

which were placed in various parts of the court; in addition ~~x~~ there were 98 tables in the passageways at the right of the temple.

We distinguish according to the nature of the offering; altar tables, offering stands for solid objects, ^{containers} ~~xxxxxxxx~~ of every sort for liquid offerings and incense instruments.

6. Altar Tables. (Figs. 14 - 17)

The table is a plate supported by one central leg, or ~~more~~ commonly by several (generally four) at the corners. The table which was used for carrying the offering gifts is called the offering table or altar table. The offering consisted of a meal. Therefore, the altar table is thought of as an eating table at which the god or the dead person comes for his meal. When we consider the development of the secular table, we see the history of the altar table. The oldest manner of eating consists in this: That one places himself in a lying or crouching position beside the man or stone plate on which the food was laid. In later times, this remained the usual manner of eating for the common man. It is a counterpart as found in the earliest times in the reproductions of the eating by the gods or by the dead: Their meal was placed for them upon a mat or a stone plate. Later the custom developed among the elite of eating while sitting on a chair. To correspond ~~to~~ this the food had to be placed at the height of the hand. This was brought about by lifting the stone or clay plate to the height of a table. So it is seen on many thousands of reproductions of offerings that the gods and the dead ones sat at their convenient meal tables and reached out their hands to the meal. Even the common man eats in the future life in the manner of the elite.

We distinguish the round and the quadrangular tables:

A. The Round Table. (Figs 14,15 and 17)

The round table consists of a cylindrical shaped plate of clay or stone (very rarely of wood) which becomes smaller toward the top and a round table plate lying upon it. If the vessel was made of clay as was sometimes the case, in ancient times, it was hollow and sometimes had a