- Romans assimilated Etruscan and Greek religious practices
- Adopted the Greek pantheon (From Etruscans and Greeks)
- Religion protected the state, the state protected the religion
- *Do ut des ... Votum* = vow
- *Pontefix maximus ... pax deorum ... cultus deorum*
- Anthropomorphic gods (for the most part all beautiful)
- Animism—trees, streams, etc. (*animus* = soul) ‘spirits’
- Divination, interpreting signs—lightning, thunder, etc.
- Haruspices—reading entrails of sacrificed animals
- Daily rituals to household and family gods and to the state gods
- Romans worshipped at the temples in the home, at the tome, and on the street